



Sing Ireland – Climate Action Policy

Sing Ireland recognises the urgent need for all organisations and individuals to address the climate crisis and acknowledges the unavoidable impact it has on our environment and communities. This policy outlines our commitments, goals and actions towards addressing climate change.

Our Commitment

We will mitigate our impact

As an organisation, Sing Ireland is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. We will actively reduce our carbon footprint, promote sustainability, and work towards ensuring a safer future in the face of the climate emergency.

To help mitigate climate change, we will prioritise the use of renewable energy in all our operations and activities. Planning and management will emphasise sustainable materials in our events, productions, and operations, with waste management integrated from the start of every project.

To support this effort, Sing Ireland will develop and implement an environmental action plan that sets specific targets and milestones, allowing us to measure our progress.

We will raise awareness and advocate

Sing Ireland will create opportunities for staff, stakeholders, and partner organisations to share knowledge and increase understanding of our sector's impact on climate change. We aim to collaborate with others on initiatives that promote bold climate action within the arts and cultural sector, as well as the wider community.

We will continuously improve

We will regularly review and update this policy and our business activities to ensure alignment with emerging best practices and new sector knowledge. We will monitor and report progress annually, incorporating feedback from stakeholders and sharing our results openly.

Singing Sustainably

Sing Ireland proactively shares sustainability resources with its members and programme participants, leading by example and encouraging our members to adopt similar policies and objectives. Some of our sustainable singing practices include:

- Encouraging the use of digital sheet music, rehearsal tracks, and online resources to minimise paper use and reduce transportation emissions.
- Promoting events through social media and digital channels to decrease the need for paper flyers and printing.
- Using projector screens or tablets for sheet music instead of printing copies and providing loaned copies where necessary.
- Utilising QR codes for event programmes, eliminating the need for printed materials.
- Choosing local venues to reduce travel-related emissions and encouraging carpooling and public transportation for rehearsals and performances.
- Setting up recycling and compost bins in rehearsal and performance spaces to help reduce waste.
- Encouraging partnerships with environmentally conscious organisations and venues and engaging in local sustainability initiatives.

Sing Ireland also supports choirs and singing groups in providing education and training on sustainable practices, which can create lasting change in their communities.

Embedding Climate Change Initiatives

Our leadership commitment

Sing Ireland's senior leadership team will champion climate change action and sustainable practices within the organisation. The board and directors will work together to incorporate clear climate change goals into our strategic planning and organisational objectives.

Our staff engagement

Sing Ireland will foster a culture of sustainability and knowledge sharing related to climate change within our sector and community. We will encourage staff to participate in implementing climate change initiatives and provide them with resources to enhance their awareness and understanding of our organisation's role in creating positive change.

Our suppliers and funders

When procuring goods and services, Sing Ireland will prioritise sustainability alongside cost-effectiveness. We will apply clear criteria for procurement processes related to our events, operations, and services. Higher costs may be justified when they deliver significant environmental benefits.

Suppliers will be asked to provide their environmental policies as part of their quotes to ensure alignment with our sustainability goals. If a supplier lacks an environmental policy, we will seek details on their efforts toward becoming more sustainable. At least one environmentally sustainable option will be evaluated when sourcing physical goods. Sing Ireland is also committed to transparent funding, with all donors disclosed to stakeholders.

Working with partner organisations

When collaborating with partner organisations, Sing Ireland will encourage them to adopt similar environmental policies. We will request a copy of their environmental policies and aim to minimise travel-related impacts by using platforms such as Zoom, Teams, and video conferencing. We will encourage partners to communicate their environmental commitments to their audiences and share how others can contribute.

For training workshops, meetings, or events, Sing Ireland will seek out venues with strong environmental policies, including in their catering services. Where necessary, we will provide our own materials and equipment. If a venue lacks an adequate environmental policy, we will work with them to improve it by suggesting areas for enhancement and ways to make their policy more actionable.

Travel and accommodation policies

Sing Ireland's travel and accommodation policies prioritise sustainability. Travel expense claims include departure and arrival locations, as well as the mode of transportation used. This information allows us to track and report our travel-related carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it.

When travelling for business purposes, the method of transportation should be chosen based on cost-effectiveness and environmental impact. For local travel, cycling, walking, or public transportation are prioritised when time permits, rather than relying on taxis or private vehicles. For international trips, direct flights are preferred over flights with multiple short-haul connections. Cars should only be used for business travel if they represent the most sustainable option. If using a personal vehicle, the current mileage reimbursement rate is €0.3896 per kilometre.

Sing Ireland aims to increase the use of video conferencing where appropriate and establish clear guidelines on when travel is necessary, as our work continues to evolve over the coming years. When selecting accommodation for business travel, it is preferable to stay with friends or family over hotels, to reduce the carbon emissions associated with hotel services such as laundry.

Breaches and misconduct

Any incidents of non-compliance with this policy will be investigated and reported through an incident report process. This ensures accountability, adherence, and continuous improvement in our commitment to mitigating climate change.

Evaluation and review

Sing Ireland will monitor progress in achieving the goals and targets outlined in this policy. Actively seeking feedback from stakeholders, including staff and the community, allows us to gather diverse perspectives and make necessary adjustments to enhance our climate change mitigation efforts. Annual reports will disclose results and progress transparently, fostering accountability and ensuring continuous evaluation and improvement. In future, this will be managed through Sing Ireland's Environmental Action Plan.

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