

SCREEN SCOTLAND
SGRÌN ALBA

Sustainability in Production


& Best Practice Guide



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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This is an interactive document, that uses [hyperlinks](#).
Please click on them to follow to resources and links.

Follow the () icon to use the buttons in the [Tools & Resources](#) section.

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Our Aim & Objective

This document will be updated periodically to support inclusive growth of the industry and reflect the infrastructure that is available to the production sector in Scotland.

The Checklist is intended for productions that don't have existing protocols or standards set by their funders, broadcasters, or a green certification ambition that comes with protocols or a code of practice.

The Best Practice Mini Guide is meant to provide some useful and practical changes that productions can adopt depending on their budget and scale.

This Mini Guide will develop into a much larger set of tools currently being developed in partnership with BECTU Vision's Sustainability Manager.

Sustainability Checklist

01



Image courtesy of BECTU Vision

- Write an **environmental statement** and communicate it to the team
- **Calculate the baseline energy and resource use** for your company or project
Share this with the Local Film Office or locations@creativescotland.com
- Commit to **reducing, reusing, recycling**
- Provide paid training or shadowing opportunities to a local crew member, and support all crew to participate in training
- Allocate or hire an **environmental coordinator and/or runner** role
- **Ask for environmental and social responsibility policies** of suppliers, broadcasters and distributors
- Debrief with the **local film office and/or Screen Scotland's Screen Commission** after filming.



02

Image courtesy of BECTU Vision

Sustainability Best Practice

Mini Guide



Image courtesy of Solus Productions and MG ALBA

Carbon Calculating

- Calculate the baseline energy and resource use for your company or project, and share with the the **Local Film Officer** or locations@creativescotland.com.

Training

- Offer paid training or shadowing opportunities to a local crew member
- Support all crew to participate in training.

Location Filming

- Ensure **full recycling system** in place
- Have water bottle **refill station**
- Opt for **energy efficient generators** (Albert Certified Suppliers)
- Opt for **alternative clean power supply**
- Enforce **no idling on vehicles**
- Use sustainably produced location signage and **reuse** as much as possible
- Use generators only when absolutely necessary, plug into the grid where possible, or use a low impact generator or battery alternative instead if needed.



Biodiversity & Natural Habitats

- Follow **ethical codes and avoid disturbing wildlife.**
- Consider the **impacts your supply chain has** on **biodiversity & ecology** from your catering to props and costume supplies

Leave no trace

- Check and follow relevant **environmental legislation (Local Film Office).**

Social

- Respect **local cultures and people**
- Abide by **Local Film Office codes of practice**
- Awareness of crew Wellbeing and appoint a **Wellbeing Facilitator**
- Apply a **Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy.**

Accommodation

- Choose **eco-certified hotels** where available
- Choose accommodation as **close to location** as possible.

Catering

- **Choose a supplier committed to sustainable development** and add this criterion to your procurement process
- Ask caterers for **organic, local, and seasonal produce**
- Provide **reusable plates and cutlery** where possible
- Ensure crew have **personal refill water bottles** and provide dispensers
- Consider having **meat free days** to reduce your impact on the climate and biodiversity & ecology
- **Evaluate needs before purchasing**, especially fresh/perishable foods
- Choose products with **less packaging**
- Consider **vegetarian or plant-based** options
- **Recycle food and package waste**
- **Share leftover food** with crew members or **donate to local charities.**

Travel

- **Avoid use of air travel** where possible
- Use **local crews** wherever possible:

www.filmbang.com | [Local Film Offices](#) | [Screen Scotland](#)
email locations@creativescotland.com
- Use **digital communication** where possible to **reduce commuting**
- Encourage **flexible working and working-from-home** to reduce solo car travel and impacts on longer working hours
- Choose vehicles with the **best fuel consumption and lowest emissions**
- Encourage use of **bicycles, public transport, and car shares** for daily commuting
- Purchase **carbon offset** for any necessary flights
- For non-local crew members, choose **accommodation as close to filming location** as possible
- No **idling policy on vehicles.**

Waste

- Reduce Plastic, Paper and Organic Waste
 - Using **water dispensers** and providing crew with **reusable receptacles**
 - Opting for **packaging** that is recycled/environmentally friendly/biodegradable or compostable when possible
 - Opting for **refillable products** rather than repurchasing in bulk
 - For mandatory single use plastics, opting for **compostable/biodegradable solutions**
 - Using **electronic documents** instead of printing wherever possible
 - Using **Digital call sheets**
 - **Printing double sided**, on recycled/sugar cane/grass paper, with eco setting on, and in black and white where possible
 - **Donating leftover food** after a shooting day
 - **Composting** and disposing at local recycling point (contact the **Local Film Office** for info).
- **Separate waste** that can be recycled (paper, glass, metal, plastic, food)
- **Flatten out plastic, card, and paper**, to help reduce the frequency of collections
- **Collect hazardous waste separately** (batteries, light bulbs, printer cartridges) and dispose of correctly
- Contact the Local Film Office for information on all **recycling centre locations**.



