



Environmental Policy

(updated July 2017)

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Summary of Policy

To encourage an environmentally responsible culture within the organisation regarding energy use, waste and recycling, transport and travel, and within the community.

To promote and assist the improvement and protection of the environment and to encourage an environmentally-responsible attitude within the staff and participants of Fèis Rois.

Mission Statement

Fèis Rois recognises that climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing companies today. The organisation will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and will strive to integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all decision making and activities. Fèis Rois is committed to promoting the improvement and protection of the environment within the local communities in which it works, and globally.

Fèis Rois is a member of Creative Carbon Scotland and the Office Manager is the Green Champion for the organisation. The organisation recommends re-use as a more economic and energy efficient saving than recycling. Where possible, waste, such as paper, should be re-used before it is recycled. Fèis Rois encourages the appropriate conservation, re-use and recycling of resources.

Policy

Fèis Rois believes that sustainable development of the environment involves the integration of economic development, social development/inclusion and environmental protection and enhancement, so that all three elements are mutually reinforcing.

The specific policies set the recommended standards of the organisation for managing these issues and will be further supported by guidance to assist those responsible to meet the requirements.

To promote sound environmental management throughout the organisation, Fèis Rois provides a practical bullet-point guide for staff and members, to promote and reinforce the environmental policy of the organisation and to raise awareness of the use of sustainable resources and discourage wasteful or damaging practices.

In order to achieve the aims within the recommendations Fèis Rois has adopted the following key objectives:

Promote environmental awareness and influence others on issues relating to the environment by:

- asking staff and freelance artists and creative practitioners, where practically feasible, to use public transport or car share;
- encouraging staff to use email, Skype and other digital methods of communication to reduce the travel footprint;
- encouraging people not to print off any email correspondence they receive from Fèis Rois;
- promoting the fact that china cups rather than disposable cups are used at the Adult Fèis Festival and that waste is recycled, tea bags are composted etc;

- partnering with Scottish Natural Heritage on creative projects bringing traditional music into the environment.

Reduce waste

- strive to reduce waste by only purchasing necessary items;
- ask staff to print documents and correspondence only when strictly necessary;
- Board Members to view Board papers on electronic devices rather than paper;
- re-use and recycle materials where practical;
- purchase recycled, recyclable or re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable;
- work with partners in the community, such as Ross-shire Waste Action Network.

Reduce environmental impact

- encourage suppliers to support the organisation's environmental aims;
- encourage people to visit the organisation's website for bookings etc. rather than requesting paper application forms;
- provide e-bulletins rather than printed newsletters;
- expand and encourage the use of the online resource of music lessons to increase access to training without increasing the travel footprint.

Promote efficient use of materials and resources

- ensure all lights, PCs, printers and non-essential electrical equipment are switched off at the end of every day;
- purchase and use environmentally responsible products;
- use suppliers with similar environmental aims.

Evaluate and monitor performance

- include environmental impacts in the risk assessments carried out for events;
- work with partners such as Creative Carbon Scotland;
- periodically review environmental policy in light of current and planned future activities;
- provide an environmental report for quarterly Board meetings.

The organisation will also make use of community facilities and local businesses where available and appropriate. As part of a wider socially-responsible policy, the organisation will approve the consideration of ethical purchases, where practical. Fèis Rois will also promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment and participation in environmental issues by raising awareness and in conjunction with the local community.

Guidelines and arrangements for implementing the policy

Fèis Rois undertakes the responsibility to communicate and follow through the recommendations set out in this policy. The organisation also recognises that staff of Fèis Rois have, at all times, a responsibility to adhere to the guidelines set out in this policy and to carry out their work in such a manner as to safeguard the environment, where practically possible. Ultimate responsibility for implementation of this policy shall remain with the Chief Executive and the board of Fèis Rois.