

1 GUIDANCE AND ADDITIONAL ACTIONS

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has an [Environmental Policy](#) and agreed a Carbon Reduction Plan with Creative Scotland in September 2018 which outlined actions to monitor and, if possible, reduce carbon emissions. We have been implementing carbon reduction measures since then and have succeeded in reducing our emissions, even allowing for the years when the pandemic had a positive effect on carbon use.

It has been estimated that one pathway will take us to zero by 2030 and the other, in line with Scottish Government targets, by 2045. We made improvements to our buildings and are now trying to reduce travel, which is our largest source of emissions generation and our biggest challenge. Travel is essential to Fèisean nan Gàidheal's work, particularly for face-to-face teaching and performance, but reducing the frequency of journeys and the way we travel, while utilising offsetting initiatives when we do, could generate positive outcomes.

We wish to encourage everyone involved in our work - Fèisean nan Gàidheal staff, members, tutors and participants - to get involved in reducing carbon emissions. Recently, Fèisean nan Gàidheal collaborated with Creative Carbon Scotland on the production of a [Green Arts Charter](#) and organised an information session at its 2023 Annual Conference to raise awareness of climate change.

Following that session and subsequent discussions, it has been decided to complement our policy by offering additional guidance in implementing our environmental policy, helping to reduce carbon emissions and working towards achieving our net zero commitment.

2 SOURCES OF CARBON EMISSIONS

Fèisean nan Gàidheal calculates total carbon emissions by gathering data relating to the following areas of its activities:

- Energy and Utilities
- Waste (Both Landfill and Recycling)
- Transport and Travel
- Other Sources

3 REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS

Compiled under the above headings, the following is a non-exhaustive list of steps which could be taken to ensure we remain on course to maintain a reduction in emissions.

3.1 Energy and Utilities

Actively promoting the efforts to reduce the amount of energy consumption throughout the organisation, whether in the office, in the home or working in the wider community.

Examples:

- Switch off appliances/lights when not in use. Stand-by mode STILL wastes energy!
- Use low-energy light bulbs
- Set heating controls to appropriate level for conditions
- Upgrade heating systems, insulate and draught-proof where applicable
- Use energy efficient appliances
- Don't overfill your kettle, cook smart!

3.2 Waste (Both Landfill and Recycling)

Initially, the organisation recommends re-use as more economic and energy efficient than recycling. Where possible waste, such as paper, should be re-used before it's recycled. Avoid single use items - reduce, re-purpose, re-use, re-cycle.

Examples:

- Don't print out unnecessary documents, wasting paper and ink
- If a hard copy is necessary, print on both sides of the paper
- Re-use laminated class/door signs, avoid single-use items
- Encourage use of own water bottles by participants, tutors and organisers
- Offer a water dispenser or jugs for refills
- Re-use paper for scrap pads, etc
- Recycle plastic bottles, aluminium and steel cans, scrap paper, card
- Compost organic waste such as tea bags and fruit peelings
- Encourage "junk art" in classes using everyday waste products such as cardboard tubes, paper, egg boxes, textiles etc and combine with collected driftwood, pebbles, dried leaves, or sheep wool.

3.3 Transport and Travel

Travel is the highest generator of our emissions and a starting point in tackling this is to explore where a particular journey is necessary at all. Where possible, consideration should be given to using video or audio conference platforms. Where travel is necessary, although available services in some rural (and urban) areas is a challenge, Fèisean nan Gàidheal recommends alternatives to the use of a private car whenever possible.

Examples:

- Explore the use of public transport such as trains and buses
- Share a vehicle, if possible – participants/parents, tutors, organisers
- Use local tutors, if possible, to cut back on travel and accommodation
- Where tutors from outwith an area are needed, encourage carpool and link up journeys to reduce the number of single passenger journeys
- If feasible, look to using hybrid or electric vehicles
- Borrow or hire a car for the day or use pay-as-you-go community schemes such as Co Wheels
- Explore local cycle paths – consider Bike Bus – cycling with participants to get to and from a venue along a safe cycle path – also brings health benefits.
- Walk, run, cycle - consider local authority e-bike initiatives.

3.4 Other Sources (Purchasing, Digital, Community)

Fèisean nan Gàidheal encourages the support of local environmentally-friendly initiatives, where at all possible.

Examples:

- Merchandise – swap and re-use sweatshirts/t-shirts rather than buying new
- Shop local, eat seasonal foods, support local businesses, reduce the carbon footprint of food
- Consider ethical purchase at all times
- Discourage use of single use coffee cups etc, investigate eco reusable cups
- Explore digital practices, for example QR codes for application forms, evaluation forms and concert programmes to reduce the amount of printed materials
- Use of mobile phones, iPads, digital boards, for sharing practice resources although screen time should be limited
- Use of email for sharing documents and information such as registration forms
- Build strong relationships with local climate action groups
- Work with local groups on planting and composting initiatives
- Work with conservation charities such as Woodland Trust, Nature Scot
- Take advice from, and work with, climate action groups such as Highlands & Islands Climate Hub and Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Explore the use of offsetting emissions through project management fees with perhaps 1% going to climate change charities.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

The future sustainability of the environment depends upon the active participation of us all.

It is acknowledged that staff and members of Fèisean nan Gàidheal have, at all times, a responsibility to adhere to the policy/additional guidelines and to carry out their work in such a manner as to safeguard the environment, where practically possible.

Appropriate elements of this guidance may be included as an annex to grant letters of offer and contracts of employment in order to raise awareness of the policy and ways in which all can have a hand in implementing it.

Check out Creative Carbon Scotland's [website](#) for resources to help you understand your carbon emissions and the [Green Arts Charter](#) for further initiatives to reduce emissions.