



AGREENERFUTURE

AGF's Arena Sustainability Guidelines for the European Arenas Association

INTRODUCTION

For Arenas to achieve Sustainability Goals over a long period of time, it is essential to implement clear sustainability objectives and targets from the very beginning. For real change to take place, the organisers must set a clear Sustainability Policy, and sustainability must be embedded into daily operations. Sustainability should always have a place on the agenda.

A Sustainability Action Plan must be developed and adequately communicated, monitored and reported on. Appropriate resources must be allocated to achieve sustainability targets including human resources, financial resources and reasonable timeframes for completion. It is important that your sustainability strategy is adequately financed. Consider providing a separate budget for sustainability management.

An individual or core team should be given overall responsibility and adequate training for overseeing the Action Plan; however, the entire Arena team and external contractors should be involved. Everyone should get their own target areas where they themselves can influence relevant sustainability measures.

A good way to keep your Arena in order with the Sustainability Action Plan is to consider independent certification such as [AGF Greener Arena Certification](#). Independent, third-party assessment of the sustainability measures proves that the Arena is taking sustainability seriously.





The AGF Arena certification process assesses Venues and Arenas on the following categories:



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Create an Environmental Policy.
- Conduct a biodiversity assessment of your Arena and surrounding areas to identify habitat types, animals and plants (in particular, any protected or threatened habitats or species) and to assess the impact that the arena is having on them.
- Take action to protect biodiversity - carry out a clean up of a local area, plant native trees and wildflowers, fence off sensitive areas around the arena such as bat roosts, bird nests, veteran trees and waterways and put up signage to inform people why they are protected.
- Prepare a pollution incident response plan and keep adequate amounts of spill kits at the Arena.



LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Hire locally and use sustainable, local suppliers for your products and services as much as possible.
- Consider ways to engage the local community, such as holding events for the local community or offer tickets to events for those living close by.
- Ensure traffic is managed safely and appropriately through traffic management plans and coordination with local authorities.
- Implement adequate measures to limit and monitor litter, noise and light pollution and ensure clear channels of communication for complaints from surrounding neighbours/local communities.
- Ensure there is a responsible person assigned to respond quickly and effectively to complaints.
- Have a robust Emergency Preparedness Plan that accounts for all possible emergencies.
- Manage the crowd safely and have adequate security and medical teams.



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

- Create a Sustainable Transport Policy which prioritises low carbon travel and avoiding unnecessary journeys by using virtual meetings and phone calls.
- If travel is necessary, encourage walking, cycling or public transport.
- Provide safe and secure bike parking facilities for staff and visitors.
- If cars are unavoidable, encourage carpooling and plan routes efficiently.
- If providing vehicles for staff or crew, choose vehicles with electric or hybrid engines where possible.
- Combine face-to-face meetings, collections of orders, site walkovers etc. to reduce overall travel and hold meetings at appropriate times to avoid travelling during rush hour.

- Purchase and rent materials from local suppliers to reduce transport emissions.
- Encourage suppliers to use sustainable, low carbon methods for deliveries - such as bicycle couriers, electric vans or combined deliveries.
- Include an option for free or reduced price tickets for public transport in the admission ticket prices or arrange shuttle buses.
- Add a car parking charge and invest the fee into sustainability initiatives.
- Conduct visitor surveys to gather travel and transport data and use the data to inform future actions.
- Air travel by people and air freight for deliveries should be an absolute last resort, and should only be considered after all other options have been ruled out.



ENERGY & POWER

- Create an Energy Management Plan.
 - Change over to an accredited 100% green energy supplier.
 - Examine what is powered in each part of the Arena and install energy submetering systems in distinct energy zones to calculate current usage.
 - Check energy consumption regularly and have a regular review to find unnecessary use of energy.
 - Emphasise energy efficiency across the entire Arena.
 - Use energy saving bulbs and LEDs where appropriate, both on stage and otherwise and recycle all bulbs when they reach end-of-life.
 - Turn off all lights when you leave a room and consider the possibility of automatic lighting, for for example time management, dimmers, lighting or motion sensors.
- Check and install sealing strips for doors and windows, and in cold rooms, freezer rooms and warming cabinets. Use night lowering or turn down the thermostat when the premises are not in use.
 - If temporary generators are used during shows, replace diesel-fuelled generators with sustainable fuel systems or renewable energy generators.
 - Look at how much energy can be generated at the arena using renewable energy generators, and deduce what kind of installation can be supported.
 - For arenas with permanent car parks consider investing in a solar carport (providing shading at the same time as generating green electricity).