Image courtesy of Solus Productions and MG ALBA



Equipment and Suppliers

- Choose video, audio, and lighting equipment with the **lowest energy consumption**
- Choose equipment **manufactured with the lowest use of energy** and materials
- Use **rechargeable batteries** wherever possible
- **Switch off all equipment** when not in use
- **Unplug any equipment** which draws power when switched off
- **Buy local produce and supplies**
- **Buy in bulk to reduce waste** in packaging and transport
- Buy **fair-trade and ethically produced** food and supplies
- Buy timber from **sustainable sources** – look for **FSC certification**
- Buy **environmentally friendly supplies**
(e.g. water-based paints, biodegradable materials, avoid plastics & acrylic, reuse materials and be conscious of unnecessary wear to prevent replacement)
- **Recycle or donate any unwanted equipment** and materials at the end of shooting
(provide links – reset etc)
- Choose an energy supplier which provides **electricity from 100% renewable sources**
- Ask all suppliers what their **environmental policy** is.

Studio | Set | Costume | Makeup | Props

- Consider **eco-designed sets** – from design and set up.
Plan the dismantling, sorting, re-use and recycling
- **Source local labour** and materials
- **Rent or reuse materials** instead of buying
- Use **recycled/certified materials**, avoid toxic products, opt for plant based materials
- **Use nails** instead of screws/glue (more eco-friendly to produce, helps with the opportunities for productions to dismantle & reuse set materials)
- Use **sustainably harvested wood** with little to no formaldehyde
- Ask the location/buildspace/studio to **supply waste/sorting bins, containers for paint water disposal and a separate one for wood**
- Inform crew about **sorting policy**: post signs and recycling bins
- **Reuse old props** ([Reuse Hub - Film Bang](#))
- Prioritise **ethical purchase** of props and costumes second-hand from **thrift / charity shops / flea markets**
- Wash clothes with an energy-efficient washing machine and use eco setting where possible
- Select what can be re-**used or donated to charities** and ensure that left over materials are collected and recycled
- Use **makeup from environmentally friendly brands**.

Office and Pre-production

- Choose equipment with the **lowest energy consumption**
- Set laptops and devices to configure to as energy efficient as possible
- Choose equipment manufactured with the lowest use of energy and materials
- Consider **shared office facilities** to reduce energy and resource use
- Adjust **heating and air-conditioning thermostats** to minimize energy use
- Switch off all equipment when not in use
- **Unplug any equipment** which draws power when switched off
- Install **energy efficient lighting**
- Buy **electricity from a renewable source**
- Use **file sharing** and **downloads** rather than print/dvd/tapes
- Use only **recycled or FSC certified paper** and card
- **Print double sided**
- Use **vegetable or non-toxic ink**
- Only use **reusable** cups/plates/cutlery/water bottles
- Buy local produce and supplies
- Buy in bulk to **reduce waste in packaging and transport**
- Buy **fair-trade and ethically produced** food and supplies
- Consider **vegetarian and plant-based** options
- Buy furniture from **sustainable sources** – look for FSC certification
- Consider second-hand furniture from places like [“Office Furniture Centre”](#)
- Buy environmentally friendly **bio-degradable** cleaning supplies
- **Compost Green Waste**
- Provide plenty of **recycling bins** and arrange regular collections
- Use **electronic banking** whenever possible
- Check possibility of putting **solar panels** on your office roof
- Ask suppliers what their environmental policies are.

