



Climate Action Policy

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Scope:

This policy applies to all individuals associated with the Irish Chamber Orchestra (ICO), including permanent and fixed-term employees, full-time and part-time staff, agency workers, contractors, freelance artists, volunteers, clients, suppliers, and other service providers. These individuals will be collectively referred to as "employees, contractors, and freelance artists."

Introduction:

As Ireland's national chamber orchestra, ICO is aware of the significant global challenges posed by climate change. While we may not have full control over every aspect of our operations, we are committed to playing our part in mitigating environmental impacts where we can. We aim to lead by example, working within the unique context of a touring ensemble, and collaborate with others to advocate for more sustainable practices across the music sector.

ICO's Climate Commitment:

While we acknowledge that we are a touring orchestra with some limitations, particularly in relation to venue management (such as heating and lighting), ICO remains committed to minimising its environmental impact. We will focus on the areas where we can make a difference, prioritizing creative and flexible solutions, and offsetting our carbon footprint where possible.

Through collaboration with our staff, board, artists, funders, and partners, we aim to reduce the environmental impact of our work while promoting sustainability across the broader music sector in Ireland. Our goal is not to make unrealistic promises but to take tangible, measured actions that contribute to a greener future, step by step.

This policy outlines ICO's approach to sustainability, with a focus on achievable goals and practical solutions to reduce our environmental footprint.

Aims and Objectives:

- **Develop a Practical Climate Action Plan:** In collaboration with staff and artists, we will develop a realistic Climate Action Plan by the end of March 2025, focusing on practical steps and achievable

goals.

- **Reduce Environmental Footprint:** We will continue to assess and reduce the environmental impact of our administration, management, and operations, where feasible.
- **Measure Environmental Impact:** We will begin measuring the environmental impact of our work and events to establish a baseline and guide future actions.
- **Creative Solutions for Reducing Impact:** Recognising our touring nature, we will focus on finding innovative ways to minimise environmental impact, especially in relation to travel, performance logistics, and resource use.
- **Set Gradual, Measurable Goals:** By the end of 2026, we aim to set an environmental reduction target based on our baseline data, with a focus on attainable, incremental reductions.
- **Appoint a Climate & Sustainability Lead:** A dedicated lead will oversee our sustainability efforts and ensure effective implementation of our Climate Action Plan.
- **Adopt Sustainable Touring Practices:** We will explore eco-friendly solutions for our touring model, aiming to reduce travel emissions while still delivering outstanding performances.
- **Offset Carbon Footprint:** While we acknowledge limitations in certain areas, we will actively explore creative ways to offset our carbon footprint, such as supporting local sustainability initiatives or investigate creative ways to increase awareness of Climate Change.
- **Promote Sustainable Performance Practices:** ICO will experiment with sustainable presentation methods, looking for ways to reduce energy use, waste, and resource consumption in performance settings.
- **Collaborate with Partners on Sustainability:** We will engage with promoters, collaborators, and festivals to advocate for shared sustainability goals and climate action across the sector.
- **Align with University of Limerick's Green Agenda:** ICO will continue to align its environmental practices with the University of Limerick's sustainability initiatives to strengthen our collective commitment to sustainability.

Priority Areas:

Our Climate Action Plan will concentrate on the following areas, focusing on where we can have the most impact:

- **Touring & Performing:** ICO will seek to reduce the environmental impact of our tours within Ireland, experimenting with more sustainable travel options and performance practices.

- **Workplace Culture & Policy Integration:** We will integrate sustainability goals into our day-to-day operations, focusing on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable practices in our administrative activities.
 - **Creative Collaboration & Shared Learning:** ICO will share its findings and sustainable practices with key collaborators, supporting a broader shift toward sustainability across the music sector.
 - **Monitoring & Adaptation:** We will evaluate our environmental impact, track our progress, and adjust our strategy as needed, ensuring we take consistent steps toward sustainability.
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Implementation & Review:

This policy will be implemented through our Climate Action Plan, which will be made publicly available on our website once finalised. The ICO Board will review this policy biennially to ensure it remains relevant and to make necessary updates based on progress, opportunities for improvement, and changing circumstances.

