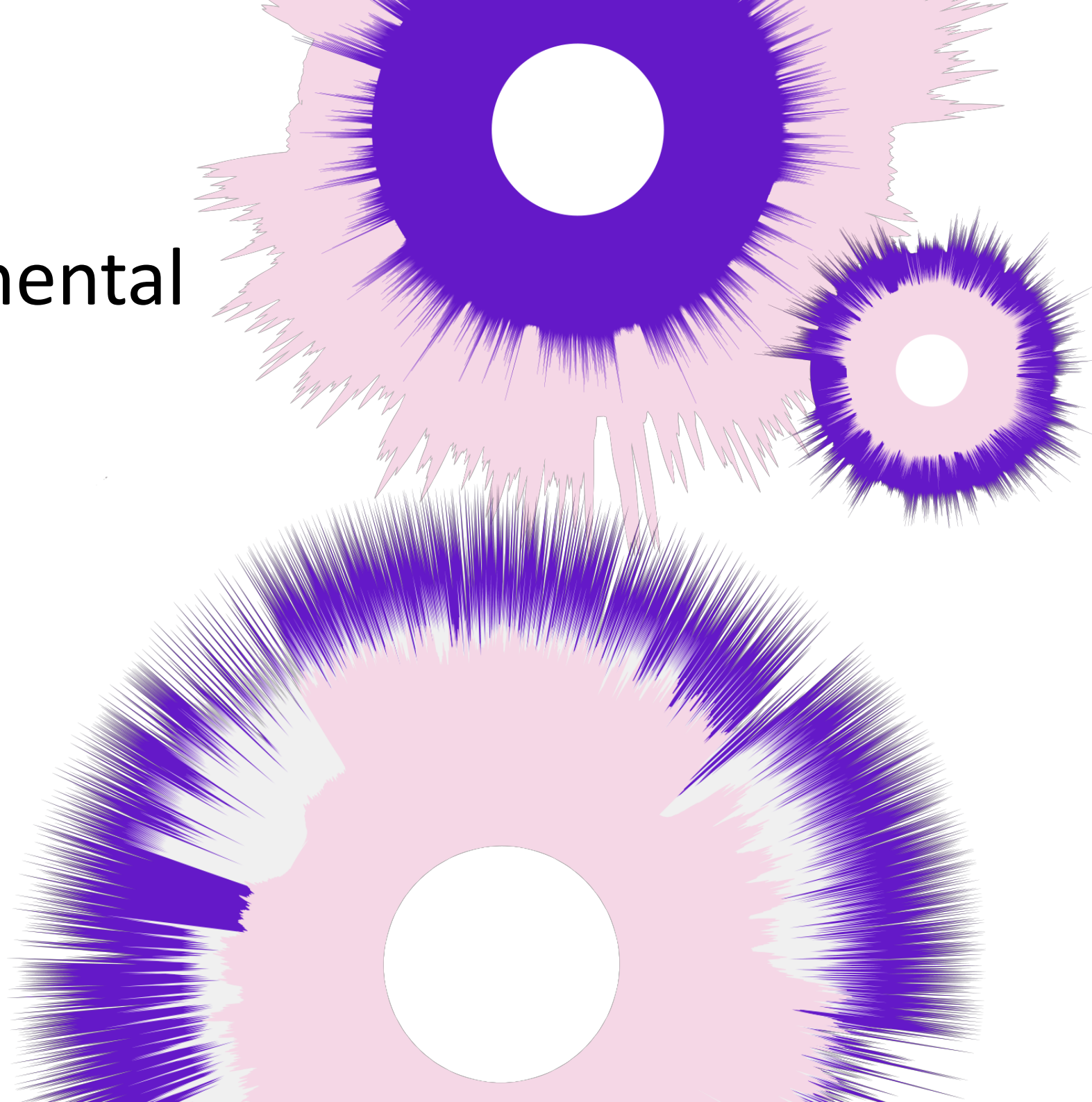


Environmental Policy

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1 Mission Statement for the Policy

Arts Council England is the first arts funding body in the world to put environmental sustainability in the contractual agreements of its major revenue funding programmes, including Sound and Music as a National Portfolio Organisation.