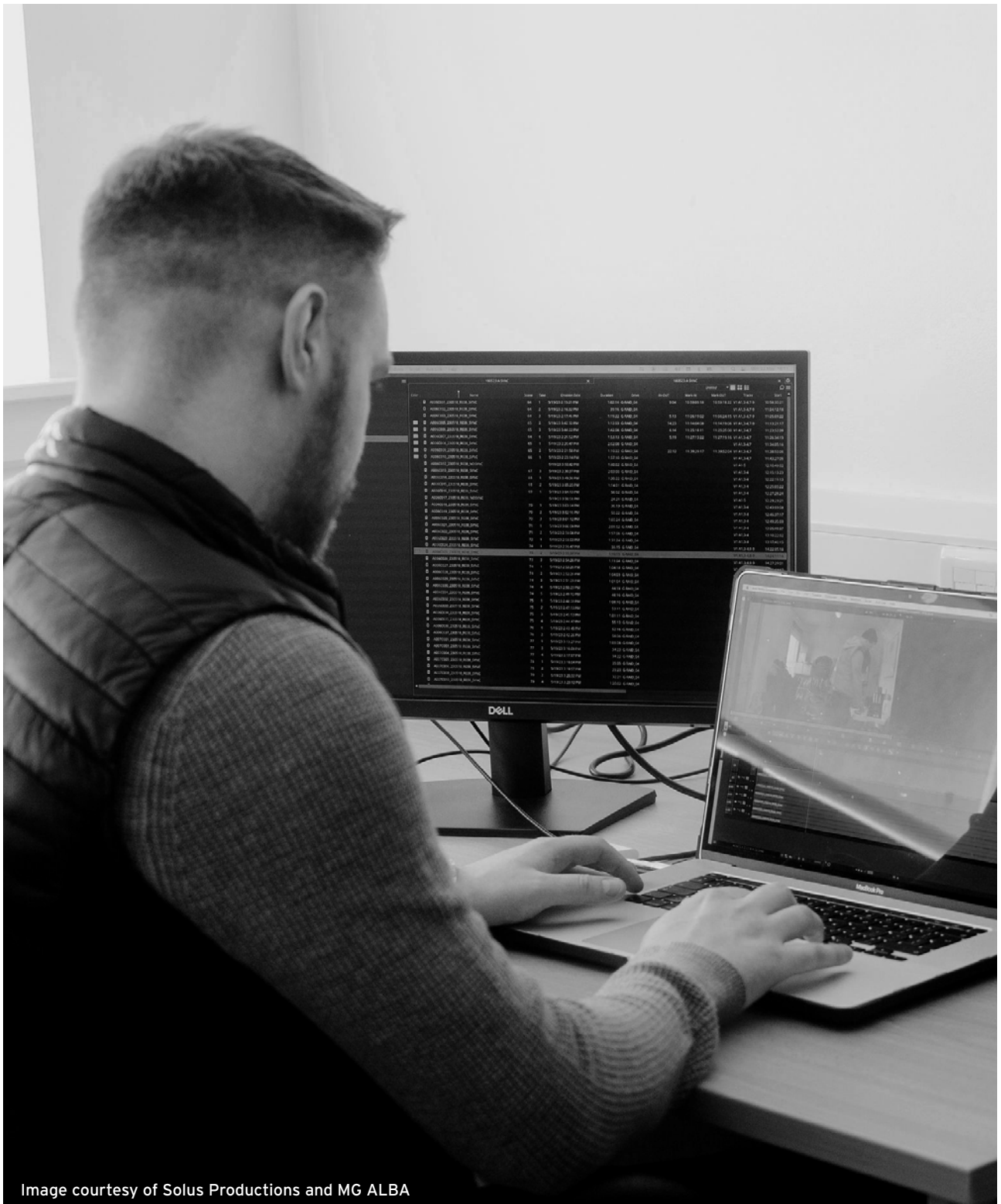


Image courtesy of Solus Productions and MG ALBA

RESOURCES & TOOLS

03



Resources and Tools (Links)

Carbon Calculating

See a frequently updated resource list here:
BECTU: Sustainable Screen Production in Scotland