PROCUREMENT

- Create a Procurement Policy.
- For all purchases, assess whether it is necessary to buy anything at all and do not buy more than is necessary.
- Purchase the right products, and ensure that they have a long service life.
- Consider reuse where possible, for example by buying used or recycled props. Think circularly.
- Choose products that carry an environmental label that is based on the product's environmental impact throughout their life cycle, such as those labelled with the Energy Star or certified by the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).
- Use insights and data gathered from previous events to estimate specific needs and ensure little excess materials are purchased.
- Have clear designs and accurate measurements for all stages and props before purchasing materials or constructing sets.

- Ban single-use and difficult to recycle plastic products across all departments.
- Minimise or ban the use of single-use decorative elements and choose sustainable and reusable décor.
- Print only necessary material, and use both sides of the paper where possible, and avoid overproduction of wristbands, badges, lanyards, merchandise etc.
- Create a system for material management and designate areas for the storage of equipment between events.
- Reuse, share, rent or donate material to maximise its use.
- Plan long term relationships with partners (sponsors, vendors, etc.) to develop banners for multi-year use and avoid date marking banners and signs to allow re-use.
- Donate items (decorations, carpeting, signage, etc.) which cannot be reused to community projects.



FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Create a Food & Beverage Policy.
- Prepare Food & Beverage Procedures for in-house catering and bars and provide training to necessary staff members.
- Write a Food & Beverage Charter for agreement with all external/third party caterers, bars and traders.
- Review all in-house catering menus and move towards plant based menus using local, seasonal, and organic ingredients.
- Use reusable or certified compostable and sustainably sourced serveware.
- Encourage, or require, visiting caterers/traders to do the same.
- Ensure proper production, handling and storage techniques to prevent and reduce spoilage and waste.
- Modify menus to increase customer satisfaction and prevent and reduce uneaten food.

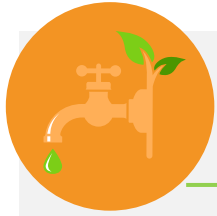
- Reduce serving sizes as appropriate and avoid use of garnishes that don't get eaten.
- For buffet-style service, encourage people to take only what they will actually eat.
- Measure the amount, type and reason for the generation of wasted food and create effective food waste prevention strategies.
- Compare purchasing inventory with customer ordering.
- Ban disposable cups and invest in reusable beverage containers.
- Segregate food, organic and compostable waste from other waste streams.
- Engage the services of a waste contractor who can provide a separate collection for organic waste streams.



WASTE & RECYCLING

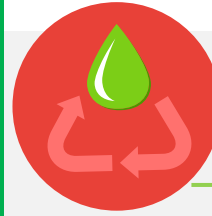
- Create a Resource and Waste Management Policy.
- Communicate with all production teams in the planning stages of individual events to assess what waste streams are likely to arise at the Arena during build, event and break.
- Communicate with waste collectors and removal contractors to ensure that all potential waste streams can be adequately managed.
- Have dedicated areas for waste storage and segregation and ensure that they are easily accessed.
- Ensure that there are dedicated receptacles and areas for the safe storage of hazardous wastes, e.g. WEEE, lightbulbs, batteries, and medical waste.
- Cans with latex/water-based dried paints can be disposed of with residual waste, but oil-based paints, spray paints, and paint thinners all need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Manage a wide range of bins (paper, glass, cardboard, wood, metal, food & organic, residuals) and deploy those across the Arena (offices, production compounds, food courts, parking lots).

- Have efficient signage for waste management systems that can easily be understood and followed.
- Have adequate cleaning teams and onsite waste sorting teams.
- Ensure that the number of front of house bins are adequate to the number of ticket holders at each event.
- Communicate recycling initiatives to audience, crew, contractors and talent (pre-event, during, electronically, via volunteers, have waste areas on maps, etc.)
- Ensure that waste is collected during the event, and properly sorted for reuse, recycling, composting and recovery.
- Monitor the types and amounts of different waste streams produced.
- Identify locations that produce a lot of waste and the areas that are worst for contamination.
- Ultimately get to a point where there is no waste going to landfill and only very small amounts going to thermal treatment and energy recovery (e.g. sanitary and medical waste for autoclaving and destruction)



WATER USAGE

- Communicate to all people onsite the need to conserve water and turn off taps.
- Use water saving devices such as tap and shower flow regulators, dual flush toilets, etc.
- Verify at regular intervals that there are no leaks in water distribution systems.
- Use white appliances efficiently - if purchasing or hiring appliances that use water, such as washing machines, look for product labels that indicate how much water a machine will use per cycle. Only wash full loads and do not use extra rinses.
- Choose waterless urinals, low flushing toilets or water free toilets if available.



