

# ENGLISH TOURING OPERA

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2018-22

### 1. Introduction

This Policy sets out:

- English Touring Opera's commitment to promoting awareness of the harmful effects of human activity on the environment and our collective responsibility to mitigate these as far as practicable.
- ETO's specific commitment to reducing carbon and waste emissions and energy consumption.
- our intention to reflect these commitments in all aspects of our operation.
- our expectation that all members of Staff will abide by the Policy and contribute to implementing the Environmental Action Plan that accompanies it.
- details of who will be responsible for monitoring this policy's effectiveness.
- details of how breaches of this Policy will be addressed.

The Policy draws on guidance principally from Julie's Bicycle and on discussion among ETO's Board and Staff.

In parallel and in support of this Environmental Policy, ETO will produce an Environmental Action Plan each Spring outlining specific objectives for the year ahead.

The Policy and the Plan will be subject to annual review by the Board in the context of the general progress report prepared for ETO's major funders Arts Council England as part of the ACE Annual Survey submitted by all National Portfolio Organisations.

#### ***Who is Responsible for this Policy?***

This Policy is the joint responsibility of the ETO Board, Senior Management, and all Staff.

The Board and Senior Management Team are responsible for devising the Policy, monitoring its effectiveness and approving formal revisions as necessary.

The Board, Senior Management Team and all Staff are responsible for familiarising themselves with the terms of the Policy, abiding by it and implementing it.

Any Staff member may propose revisions to the Policy for consideration by the Board and the Senior Management Team.

The General Manager is the person responsible for ensuring a) awareness of the Policy across the organisation and b) that regular reviews take place.

## 2. Policy Statement

As a publicly funded company and National Portfolio Organisation, we recognise our special responsibility to lead by example and manage our activity with due regard to its ecological impact. We are committed to reducing its harmful effects as far as practicable.

Specifically, we are committed to reducing our energy and water consumption, our use of scarce natural resources and our waste and carbon emissions as far as practicable in the way we run our office and build, prepare, run and dispose of our productions.

Ways in which we will achieve this over the next four years include:

- taking steps to reduce our carbon energy consumption and waste generation and measuring our performance using the Julie's Bicycle IG tools.
- raising awareness of our environmental policy and action plan objectives amongst office staff and the artists and production / technical staff on our tours and encouraging them to help us achieve them.

### *Touring Theatre and the Environment*

Gaining a better understanding of the particular ecological challenges posed by touring activity and how they might be addressed is a key concern. We will continue to follow any relevant research and developments in best practice in consultation with the venues we visit and our peer organisations in the touring sector.

## 2. ETO Activity – Monitoring our Environmental Impact

Our Environmental Policy commits us to reducing our carbon emissions, waste generation, energy and water usage as far as practicable.

The following table sets out each area of our activity, its impact on the environment and the method by which we will monitor our progress in reducing its harmful effects. Extensive use will be made of Julie's Bicycle's IG Tools.

| <b>ACTIVITY</b> | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                           | <b>IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT</b>  | <b>MEASUREMENT METHOD</b>  |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| <b>OFFICE</b>   | Adminstration based in central London office | Energy consumption (heating, lighting, office equipment); water consumption; waste generation; carbon emissions through travel (however, all staff use public transport / walk / cycle) | <b>WATER CONSUMPTION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimate + IG Tools (ETO is not billed)<br><br><b>WASTE GENERATION</b><br>Estimate of bags generated per week + IG Tools<br><br><b>ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimate + IG Tools (ETO is not billed) |

