

Policy for Sustainability 2021



Nevis Ensemble

Nevis Ensemble was established in 2017 with the aim of bringing music to everyone, everywhere. We exist primarily to take full-scale orchestral music to public spaces and communities around Scotland and further afield through tours and projects that develop true engagement with the public and reach new audiences, and develop our musicians' skills.

The objective of each Nevis Ensemble performance or project is to engage, entertain and stimulate the audience and participants, and enable them to benefit from the tangible benefits of access to the arts, as well as the simple feeling of joy.

Policy Statement

Nevis Ensemble is committed to encouraging and promoting sustainable practice in relation to the environment in all of its activities. All of Nevis' project, touring and administrative activity will be checked against the aims and statements listed in this policy; Nevis Ensemble management and Trustees have the responsibility of oversight to ensure that the organisation meets the standards laid out in this document.

The policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees, and modified to reflect current practice, and to incorporate new thinking and initiatives.

The policy's purpose is to:

- ensure Nevis Ensemble complies with any applicable legislation in terms of its activity in relation to environmental protections;
- develop Nevis Ensemble's artistic practice in a way that is overtly 'Green', with sustainability a core part of the planning process;
- help position Nevis Ensemble as an example of best practice for arts organisations in terms of sustainability and positive environmental practice.

Nevis Ensemble will:

1. **Maintain a low carbon footprint**
2. **Keep wastage and single-use of materials to a minimum**
3. **Be a digital-first organisation**
4. **Promote sustainable practice to musicians, audiences, partners and the wider arts community**
5. **Ensure all sustainable endeavours are carried out with consideration for climate justice**

Nevis Ensemble is a member of Creative Carbon Scotland's Green Arts Initiative, and we use this organisation as a resource to keep up to date with resources and best practice.

Public Statement

Nevis Ensemble has very publicly put Sustainability at the core of activity, having led two Green Campaigns, winning the Environmental Award at the Scottish Awards for New Music, and forming the Scottish Classical Sustainability Group alongside the Scottish Ensemble. It is therefore fitting to have a public statement on the website affirming our Sustainability ideals.

This is currently as below:

Nevis and the Environment

Nevis Ensemble is committed to encouraging and promoting environmentally sustainable practice in all of its activities. As the world faces the very real and serious threat of climate breakdown, we believe we have a responsibility to contribute to and work towards a more sustainable future in Scotland and the cultural sector as a whole.

Nevis Ensemble was established in 2017 with the aim of bringing music to everyone, everywhere. Since our first tour in 2018, we have continued to reflect on our environmental impact, finding ways we can further develop our practice as a sustainable organisation. We have worked to reduce our waste and carbon emissions through better waste and recycling practices, efficiently planned tour routes and increased musician engagement. As of May 2020, we have started calculating and reporting on our carbon emissions. Through this, we hope to better understand and monitor our carbon footprint and therefore strategically plan for ways we can reduce emissions in the future.

More details of our environmental mission can be found in our Policy for Sustainability [here](#).

- In early 2019 we implemented a Policy for Sustainability.
- In 2019 we identified a member of the orchestra as our 'Green Officer', tasked with the responsibility of overseeing sustainable practice on tour and promoting sustainability to musicians.
- In 2019, we banned the use of disposable coffee cups by musicians on tour.
- In 2019, we collaborated with local organisations to provide all our musicians with reusable bags, water bottles, and keep-cups.

- In 2020, we appointed a Sustainability Manager to further develop and monitor our practice, ensuring sustainability is at the core of our mission, from the practicalities of touring to the development of artistic planning.

Nevis Ensemble is an active member of Creative Carbon Scotland's Green Arts Initiative. More information about CCS and the Green Arts Initiative can be found [here](#), along with some other useful links. In 2020, Nevis Ensemble and Scottish Ensemble co-founded the Scottish Classical Sustainability Group bringing together all of Scotland's classical performing groups and organisations.

www.creativecarbonscotland.com

www.juliesbicycle.com

www.zerowastescotland.org.uk

If you would like more information or would like to speak to us about our environmental mission, then please get in touch with our Sustainability Manager Georgina at georgina@nevisensemble.org.

Sustainability Manager

Nevis Ensemble has an appointed Sustainability Manager recruited from within the orchestra in order to help Nevis Ensemble achieve tangible reductions in carbon emissions, and to develop and manage our approach to sustainable practice. The duties of the Sustainability Manager will include:

- Liaise on the updating of Nevis Ensemble's Sustainability Policy
- Research best practice for Nevis Ensemble to use in its project and touring activity in relation to Sustainability
- Liaise with with green arts initiatives and sustainability initiatives in Scotland in order to develop and sustain best practice for Nevis Ensemble.
- Help to promote the work of Nevis Ensemble in relation to Sustainability to the general public
- Work with musicians to ensure that they are leading by example
- Work with the Artistic Directors and Chief Executive to develop projects and artistic work that relate to the Climate Emergency

Touring

Each year it is our ambition to create more work and engage with audiences without growing our carbon footprint. Our biggest contribution to carbon emissions and wastage comes in the form of the 'Tour Bus' that transports the orchestra around the country during tours.

This is still, however, the most efficient and sustainable way of transporting the orchestra for a number of reasons:

1. The group travels together as one group for 45 (40 musicians plus staff), negating the need for individual private transport.