Local Food Charities

Olio - Local Food Sharing App

Sets & Props

ReSet Scenery | Sustainable Stage, Screen & Events

Film Bang Reuse Hub

Skills & Training

BECTU VISION | BECTU

Film City Futures

NFTS Scotland

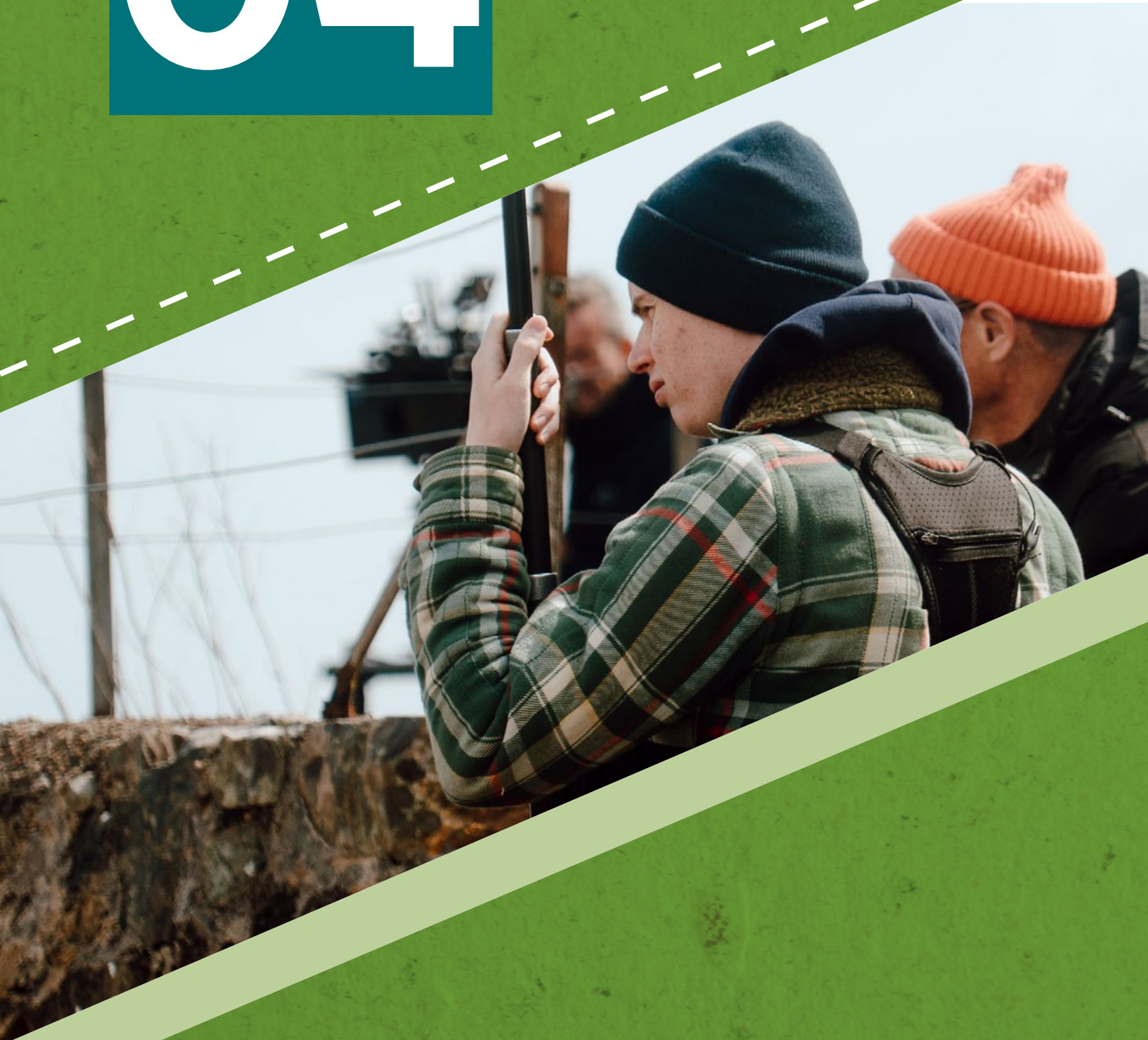
TRC Courses

Screen NETS

ScreenSkills

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

04



Glossary

Inclusive Growth

Growth that combines increased prosperity with greater equity; that creates opportunities for all; and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity fairly. (Scottish Government 2015).

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (The Brundtland Definition, Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

Environmental Statement

An environmental statement sets out your assessment of the likely environmental effects of your operations/project.

Environmental Policy

An environmental policy outlines your organisations commitment to reduce its impact on the environment and provides a framework for setting objectives and targets to improve your environmental performance.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Baseline

Baseline emissions refer to the production of greenhouse gases that have occurred in the past and which are being produced prior to the introduction of any strategies to reduce emissions. The baseline measurement is determined over a set period, typically one year. The historic measurement acts as a benchmark to evaluate the success of subsequent efforts to reduce emissions. **Without the knowledge of baseline emissions, it is impossible to reliably judge success of any remediation efforts.**

Production/Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions Boundary

To accurately report on greenhouse gas emissions, a boundary to emissions must be established. This would typically include emissions within the organisations control across 3 scopes:

Scope 1 - direct emissions from owned or controlled sources (i.e., fuel used in company vehicles).

Scope 2 - indirect emissions from purchased electricity, heating and cooling.

Scope 3 - all other indirect emissions such as goods and services, business travel and commuting.

Social Responsibility

To be aware of impacts to local communities, respectful of cultures, and working ethically in order to have a positive impact on the place and people that are involved in the production, both crew and members of the public.

Net-Zero

The balance of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount that is removed e.g. emissions generated by transport balanced by our ability of our trees and peat to absorb them.

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