



**Scoot Theatre's Environmental and
Sustainability Policy 2023**

Introduction & Definitions

(From Surrey's Climate Change Strategy 2020)

Scientific evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) calls for rapid reductions in global carbon emissions if we are to limit average levels of global warming to 1.5°C and so avoid the risks associated with dangerous or runaway climate change. Even half a degree increase above this would significantly worsen the risk of flooding and extreme weather events, drought, and extreme heat, which will lead to considerable impacts on human health, natural and food systems, as well as industry.

Globally, the IPCC suggests that from 2020 we must limit total future global emissions to 344 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases, known as the global carbon budget, if we want to give ourselves a 66% chance of avoiding dangerous climate change. However, the IPCC has estimated that if we take no further action, based on current trajectories, we will have used up this global carbon budget, within a decade. The potential life-threatening impacts of climate change, coupled with the current inaction, led to the declaration of a climate emergency by the UK National Government when, in 2019, the UK became the first G7 nation to legislate for a long-term net zero carbon target, stating that we will bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by year 2050.

Currently, Surrey (where Scoot is based) is emitting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) at an even faster rate than average global levels. Dividing the global carbon budget by population gives Surrey a total carbon budget of 56 million tonnes. Based only on the fuel and electricity used within its boundaries, Surrey currently emits 6.19 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year, it means that if we do nothing, at this current rate of emissions we would use up our carbon budget in just over eight years. Although carbon emissions from Surrey have fallen by 28% between 2005 and 2017, it is recognised that this has mainly resulted from decarbonisation of the national grid from which we draw electricity. With on-going decarbonisation of electricity, and taking into account population and economic growth, it is projected that Surrey's 2005 level of emissions will continue to fall to a 44% reduction by 2050. However, this is less than half of our 2005 emissions, and therefore significantly short of the county's target. It is clear that doing nothing, what is known as a business as usual (BAU) scenario, is not an option if we are to achieve our net zero carbon ambition.

We must act today. Scoot plans to be at the forefront of tackling this global challenge – not only modelling and sharing best practice within our industry but also engaging with our local communities to spread awareness and educate young people on how to make a positive impact.

There are several terms used in relation to environmental sustainability, greenhouse gases (GHG) and net zero which can be confusing, so we've included some common terms and definitions below, some of which have been provided by Net Zero Climate and Good Energy.

Definitions

Net zero

Refers to a state in which the GHG going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere. The term is important because – for CO₂ at least – this is the state at which global warming stops.

Absolute zero / zero emissions

No GHG emissions are attributable to activities across all scopes. Under this definition, no offsets or balancing of residual emissions with removals are used.

Climate neutral

Activities result in no net effect on the climate system. Any GHG emissions or other activities with warming effects are fully compensated by reductions or removals, or other activities with cooling effects — irrespective of the time period or the relative magnitude of emissions and removals involved.

GHG neutral

Net contribution to global GHG emissions is zero. Any GHG emissions attributable to activities are fully compensated by GHG reductions or removals exclusively claimed by the actor — irrespective of the time period or the relative magnitude of emissions and removals involved.

Carbon neutral

Net contribution to global CO₂ emissions is zero. Any CO₂ emissions attributable to activities are fully compensated by CO₂ reductions or removals exclusively claimed by the actor — irrespective of the time period or the relative magnitude of emissions and removals involved.

Like for like

When a source of emissions and an emissions sink correspond in terms of their warming impact, and in terms of the timescale and durability of carbon storage. For example, fossil carbon is stable in the lithosphere over millennia if it is not extracted and burned, therefore mitigating measures (e.g. offsets) that aim to neutralise the effect of these emissions must persist for a comparable, geological-timescale.

Climate positive / net negative

GHG removals, internal and external, exceed its emissions and any removals are “like for like”. Must be specified over a declared time period, and whether removals and emissions are cumulative or represent only the time period specified.

Carbon negative

Carbon removals, internal and external, exceed its emissions and any removals are “like for like”. Must be specified over a declared time period, and whether removals and emissions are cumulative or represent only the time period specified.

1.5°C aligned

Target is aligned with scenarios that yield a long-term warming outcome of below 1.5°C with some probability (e.g. 50%, 66%) and some amount of overshoot (e.g. no, low), both of which should be explicitly specified.

Science based / Paris aligned

Target is aligned with what the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement — limiting global warming to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C, with no or low overshoot.