WASTEWATER & SEWAGE

- Prohibit the use of toxic chemicals as much as practicable at the Arena.
- Any chemical that may end up in water must be eco-friendly e.g. household cleaning products, personal hygiene products - shampoo, toothpaste etc.
- Separately collect oils and greases, never pour them down the drain.
- Never pour water used to wash paint brushes down the drain - water contaminated with paint residues should be evaporated and the paint dried out.
- Prepare a Site Drainage Plan and identify all water sources and runoff areas.
- Design areas where hazardous chemicals will be used, such as refuelling areas, to contain contaminated water in case of spillage.
- Identify grey water streams that could be reused, e.g. water generated from hand wash basins & showers and methods of reusing grey water onsite (e.g. irrigation/flushing toilets).
- Ensure that wastewater removed from the Arena is being treated at an appropriate facility.



GOVERNANCE & SYSTEMS

- Ensure that the Sustainability Policy extends to all areas of the Arena management and operations.
- Ensure that the Sustainability Action Plan is monitored for effectiveness and is adequately resourced.
- Keep an active register of legislation and stay on top of current environmental and sustainability requirements
- Keep records of any health and safety or environmental incidents that occur at the Arena.
- Investigate if you are banking with an ethical financial institution and consider changing if their policies are not ethical.
- Consider investment in financial sectors such as ethical staff pensions.
- Invest a portion of the Arena's profits into external environmental and social projects, e.g., in the local community or through a charity partnership.





EXTERNAL REACH & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

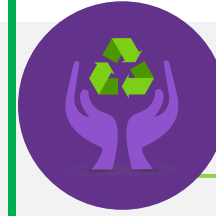
- To bring about change, relevant stakeholders from top to bottom in the organisation should be involved in the strategy, including partners, suppliers, employees, performers and visitors.
- Consider appropriate channels for information sharing and ways to involve each group based on the kind of role and relationship they have to the Arena.
- Consider methods for all to provide opportunities for feedback about the Sustainability Policy and Action Plan.
- Consider ways to communicate sustainable practices that do not force sustainability but encourage positive cooperation.
- Network and share good ideas with others - share on your own website, in social media, attend and speak at industry conferences, and talk about your Arenas sustainability actions in interviews.

- Approach local governments/ministers to find solutions to infrastructure gaps that could make your Arena more sustainable, e.g. more sustainable public transport, provision of more renewable energy in the grid network, increased investment into distributed renewable energy generation systems, mains and sewage system upgrades, waste management and treatment facility provisions, etc.
- Include sustainability in induction training for all new permanent and temporary staff.
- Communicate electronically with talent (registration, timetable, etc.) and audiences (tickets, event programme, etc.) and send all relevant documentation by email beforehand.
- Accreditation, ticketing, accounting and invoicing should be done electronically.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Write and implement a Health & Wellbeing Policy.
- Provide an opportunity for staff to discuss their preferred working arrangements.
- Provide opportunities for hybrid working where possible.
- Consider providing healthcare plans, gym memberships, cycle to work schemes or other beneficial health incentives for permanent staff.
- Provide adequate, comfortable working and resting spaces for staff.
- Offer mental health training/guidance/support for all participants.
- Have a robust Emergency Preparedness Plan that accounts for all possible emergencies.
- Prepare Risk Assessment for potentially dangerous jobs and provide adequate training and proper PPE.
- Ensure that anyone performing a dangerous task (e.g. working at heights/with chemicals/with power etc.) is adequately trained and protected.
- Monitor and manage noise levels and provide hearing protection for staff and visitors that may be subject to excessive noise exposure.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI)

- Write and implement an EDI Policy.
- Allow equal opportunities for all minorities and genders.
- Encourage awareness and communication for tolerance, understanding and openness amongst staff and visitors.
- Ensure accessibility for all abilities - wheelchair user, deaf, blind, other abilities.
- Offer safe spaces for families, with adequate facilities - baby changing, breast feeding, safe areas for young children.
- Offer safe spaces for prayer and worship.



CARBON FOOTPRINT

- Implement a carbon reduction strategy with targets and a commitment to reduce emissions over a set timeframe.
- Complete a carbon footprint analysis for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
- Invest into reputable carbon removal, drawdown or offset projects.





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