

PLAY GREEN!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GREEN TRANSITION IN HIGHER MUSIC EDUCATION

● Acknowledgements

This publication is the result of the dedicated and collaborative efforts of the AEC Goes Green Working Group members of the AEC – Empowering Artists as Makers in Society (AEC-ARTEMIS, 2022-2025) project, funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission. The members of the group are:

- ❖ Dušanka JELENKOVIĆ VIDOVIĆ, independent researcher, Belgrade, Serbia (WG Chair)
- ❖ María SANZ, [Centro Superior Música Creativa](#), Madrid, Spain
- ❖ Marloes DE NUL, [Conservatorium Maastricht](#), Maastricht, The Netherlands
- ❖ Maria KALLEITNER-HUBER, [Mozarteum University](#), Salzburg, Austria
- ❖ Héloïse LECOMTE, [Lyon National Conservatoire](#), Lyon, France
- ❖ Ettore CAUVIN, alumnus [Codarts University of the Arts](#), Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- ❖ Ashkhen FIXOVA, AEC Office Team (WG Coordinator).

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● Introduction

Leading question: How to embed environmental sustainability in higher music education institutions and how to inspire change?

The urgency to address the climate emergency has never been greater. The music sector, including higher education institutions, has a unique opportunity to **contribute to environmental and social sustainability**. Every institution and individual can play a role in making a meaningful impact.

As a reflection of society, the music and cultural sectors both shape and mirror prevailing attitudes and practices. More importantly, given music's communicative power, **music professionals can serve as strong advocates for sustainable change**, influencing behaviours and inspiring action.

The *Play Green! Recommendations for the Green Transition in Higher Music Education* have been developed by the **AEC Goes Green Working Group** within the **ARTEMIS – Empowering Artists as Makers in Society project** (2022–2025), co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme, aiming to provide guidance on how the sector can actively contribute to tackling climate change. These recommendations are designed to support the **green transition of the higher music education (HME) sector**, responding to the needs and practices of AEC members, higher music education institutions, and the wider music community.

Rather than strict guidelines, these recommendations offer **practical advice** on how institutions can **make their operations, events, and projects more environmentally friendly**. They also explore how the **educational, research, and artistic dimensions** of HME can contribute to addressing climate change.

Recognising the complexity of this issue, these recommendations do not attempt to provide definitive solutions. (Environmental) Sustainability is a broad and evolving topic, and responses will naturally differ across institutions, shaped by their **national, regional, and cultural contexts, as well as financial realities**. The diversity within AEC membership means that different institutions will have varying capacities to implement change.

However, every step – no matter how small – is valuable. The examples of **good practices** included in this publication aim to **encourage and inspire** institutions to take action in ways that are meaningful and feasible for them. Even the simple act of engaging with this publication is a step towards a more sustainable future.

The green transition in Higher Music Education Institutions (HMEIs) is guided by various **EU frameworks and policies**, including the **European Green Deal, the Erasmus+ Programme, the Creative Europe Programme, and recommendations from the Council of the European Union**. Additionally, **policies and guidelines for the cultural and creative industries provide further direction**. These frameworks urge institutions to take **concrete and active steps** towards sustainability. (A non-exhaustive list of relevant policies can be found in the *Useful Links and Resources* chapter of this publication.)

Within these and other **policy frameworks**, HMEIs are increasingly expected to respond by:

- **Embedding environmental sustainability into their curricula and learning programmes** to raise awareness of the climate crisis and sustainable development, and ensure that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to contribute to a greener future.
- **Supporting the Green Transition in Institutional Operations.** Sustainability should not be limited to education alone – HMEIs are expected to **integrate green practices across their infrastructure, building design, events and daily operations.** This includes **reducing carbon footprints** by promoting sustainable transportation, such as green mobility and commuting, sustainable procurement policies, and striving towards **climate neutrality** in institutional activities.
- **Aligning with the European Green Deal and Climate Policies** and contribute to the EU's goal of climate neutrality by 2050. This includes aligning activities, projects, and policies with climate action goals, actively minimising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and ensuring that all cultural and educational activities adhere to sustainability standards.

The *Play Green!* recommendations for the green transition aim to:

- v Offer concrete recommendations tailored specifically for the music education sector
- v Be grounded in inspirational frameworks
- v Transform learning environments through the promotion of interdisciplinary approaches
- v Be inclusive, by offering ways of engaging entire institutional and local communities in sustainability efforts

Objectives of *Play Green!* recommendations are to address societal challenge of climate change & environmental sustainability by offering recommendations for:

- ➔ Actions that contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions,
- ➔ Other ways of contributing to answering the climate emergency, that can be addressed particularly and creatively by the HME sector.

