



Gate Theatre Green Gate Policy

At the Gate Theatre, we recognise that we have a vital part to play in changing attitudes and approaches to environmental sustainability and climate change. We tell stories that help us question and imagine who we are as individuals and as communities, our social responsibility, and our future. We are passionate about ensuring that our programming is underpinned by a recognition of this responsibility. The Gate was founded in 1979 to present ground-breaking international work, and so the narrative around climate change is intrinsic to the work we make and how we run our organisation: global equality, conflict and the natural world are inextricably linked, and an essential component of a theatre with an international outlook.

The Gate's environmental impacts

Our commitment to environmental sustainability has been a key element of our Business Plan since 2015, and the 2018 – 2022 plan outlines our continued aspiration to keep our work aligned with local, national and international developments surrounding climate change.

In line with the work of COP21¹ and the Creative Climate Coalition, the Gate pledges to work in such a way as to strive to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees celsius, this century, and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further, to below 1.5 degrees celsius. In order to do this, we must take action ourselves to make our work more sustainable and to reduce our carbon footprint; to speak out, using our voices to accelerate positive change; to support one another through sharing campaigns and knowledge; and to use our creativity to contribute to finding solutions.

We were delighted to be awarded 4* on our Creative Green report from Julie's Bicycle in 2015/16 and 2016/17 for our Green Gate activity and commitment to environmental sustainability. We will strive to improve our score year on year, with the view to achieving 5*.

Our environmental commitments

Our ambition is that the Gate must have an impact larger than its scale as a small company. Whilst we recognise that we have limited financial means and limited control of our buildings, we are committed to ensuring our work contributes to collectively imagining, and building a more positive future, and a more sustainable present.

We will continually reassess our environmental impacts across these key areas:

- Buildings: energy, water use and waste in our theatre, office and storage facility
- Production: materials, energy use and waste
- Office activities: printing, IT, supplies and services, waste
- Travel: business travel, audience travel
- The role of telling stories that can either promote or ignore the context of climate change in all social, political, and economic debate

¹ COP21 refers to the 2015 Climate Talks: the term 'COP' stands for Conference of Parties. 'Parties' is a reference to the (now) 196 signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC, as it is called. The Climate Change coalition is spearheaded by Julie's Bicycle, this coalition originated as a call to action for the Creative Industries represented at COP21

Below are our six core aims for 2018 – 2022, which strive to promote and engage with the important reality of climate change:

1. Continually assess our ongoing position and to reduce our environmental impacts and carbon footprint as much as is practical, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation as an absolute minimum
2. Reduce energy use and water consumption within our control
3. Reduce waste from our activities and productions by increasing reuse and recycling across our activities
4. Engage and train staff and our Board on environmental issues and sustainable practices
5. Communicate with and engage the Gate's audiences on environmental issues
6. Programme work that is underpinned a belief in the importance of equality, community and an optimistic imagining of the future.

We believe that theatre has the power to question and nurture a changing world, and to change the people who watch it. Our productions and our work will share a common theme: they will imagine a different, better future and consider our responsibilities towards our world, our environment and each other.

This Green Gate Policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Gate's Board, and updated as and when necessary. This Policy is supported by a Green Gate Action Plan that outlines our SMART objectives and a Green Gate Checklist, which outlines all steps that we take as a company to fulfil our Green Gate goals. This document is managed by the Theatre Manager but owned by all members of staff.