Offsetting

Reducing GHG emissions (including through avoided emissions) or increasing GHG removals through external activities to compensate for GHG emissions, such that net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Offsetting is typically arranged through a marketplace for carbon credits or other exchange mechanism.

Neutralisation

GHG removals outside an actor's emissions inventory, that balance residual GHG emissions such that net contribution to global emissions is reduced or eliminated. May include offsetting, but also all other activities outside a value chain that are contributions to mitigation. Near synonym of compensation, but limited to removals, and requires "like for like" balancing of residual emissions. Required if residual emissions remain after net zero status is achieved.

Compensation

Reducing GHG emissions (including through avoided emissions), or increasing GHG removals through activities outside of an actor's emissions inventory, in order to compensate for GHG emissions such that net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Includes offsetting, but also all other activities outside a value chain that are contributions to mitigation. Near synonym of neutralisation, but not limited to removals, and does not necessarily imply "like for like" balancing of residual emissions. Potentially helpful during the transition to net zero.

GHG reductions

Actions that reduce the quantity of GHGs attributable to an activity vis-avis a baseline (e.g. replacing fossil-burning power with renewable energy).

GHG removals

Actions that remove GHGs from the atmosphere relative to baseline (e.g. afforestation and reforestation).

Scope 1 activities

Direct emissions from facilities or equipment your business owns or controls. So, for example, if you are burning coal to generate heat for manufacturing processes, the emissions from this would be Scope 1, and so would any emissions from fuel burned by company vehicles. Reducing Scope 1 emissions may involve replacing equipment or changing processes.

Scope 2 activities

Indirect emissions from energy you buy from suppliers. This can be the easiest area to decarbonise, because if you switch to a supplier that only buys renewable energy, you can legitimately state that your purchased energy use has no associated emissions.

Scope 3 activities

Indirect emissions from your company's value chain: suppliers, distributors, etc. They can be the toughest to get to grips with, but these emissions are also the most important. They are the greenhouse gas emissions linked to the activities of your business, but not directly generated by you or the energy you buy. They're also called "value chain emissions" because they are generated by other organisations you work with: suppliers, distributors, waste management, customers, third-party transport services and so on. For most businesses, Scope 3 emissions will make up over 80% of the total. Any net zero target that doesn't include Scope 3 is simply not valid.

Company Background

Scoot Theatre is a community-focused rural touring theatre company. We are passionate about engaging and inspiring young audiences by presenting high quality, professional productions in non-traditional theatre spaces. We further this engagement work through our Youth Theatre - Scoot Youth.

Artistic Director Max Hutchinson started Scoot in summer 2020 to offer safe live events after lockdown and bring local communities back together again after months of being indoors. Scoot' first production was a 60-minute, family-friendly, actor-musician version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that toured outdoors to 10 local cricket clubs. Over 2500 people came out to see that production so we carried on!

Since then we have:

- Adapted our own version of *A Christmas Carol*, which played at East Molesey Cricket Club in December in 2020;
- We have produced concerts with West End performers touring to sports clubs;
- We toured our production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* along with *The Comedy of Errors* in summer 2021;
- We have become an associate company of The Riverhouse Barn in Walton-on-Thames
- And in summer 2022 we were supported by the *house* scheme run by Farnham Maltings and The Arts Council to tour cricket clubs with our *A Midsummer Night's Dream* again, visiting a wider area of the Southeast and reaching an even bigger audience.
- We are currently developing Quentin Blake's story "Mrs Armitage on Wheels" for the stage, supported by Farnham Maltings, The Arts Partnership Surrey and Active Surrey.

In April 2022 we set up our own Youth Theatre – Scoot Youth. We meet every Saturday during term time for 2 hours at The Riverhouse Barn in Walton. Scoot Youth is a safe space for anyone aged 11-19 to expand their drama skillset, make friends and build their confidence.

Vision

To inspire audiences, particularly younger audiences, to make a positive impact on the world.

Mission

We aim to achieve this by:

- Telling inspiring stories in non-traditional spaces
- Making our shows accessible to all

- Embracing multiple platforms
- Listening and working with the communities in which we work
- Offering extensive education engagement work with schools and our youth theatre

Current Context & Strategy

We recognise that the process of making work for presentation and touring nationally can have a detrimental environmental impact. We are committed to reducing this impact wherever possible and as soon as possible, moving towards a more sustainable way of working. This commitment extends to our core operational activity, to how and where we make and distribute work, and to our partners and suppliers. The below information provides a snapshot of what we're currently doing; context for our situation and activities; and how we monitor our progress.