Sound and Music is already committed to considering the environment in its day-to-day operations in an ad hoc way but has welcomed the requirement to cement its responsibility to reduce the effects its work has on the environment by creating an Environmental Policy and Action Plan.

This policy operates in a context where it is widely accepted that there is a climate emergency, with increasing calls for more urgent reduction in carbon emissions.

As Sound and Music's work includes composer and artist support and development, live events and audience development, touring, information and advice, network building and education, we partner with numerous organisations, and keeping tabs on the effects our work has on the environment can seem somewhat beyond our control.

However, we can instead embrace these connections and partnerships to become green advocates and encourage a culture that considers how we can strive for our vision whilst reducing our carbon emissions to a minimum.

With this in mind, there are four main areas that Sound and Music can consider its impact in facing the climate emergency:

- How we run the organisation and the decisions we take relating to this
- How we manage our investment policy relating to our endowment and any other investments
- How we use our programme, profile and platforms to raise awareness of the need for societal change to address the climate emergency, and highlight the work of

artists engaging with the issue as a means to influencing public understanding and behaviour

- How we influence our partners and other organisations across the sector to adopt more environmentally sustainable approaches and policies, both as individual organisations but also in exploring new modes of business for the future

2 Implementation

Sound and Music's Environmental Policy is a statement of our commitment to help reduce the impact of our activities on the environment.

The policy is delivered through an Environmental Action Plan, which specifies how the policy will be implemented, complete with targets, dates and a named person(s) responsible for delivering it.

We will work with our Board of Trustees, senior management and staff, composers and artists, suppliers, partners, sponsors and patrons, audience and stakeholder networks to ensure we consider and communicate the environmental impacts of our activities.

For each financial year we will assess and report on our environmental performance; this information will be used to update our Environmental Action Plan for the coming year.

3 The Scope

The scope of this policy covers both our own environmental impact, and our work to raise awareness of the climate emergency.

3.1 Sound and Music's environmental impact

Sound and Music's activities have environmental impacts in the areas of: Energy, Water, Waste, Toxicity, Biodiversity.

Our ability to improve our environmental impacts depends on our knowledge of, and commitment to addressing them and our capacity to change and influence decisions not always within our immediate control (such as rented space and shared utilities).

We will exert ourselves as much as possible to understand, measure, improve and communicate our environmental performance.

3.2 Sound and Music's role in raising awareness of the climate emergency

Sound and Music reaches audiences primarily via a range of digital channels, including the primary platform, The Sampler, the British Music Collection, Minute of Listening, various e-newsletters and social media.

We are connected with hundreds of composers and artists of all ages across the UK for whom the climate emergency is a major issue, including some whose work engages with it.

We are also connected with an extensive network of organisations both in the UK and internationally, some of whom are beginning to acknowledge the need for business models to change over the coming decade.

We will use our profile and reach to platform work that raises awareness of the climate emergency, and we will use our influence to encourage more collaborative thinking and re-imagining of how our sector will work in the future.

4 Key Environmental Impacts

4.1 Investment

Sound and Music is in the fortunate position of having an endowment fund (the AA Paul fund). The legal documents for this fund require it to be invested and used in such a way that the capital value is maintained (with an inflationary increase).

The investment is currently managed by an external investment management firm, who invest it in line with an Investment Policy Statement which is approved and reviewed at least annually by the Finance Subcommittee.

Sound and Music's Investment Policy Statement includes the requirement for the endowment to be invested in accordance with a responsible investing approach (commonly referred to as ESG). This will include consideration of investment managers' approach to screening (avoiding investment in fossil fuel extraction), influence (voting to encourage firms to improve their practices) and impact investment (eg positive investment in renewables).

Approach to responsible investing (and, specifically, consideration of environmental sustainability) is one of the criteria in selection of an investment manager.

Sound and Music also invests its own reserves in a cautious investment fund.

4.2 Travel and accommodation

Staff travel

Most of our administration staff business travel is within London; however, staff make longer journeys for meetings and events within the UK and internationally when relevant to our work.

In addition to business travel, there are also the environmental impacts produced from staff commuting to and from the office.

