



Climate Action Plan

Created: February 2025

The following action plan outlines the practical steps that the ICO will take to implement its Climate Action Policy, focusing on key areas of impact, gradual progress, and measurable outcomes. It includes both immediate actions and long-term objectives, with flexibility built in to adapt to the needs of a touring orchestra.

1. Development of the Climate Action Plan (March 2025)

Objective: Collaborate with staff, artists, and other stakeholders to develop a realistic and actionable Climate Action Plan by March 2025.

Actions:

- **Engage Stakeholders:** Hold consultations with staff, artists, UL and key partners to gather ideas and insights.
- **Conduct Baseline Assessment:** Begin measuring the environmental impact of ICO's operations, including travel, events, energy usage, and waste.
- **Set Priorities:** Identify areas where ICO can make the most significant impact, particularly in relation to travel, performances, and administrative operations.
- **Draft Action Plan:** Prepare a draft plan that outlines key sustainability actions, targets, and milestones.
- **Review and Finalize:** Share the draft with all stakeholders, incorporate feedback, and finalise the plan for implementation.

Expected Outcome: A clear, practical, and tailored Climate Action Plan for ICO by March 2025.

2. Reduce Environmental Footprint (Ongoing)

Objective: Minimise the environmental impact of ICO's operations, focusing on areas that can be controlled and improved over time.

Actions:

- **Office & Administration:**
 - Implement energy-saving measures where possible and promoting digital workflows to reduce paper consumption.
 - Reduce waste by encouraging recycling and using sustainable office supplies.
 - Encourage virtual meetings where possible to reduce travel-related emissions.

- **Event Management & Resource Use:**

- Promote the use of reusable materials for events, reducing single-use plastics and other waste.
- Reduce energy consumption at events - research rechargeable batteries for lighting.

- **Travel Impact:**

- Prioritise coach travel for domestic touring where feasible.
- Investigate the availability of electric vehicles for short-distance tours or transportation needs.
- Investigate means to offset carbon emissions for unavoidable air travel and ground transport.

Expected Outcome: Gradual reductions in environmental impact across office operations and event management, with measurable progress by 2026.

3. Creative Solutions for Reducing Impact (Ongoing)

Objective: Investigate innovative and flexible ways to minimise environmental impact while ensuring the quality of ICO's performances and touring experience.

Actions:

- **Touring Logistics:**

- Collaborate with venues and promoters to encourage eco-friendly practices, such as reducing energy consumption and adopting sustainable building policies.

- **Performing Practices:**

- Utilise energy-efficient lighting and equipment.
- Explore the use of sustainable materials for new orchestra uniform.
- Develop creative ways to highlight climate issues within performance programmes/Educational and Community Engagement work, such as incorporating environmental themes in the music or storytelling.

Expected Outcome: Innovative solutions that minimise the environmental impact of performances and touring, and a stronger association with sustainability in ICO's public profile.

4. Measure and Track Environmental Impact (Ongoing)

Objective: Establish a reliable method to track ICO's environmental impact and monitor progress over

time.

Actions:

- **Data Collection:**
 - Track energy consumption, waste generation, and carbon emissions related to travel, performances, and administration.
 - Use online tools or software to calculate and report emissions data.
- **Set Baseline:**
 - By May 2025, complete an initial environmental impact report to serve as the baseline for future comparisons.
 - Ensure ongoing data collection during tours and events.
- **Review and Adjust:**
 - Regularly evaluate ICO's environmental performance against set goals.
 - Adjust practices as needed to meet established targets, adapting to new opportunities for sustainability.

Expected Outcome: Clear, data-driven insights into ICO's environmental performance, enabling informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

5. Appoint a Climate & Sustainability Lead (By March 2025)

Objective: Appoint a dedicated individual to oversee ICO's sustainability efforts and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Actions:

- **Define Role:** The Climate & Sustainability Lead will be responsible for coordinating ICO's climate efforts, tracking progress, and leading initiatives.
- **Provide Resources:** Ensure the lead has the support and resources needed to implement the action plan, including access to relevant training and networks.

Expected Outcome: A clear point of responsibility for sustainability within ICO, ensuring the commitment to climate action is integrated across all operations.

6. Adopt Sustainable Touring Practices (Ongoing)

Objective: Investigate and implement sustainable practices in ICO's touring model, focusing on reducing emissions and travel-related impacts.

Actions:

- **Travel Planning:**
 - Prioritise bus travel within Ireland for touring, and explore options for sustainable travel in international contexts.
 - Collaborate with transport providers to negotiate more sustainable options, such as electric vehicles or buses with lower emissions.
- **Energy Use in Venues:**
 - Work with venues to ensure that energy-efficient practices are in place for performances, including the use of renewable energy when possible.

Expected Outcome: A measurable reduction in travel-related emissions, contributing to the overall sustainability of ICO's touring operations.

7. Promote and Offset Carbon Footprint (Ongoing)

Objective: Actively explore ways to offset ICO's carbon footprint through investments in sustainability initiatives.

Actions:

- **Promote Awareness:**
 - Integrate sustainability themes into ICO's public communications, showcasing efforts to offset and reduce environmental impact.
 - Educate audiences on climate issues and encourage sustainable practices in their own lives.

Expected Outcome: Active carbon offsetting efforts, and an informed public that is engaged with ICO's sustainability mission.

8. Collaboration with Partners & Sector Advocacy (Ongoing)

Objective: Engage with UL and other organisations, festivals, and promoters to share sustainability goals and collaborate on sector-wide climate action.

Actions:

- **Collaborate on Sustainability Goals:**
 - Work with industry partners to set shared sustainability goals, such as reducing carbon

emissions or adopting eco-friendly practices in the music sector.

- **Advocacy and Leadership:**

- Advocate for stronger sustainability policies within the arts sector, and seek opportunities to participate in industry events that promote environmental action.

Expected Outcome: Increased collaboration with sectoral partners and a stronger collective commitment to sustainability in the arts.

9. Align with University of Limerick's Green Agenda (Ongoing)

Objective: Ensure that ICO's sustainability practices are aligned with the University of Limerick's environmental goals and green initiatives.

Actions:

- **Collaboration with Centre for Sustainable Futures and Innovation (CSFI) in UL:**

- Work with the University of Limerick to align ICO's sustainability initiatives with the university's green agenda.
- Share best practices and lessons learned in sustainability with UL colleagues.

Expected Outcome: Strengthened relationship with the University of Limerick, supporting ICO's environmental goals while contributing to the university's broader sustainability objectives.

10. Review and Update the Climate Action Plan (Biennial Review)

Objective: Continuously assess and refine ICO's Climate Action Plan to ensure it remains relevant and effective in achieving sustainability goals.

Actions:

- **Biennial Review:**

- The ICO Board will review the Climate Action Plan biennially to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.
- Adjust the plan based on feedback, new opportunities, and changes in the environmental landscape.

Expected Outcome: A dynamic, evolving Climate Action Plan that reflects ICO's ongoing commitment to sustainability and climate action.

Conclusion:

This Action Plan outlines a strategic approach to implementing ICO's Climate Action Policy, with a focus on practical, achievable goals and flexible solutions tailored to the unique needs of a touring orchestra. By prioritising collaboration, creativity, and continuous evaluation, ICO will steadily reduce its environmental impact and play an active role in promoting sustainability across the music sector.