



GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE FILMING IN LONDON



These Guidelines for Sustainable Filming in London are based on the outstanding work that our French partner and Ecoprod has achieved in France. As part of our Green Screen Project funded by Interreg Europe, Film London has been adopting the French guidance and we would like to thank Paris Region Entreprises and Ecoprod for their permission to do so.

Film London places an increasing emphasis on social and environmental sustainability. These guidelines are intended for the growing number of professionals seeking to integrate environmental criteria into their daily work and reduce the use of natural resources.

Working in partnership with Greenshoot, Film London has developed the Green Screen Environmental Programme, using the principles and framework of ISO 14001 and the learnings of the BS 8909 but bespoke for the filming industries. Over three levels (Green, Silver, Gold), the philosophy behind the programme was for the filming sector to grow and collaborate with the programme. Productions start with Green, the first level based on the principle, PLAN – DO – ACT check list for the user to understand that small changes can have big impacts. This is coupled with key mandatories : employment of a green runner, no use of polystyrene, no vehicle idling – the aim being to reach a level that qualifies them to be certified, along with evidence based reporting from the Green Runner.

As part of our ongoing work we are seeking to share best practice and develop further tools to encourage our industry to adopt sustainable practices. This guide is intended as a further tool to help change habits step by step.

We are working with the London Filming Partnership, the GLA and partners across the UK and Europe who share the same concerns and ambitions share tips and best practices we are aware of.

KEY PRINCIPLES

This guide has been designed as a road map to help you make environmentally sustainable choices during your production. It can work in conjunction with the Green Screen Environmental Programme.

The philosophy behind the Green Screen Environmental Programme is for the filming sector to grow and collaborate with the programme. It is an educational approach where productions start with Green, so that the user understands that small changes can have big impacts.

Commit to a sustainable approach with your broadcaster, financier, producer, crew, service providers and partners as early as possible as planning is key.

Remember the three Rs:

- **REDUCE** your consumption.
- **REUSE** when you need to consume.
- **RECYCLE** if reducing or reusing is impossible.

CHECKLIST BY DEPARTMENT

• PRODUCTION OFFICE

In the Production Office:

- Use digital documents whenever possible, save paper when distributing scripts and opt for video conferencing instead of travel. Make the paperless option the automatic one on your shooting and ask the crew to tell you if they need paper documents.
- When possible, always print in black & white, double sided, with the eco setting on.
- Choose eco-friendly suppliers across all purchases, make them aware of your eco-friendly policies and ask about theirs.
- Choose to buy certified paper – for more information please go to <https://revivepaper.com/About-Revive.html>
- Organise recycling or disposal of electronic equipment as well as printer cartridges, batteries, paper and packaging.
- Choose energy efficient equipment when possible.
- Opt for a green energy supplier where possible. Further details on the creative energy basket are available here: <https://wearealbert.org/about/creative-energy>
- Initiate an energy reduction 'switch off' campaign in the office.
- Appoint a green runner / steward to guide you through the Green Screen environmental programme – they can support your green production

During Filming:

- Distribute your call sheets digitally.
- Implement clear signage for crew.
- Involve all departments with relevant tips listed above.

• TRANSPORT

- Create a travel plan ahead of filming: identify public transport opportunities as well as car pooling.
- Opt for environmentally friendly transport options: take trains rather than planes; purchase carbon offset for long distances.
- For non-local crew members, choose accommodation as close to the filming location as possible.
- Provide crew with information about the nearest public transport options.
- Enforce a strict no idling policy. Some London Boroughs now fine idling vehicles.
- Check all vehicles – where possible - comply to the London low carbon restrictions; for further details on the ultra low emission zone (ULEZ) please see here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone>
- Talk with freight and car hire companies about the energy efficiency of their fleets and rent low emission or hybrid / electric vehicles where possible.
- Optimise trips and track driven kilometres and fuel usage.
- Optimise equipment loading and delivery.

• CATERING

- Choose a supplier committed to sustainable development and add this criterion to your procurement process.
- Ask your catering provider for organic, local and seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- Provide china plates and silverware where possible.
- Ensure crew have personal re-fill water bottles and water fountain or tap water to re-fill them.
- No polystyrene.
- Purchase of consumables: evaluate carefully your needs to prevent waste and choose products with less packaging.
- Set up recycling bins and display clearly recycling signage.
- To curb food waste, share leftover food with crew members or donate to local charities.

• STUDIO & SET

- Consider eco designed sets: from design and set up, plan the dismantling, sorting, re-use and recycling of the set.
- Source local labour and materials when possible.
- Rent or re-use materials where possible instead of buying.
- Use recycled and / or certified materials, avoid toxic products (no polystyrene) and opt for plant based materials.
- Use sustainable harvested wood (FSC or PEFC certified) with little or no formaldehyde.
- Ask the studio to supply waste / sorting bins, containers for paint water disposal and a skip for wood.
- Inform crew about sorting policy: post signs and recycling bins.
- Select what can be re-used or donated to charities and ensure that left over materials are collected and recycled.

• ON LOCATION

- Ensure all locations have a full recycling system in place
- Use generators only when absolutely necessary; calculate the exact power required and opt for energy efficient generators and / or alternative clean power supply.
- Enforce a no idling policy. Some London Boroughs now fine idling vehicles.
- Encourage the use of vehicles to be **Euro 4** or above; this will also allow the production to save the ULEZ charge of £100 per day per vehicle.

The ULEZ standards are:

- **Euro 3** for motorcycles, mopeds, motorised tricycles and quadricycles (L category)
- **Euro 4** (NOx) for petrol cars, vans, minibuses and other specialist vehicles
- **Euro 6** (NOx and PM) for diesel cars, vans and minibuses and other specialist vehicles
- **Euro VI** (NOx and PM) for lorries, buses and coaches and other specialist heavy vehicles (NOx and PM)

• LIGHTING & ENERGY

- Ask the studio about its environmental policy/initiatives. Raising awareness also happens through the customer/supplier relationship.
- Identify ways to use as little artificial light as possible for exterior filming.
- Use LEDs and other energy efficient lamps where possible.
- Have a dedicated crew member to ensure lamps and equipment are turned off when not in use.
- Recycle used lightbulbs at designated disposal sites

• CAMERA & GRIP

- Check if your lighting supplier can provide low energy equipment.
- On location use a local power source to reduce size of generator need
- Raise awareness amongst crew on how to save energy.
- Limit waste and over consumption of consumables and reuse/recycle where possible.
- Choose rechargeable batteries and recycle single-use batteries at designated disposal sites.

• SOUND

- Rent high efficiency equipment.
- Choose rechargeable batteries and recycle single use batteries at designated disposal sites.
- Shut off all equipment when not in use
- Power equipment by battery wherever possible.

• COSTUME

- Rent costumes where possible rather than buying.
- Establish sustainable development purchasing and manufacturing criteria with regards to fabric, origin and sourcing.
- Opt for energy-efficient and eco-friendly care practices (energy efficient washing machine, certified detergent, low temperatures (cold water or 30 degrees unless ageing or dyeing)).
- When filming wraps, keep costumes and accessories for another production or sell them to crew, second hand stores or donate to charities. Re-use or recycle accessories such as covers, belts and bags.

• HAIR & MAKEUP

- Limit the use of consumables wherever possible.
- Provide ethical make-up and hair products; chose certified products.
- Avoid ozone unfriendly aerosols.