Energy & Water

Currently all "office" work is done from home. When touring, the majority of our business activity takes place outside the office in a variety of indoor and outdoor settings. In indoor spaces, we will typically use on-site electricity, gas, and water supplies. For outdoor activity, we primarily use electricity (provided by on-site partners where possible) and also a small amount of water where supply is available. We do not currently accurately track our electricity, gas, and water usage for each of the aforementioned environments due to difficulty in isolating our data from other users of the same source. We do however have specific actions, guidelines, and monitoring practices in place to help us measure, understand and reduce our energy and water usage:

- Turning lights, heating and electrical equipment off when not in use
- Where available, inputting average show power for each production into the Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Tools to monitor footprint
- Keeping up to date on building sustainability for our home office work.
- Consideration of energy performance ratings in electrical equipment procurement decisions

Waste

Similar to energy and water, improvement of our waste practices applies to our home office operations, and the variety of indoor and outdoor spaces we occupy for development, touring and other business activity.

At present, we:

- Operate a paperless operation wherever possible, prioritising use of online document sharing and storage
- Prioritise the use of existing equipment for new productions or researching hiring potential ahead of purchasing
- Offer our own equipment out to fellow arts organisations for borrowing or hiring at reasonable rates
- Informally encourage the use of reusable food and drinks containers among the creative team during development and touring
- Actively seek out recycling facilities and water refill stations at all off-site locations
- Consider upcycling and recycling from the design stages of a new project

Travel

Our business travel is predominately road and rail transport. This is mostly attributed to our production development and touring. As much as possible, production meetings happen virtually, but for rehearsals and touring, national travel is required for multiple members of the creative team. Current production touring requires use of a hired van (diesel) and rail, with infrequent use of staff cars. We have the following processes and policies in place for reducing travel emissions:

- Flexible hours offered to allow creatives/performers to avoid peak travel times
- Carbon footprint for office travel and all touring travel calculated and analysed using Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Tools
- Public transport prioritised over the use of cars in all productions
- Van/car sharing encouraged where this mode of transport is required
- Prioritisation of virtual meetings with external collaborators over in-person where travel would be required
- Encouraging production designers to create lighter sets for touring

Natural Capital

For Scoot, this environmental theme is about sourcing sustainable products and services. As a non-building-based company primarily working away from our office space, our current focus is set on our supply chain – our Scope 3 activities. We can confidently say as a company sustainability is a priority factor in all our product and service procurement decisions. Where we're unable to reuse or repurpose existing in-house equipment, materials or services, wherever possible we:

- prioritise hiring equipment over buying it (and hire out our own equipment to other companies and individuals too)
- try to source second-hand equipment where a purchase is necessary
- avoid the use of hardwoods in set builds
- prioritise sustainably sourced materials
- prioritise sustainable and ethical practices in the services we buy e.g. investment priorities of our banking providers, use of electric delivery vehicles etc

Other priority factors, such as price and convenience, must however also impact our decision-making processes and with the fast-paced and often resource-poor nature of what we do, they can hold a stronger weighting in our choice of suppliers and materials. With careful forward planning, we hope to change this.

Sustainable Culture

At Scoot, we are already working to embed environmental themes and activities across our projects and day-to-day operations.

We are:

- Working with a sustainability and environmental mentor – Sophie Lanfear – who won an Emmy for producing the hit wildlife series “Our Planet” with David Attenborough
- Producing a school’s tour of Oscar Wilde’s “The Selfish Giant”, adapted with a climate emergency focus. We will couple the performances with workshops designed by Sophie to inspire young people to make a positive impact.
- Developing Quentin Blake’s “Mrs Armitage on Wheels” by workshopping in primary schools. The story focuses on the joy of outdoor activity and the importance of cycling in particular.
- Running “Mrs Armitage” summer workshops in partnership with Active Surrey to get young people cycling in the county.
- Working closely with The Riverhouse Barn in Walton and sharing best practice with them on Green Theatre making.

Scoot is committed to developing its own Roadmap towards Net Zero by 2050 – setting out year-by-year actions we can introduce to reduce our environmental impact as we grow as a

company. This roadmap will be informed by extensive data collection from our touring work over the next six months and presented in our policy for 2024.

A huge thank you to Unlimited Theatre for their generosity in sharing their Environmental Policy model to keep their fantastic work alive.