|                                 |   |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>STORES</b>                   | Storage of sets, props, costumes and equipment  | Energy consumption (heating and lighting)   | <b>ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimate + IG Tools (ETO is not billed)  |
| <b>PRODUCTION BUILD PROCESS</b> | Building / making sets, props and costumes  | Energy consumption in the build process; consumption of valuable raw materials (eg wood) and materials produced using energy-intensive methods and / or methods that create toxic waste (eg steel, plastics).       | <b>USAGE OF MATERIALS</b><br>Assessment Method: Summary of products / materials used for set build and prop and costume-making to be drafted at the close of each production period. The summary will include an estimate of the proportion of products / materials sourced through re-use / recycling (eg items taken from ETO store or donated by / purchased from other suppliers). |
| <b>REHEARSAL PROCESS</b>        | Running rehearsal studios – including providing kitchen and washroom facilities; travel for cast and company to and from rehearsal.                             | Energy consumption (heating, lighting, equipment); waste generation; carbon emissions through travel.   | <b>WATER CONSUMPTION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimate + IG Tools (ETO is not billed)<br><br><b>ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimate + IG Tools (ETO is not billed)<br><br><b>WASTE GENERATION</b><br>Assessment Method: Estimated volume generated annually (based on estimated number of bags collected each week) + IG Tools                                      |
| <b>TOURING</b>                  | Transporting sets and company to venues across the country; preparing sets, props, costumes and technical equipment in each, running shows, then striking them. | Energy consumption (heating, lighting, equipment); waste generation; carbon emissions through travel for cast and company and transport for sets, props, costumes and equipment – also through travel for audience. | <b>CARBON EMISSIONS</b><br>Assessment Method: Total mileage for transport of sets, props and costumes and equipment; equivalent estimate of travel for cast and company, including estimate of travel using public transport and car-shares + IG Tools   |
| <b>PRODUCTION DISPOSAL</b>      | Dismantling and disposing of sets, props and costumes.  | Energy consumption (heating, lighting, equipment); waste generation.  | <b>REUSE/RECYCLING</b><br>Assessment Method: Reusable items to be added to ETO store contents inventory after each tour; remainder to be recycled as far as practicable. Proportion of elements simply dumped to be monitored.   |

### 3. Guidance for Staff

*[NB In the context of this Policy, the term "Staff" includes all permanent staff, interns, trainees, volunteers, singers, musicians, conductors, actors, stage management, creative artists and production / technical team members irrespective of the terms of their employment, engagement or association.]*

#### **Raising Awareness**

We will encourage all staff to familiarise themselves with and abide by the Environmental Policy and Action Plans.

We will raise awareness among our office team members by discussion of environmental concerns at our weekly Team Meetings and encouraging initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and energy consumption.

We will include appropriate details of our environmental policy in the Welcome Pack circulated to all touring staff before each tour begins.

#### **Specific Policy Commitments by Activity**

##### Office / Rehearsal Studios / On Tour

We will:

- Encourage the use of reusable rather than disposable crockery / cutlery. (We provide washing up facilities at the office and in rehearsal venues.)
- Provide recycling stations in the office, rehearsal rooms and in the green room / company office at each venue on tour. If we have access to venues' own facilities, we will ensure these are clearly signed.
- Distribute schedules and other essential information to artists and production / technical staff electronically and encourage them to view it in e-format rather than hard copy.
- Encourage the use of public transport or cycling to reach rehearsals or the office (including a cycle-to-work scheme for employees).
- Encourage the use of train travel or car shares on tour.

##### Production Build / Disposal

As far as practicable we will:

- Use only materials sourced from suppliers who respect the environment (eg wood from sustainable forests).
- Source materials, staging equipment, props and costumes from existing items in ETO's stores or from makers / suppliers who re-use / recycle.
- Source set, props and costume items locally.

- Reuse / recycle set, props and costume items when each production is “deaded” from ETO’s repertoire and bear this in mind when they are first created. (For example, we glue steel to wood to make it easier to dismantle sets for recycling purposes in due course.)

### Technical Running on Tour

As far as practicable we will:

- Avoid air-travel / freight for touring purposes within the UK.
- Run our rehearsals and performances so that they are energy-efficient.
- Discuss energy requirements and potential energy-saving measures with venues' technical staff when planning each of our visits.
- Locate and encourage tour staff to use recycling facilities at each venue.
- Take account of hauliers' commitment to minimising greenhouse gas emissions when engaging them to transport our shows.
- Monitor carbon energy consumption for each of our tours.
- When considering international tours, allow enough time between domestic and international performances for land / rail / sea freight of production elements rather than air freight.
- Use cash contribution schemes to offset carbon emissions (eg for long-haul travel) only after all other measures to reduce such emissions have been ruled out. If offsetting schemes are used, we will choose companies with at least Gold Standard accreditation for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.
- Use every opportunity to work with our venue and touring sector partners to gain better shared awareness of the effects of touring on the environment and positive action we can take to reduce any damage.

**J-EFS**  
**26.01.16**

**RE-ADOPTED: 25.01.2017**

**REVISED & RE-ADOPTED:**

23.01.18

*Jane-Eve Straughton*

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*J-E.S. Straughton*