Programme related travel

We regularly book and/or finance travel for people (including artists, composers, panel-members, teachers etc.) for all manner of events across our programme largely within the UK but sometimes involving travel from further afield.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil-fuel energy consumption

Accommodation

Sound and Music's activities include booking hotels, catering and venues.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption
- Hotel accommodation
- Food consumption
- Waste generation

4.3 Programme

We can choose to raise awareness of the climate emergency through the composers, artists and work we profile; and to work with others to reimagine how our sector might function in the future.

4.4 Office

Building

Since May 2021, Sound and Music has offices in Oxford House, London.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, staff have been mostly working from home. Coming out of the pandemic, Sound and Music is adopting a hybrid model of working, including some members of the team working remotely.

Primary environmental impacts of Sound and Music are:

- Fossil-fuel energy consumption
- Water consumption
- Waste generation

Supplies

A number of goods and services are procured to run our office operations and each has an environmental impact.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Resource use for office electronic equipment, furniture and stationery
- Server hosting of the website, third-party social media platforms, transactional plug-ins and email accounts
- Toxicity of cleaning products, furniture and equipment

4.5 Printing

Each year we produce promotional material for events and our educational work. In the past we have produced branded stationery

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Paper resource consumption
- Toxicity of inks and finishes
- Fossil fuel energy consumption

4.6 Digital carbon footprint

There is growing awareness of the carbon footprint created by digital devices, cloud-based computing, streaming, cryptocurrency, NFTs (non-fungible tokens) and so on. For example see [this infographic](#) or [take a look at this 2020 BBC article](#). As the amount of use and data increases exponentially year by year, the carbon footprint of the internet needs to be considered. The big tech companies (including Apple, Meta and Microsoft) are beginning to make commitments not only to greening the cloud but

using their huge power to create positive change. (With thanks to Alastair, [here](#) is something on what Meta is doing.)

Primary environmental impacts relate to manufacture and shipping (of devices and servers) and powering/cooling. For Sound and Music, this means consideration of:

- Choice and use of devices
- Emails and internet traffic
- Streaming
- Data storage

5 Policy Statements and Key Performance Indicators

Sound and Music aims to reduce its negative environmental impact, raise awareness of the climate emergency and influence the behaviour of others to adapt in order to address the climate emergency.

We are committed to measuring and monitoring all those environmental impacts that we can reasonably gather data for and control the use of.

We report some of these annually as a condition of Arts Council funding, marked (ACE).

5.1 Investment

Policy statement: Sound and Music will invest according to ESG principles

KPIs:

- ESG requirement incorporated within Investment Policy
- Investment shifted to ESG portfolio

5.2 Travel and accommodation

Policy statement: Sound and Music will reduce the carbon footprint of its travel and accommodation choices, including through using surface public transport whenever possible within the UK and Europe (staff, artists, partners); and choosing hotels/venues/suppliers with environmental accreditation or published environmental policy

KPIs:

- Greenhouse gas emissions per staff member (ACE)
- Number of artists and partners using surface public transport to and from workshops, rehearsals, events, interviews and performances

5.3 Programme

Policy statement: Sound and Music will use its programme, reach and influence to raise awareness of the climate emergency, showcase artistic responses and to work collaboratively to rethink business models for the future

KPIs:

- Climate emergency related curated content on Sound and Music's platforms
- On agenda at international network meetings

Policy statement: Sound and Music will reduce the environmental impact of its programme, and seek to work with partners who also support improving environmental impact

KPIs:

- % of green riders in artist and partner contracts (see Action Plan)

5.4 Office

Policy statement: Sound and Music will reduce the environmental impact of its office

KPIs:

- Greenhouse gas emissions (ACE)
- Water use (ACE)
- Waste (ACE)
- Energy consumption (ACE)

5.5 Printing

Policy statement: Sound and Music will minimise its printing, use equipment with a high energy efficiency rating, and when going externally, use printers with environmental accreditation. Our aim is to be paper free by 2024.

KPIs:

- % of suppliers with environmental accreditation or published environmental policy

5.6 Digital carbon footprint

Policy statement: Sound and Music will reduce its digital carbon footprint

- In staff handbook and other relevant internal documents