2. We are bringing the orchestra directly to audiences, lessening the requirement for people in smaller towns and rural areas to travel into congested urban areas to see performances.
3. We tour in a circular pattern, taking in as many locations as possible without criss-crossing and repeating journeys needlessly.

When musicians are travelling from outside of Scotland, we encourage use of land-based travel wherever possible.

1. The organisation will only cover the travel expenses of UK-based musicians coming to Scotland if they use public buses or trains unless absolutely necessary. For musicians based in Northern Ireland we encourage the use of ferry travel.
2. We are trying to lessen the need to bring in musicians from other European countries, however, when this has been necessary (to fill gaps in the orchestra) we have, for example, encouraged Netherlands-based musicians to come as a group on the overnight ferry – this is doubly efficient when dealing with larger instruments such as double basses and celli.
3. We understand that it is logistically difficult to expect musicians undertaking longer journeys from part of Europe, the USA and other parts of the world not to fly, but we keep such activity to an absolute minimum, acknowledging that there is sufficient talent in Scotland the rest of the UK.

The Sustainability Manager is tasked with the responsibility of reducing waste, increasing recycling, and ensuring best sustainable practice is always followed on tour. The biggest cause of wastage is food packaging (we provide all food and meals for the orchestra when on tour), and have committed to the following ideals to combat unnecessary waste:

1. Instruct all musicians and staff to carry reusable water bottles on tour. Plastic bottled water will **NOT** be purchased en masse for the orchestra as a rule. Plenty of opportunities to refill bottles will be built in, and musicians reminded to do so.
2. Instruct all musicians and staff to carry a 'Keep Cup' for tea/coffee stops. We do not allow disposable coffee cups to be brought onto the Tour Bus.
3. Plan ahead so that waste free/low waste options can be sought if meals are being taken 'on the go'. For example, purchase sandwiches direct from a café/deli to be packaged in paper bags, rather than buying from a supermarket.
4. Any fruit or vegetables bought, should be purchased loosely rather than wrapped in plastic.
5. Ensure that all waste is separated and sorted according to its recyclability. Waste shall be kept until appropriate recycling points are found.
6. The amount of waste produced by the orchestra will be recorded and shared with the musicians in order to keep it to a minimum.
7. Work more with partners and host organisations to provide meals and refreshments for the orchestra using sustainable practice, and – where possible – encourage the use of Fairtrade products.
8. When meals are being provided we will operate on an assumption of vegetarianism. Not only is this economically efficient, but encourages less consumption of meat, and influences musicians to adopt this in their wider lives.

Printing and Communications

We have the long-term aim of being a 'digital-first' organisation. Our biggest footprint in terms of printing is that of sheet music. These prints are – however – reused and kept.

We are exploring the possibility of purchasing/hiring iPads for the orchestra that can be used, and negates the need to print thousands of pages. There is, however, a big financial burden for this, that isn't possible for the orchestra to undertake at the moment. There is also the question of whether the purchase of a large number of tablets is more sustainable than paper, given the likelihood and need for renewing items.

In terms of administrative documentation, we operate on a paperless Cloud-based system that allows staff working remotely to access all files. Sheet music is also stored in this and accessible to musicians (meaning we don't have to post out music before rehearsals).

In our communications with audiences, subscribers and supporters, we keep printed material to an absolute minimum, and rely on electronic communication for our updates and newsletters.

Our way of working means that we do not have need to print yearly brochures detailing our activity, and events are promoted via partners, the media, and on the internet.

When we do require to print material, we work with local suppliers and request that the paper used is recycled.

Materials

As a 'logistic-light' organisation we do not require much of the heavy infrastructure of similar music organisations, and we actively reject the need for staging (including lighting, risers, amplification and chairs).

Not only does this negate the need for purchase of materials, but means that our events have little to no impact – in either the short or long-term on the environment. This is particularly important when giving performances in outside spaces, particularly those in areas of natural beauty or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

We operate on a 'No Trace' basis, meaning that our events should not leave a mark on the place we have visited. This is equally true for inside spaces, urban public spaces, and outdoor venues. In order to ensure nothing is left behind by musicians or audiences, two members of the orchestra are tasked with ensuring no rubbish or items are left behind, and that the space is the same as when we arrived.

When we do have need for extra items (such as percussion instruments, microphones etc.), we borrow from Music Broth – Glasgow's music instrument and equipment library. This is not only better economically, but means that we do not purchase items that only get used a handful of times.

Responsibility

As a musician-led organisation, all members of Nevis Ensemble have a responsibility to enact the contents of this policy.

The Chief Executive, Artistic Directors, and Sustainability Manager will lead in promoting its use between all staff and musicians, and that a 'Green' culture is embedded into the heart of all of the organisation's activity.

The Board of Trustees, in discussion with the Chief Executive and Sustainability Manager, will contribute to this policy and ensure it is kept up-to-date and in line with best practice.



Jamie Munn
Chief Executive, Nevis Ensemble

10 May 2021

Review

This policy, the accompanying procedures and code of conduct will be reviewed by Nevis Ensemble's staff and Board of Trustees, in consultation with partner organisations and statutory guidance on an annual basis.