This will be done by:

1. Offering pathways on:
 - How to embed environmental sustainability in institutions
 - How to inspire change leading to the change of the mindset
2. Supporting learning from each other and getting better ourselves by providing examples of good practices and suggestions for the first steps to green transformation

○ Methodology:

1. Analysis of current EU green goals and objectives 2. Review of existing practices and needs 3. Analysis of existing guidelines and recommendations in the sector 4. Green survey report as state of play, also with targeted interviews, good practices 5. Holding multiple sessions in AEC events which included rich and insightful exchanges and discussions with AEC members and stakeholders

- Conclusion from the survey report: where are the gaps in current practices
- Approach: what is in it for me (as a student/teacher/staff member/institution)
- Embedding environmental sustainability: Green institutional management and operations
 - Environmental policy
 - Sustainable daily functioning
 - Green travelling and commuting
 - Green event organization, + AEC congress The Hague
- Inspiring change: Communication, promotion and raising awareness
 - Education and students: Learning & Teaching for green transition
 - Communication and raising awareness: research, projects, performances
 - AEC good example: music posters
- Final remarks and tasks for the future
 - progress, ongoing process
- Literature, policies, links to recommendations for green transition...
- Useful information and resources, e.g. EU funds for doing things, opportunities, prices...inspiration, getting started
 - Explain that in the first chapter challenges are addressed to try to mitigate negatives in advance; in the second part, no challenges - more broad, sharing experiences, thinking together

Inner structure of chapters:

§ Recommendations from the existing practice and pockets for improvement from the survey report

§ *Word from colleagues / Advice to newcomers to green transition:*
Recommendations with step-by-step approach (e.g. Recommended as first steps)

§ Challenges

§ *Spotlight on good practices:* Effective green practices

Embedding environmental sustainability: Green institutional management and operations

(OBJECTIVE): Environmental Sustainability should be a Core Value: Embed environmental sustainability as a core value within the institutions, emphasising it in mission statements, curriculum objectives, and as part of ongoing student and faculty projects.

- Environmental policy

Main points:

- Gain overview of the institutions environmental impact and identify the biggest lever for improvement
- Take all relevant activities into account
- Develop a systematic approach towards improving the environmental impact
- Set **SMART** improvement goals - **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic/Reasonable, **T**ime bound and corresponding actions for reaching the goals
- Monitor progress, adapt goals/actions if necessary
- Communicate your activities and support staff in implementing measures

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Step-by-step approach

First Steps green transition beginners (Institutions that don't have the environmental policy yet)

- **Get started:** Start with small first steps towards greening your activities
- **Create a Green Team:** Nominate a responsible person/green team to develop and oversee sustainability initiatives and build up a small group of people (among students, teachers and staff) who are already convinced and active on these issues to launch a dynamic within
- **Conduct a Baseline Assessment:** Establish a system for measuring the institution's current environmental impact and start assessing the data (energy use, resource consumption, waste generation, travel activities...). Evaluate

current carbon footprint [in CO₂-eq] and green practices to understand where improvement is needed.

- **Develop an Action Plan:** Establish improvement goals and prioritise actions in relation to the insights from the self-assessment and realistic implementation
- **Monitor progress:** Measure the impact of your actions taken. How does e.g. the consumption of energy or CO₂-emissions from travels develop over the years?
- **Raise Awareness:** Engage the institution's community through communication and training on environmental operation practices.

Advanced Steps for Institutions With Policies

- **Establish a systematic environmental policy addressing the main activities of the institution:** energy use, procurement, waste management, travel & commuting, events, canteen. Highlight your vision and strategic goals on how to improve the environmental impact of your institution and set ambitious as well as realistic goals for reaching climate neutrality.
- **Create the position of an environmental/sustainability officer:** Competence, time & resources are needed for a successful implementation of a systematic approach for the improvement of the environmental impact on organisational level.
- **Monitor Progress:** Use data to report on the progress of actions taken. Spot the gaps between the goals and practice. Redefine goals if necessary. Check how measures taken could be more effective. State & communicate if you are making good progress.
- **Build up competence:** Organise trainings for staff and management members. Inform about regional initiatives and funding which could support your efforts.
- **Expand Networks:** Collaborate with other institutions and organizations on sustainability initiatives. Share good practices as well as challenges and co-create innovative solutions for the local green transition.
- **Integrate Sustainability in Teaching & Research:** incorporate sustainability topics into the curriculum by identifying ways to teach and engage students on sustainability topics. Create courses, modules or projects that explore links between sustainability and the arts/music. (proposals for education - see below)
- **Expand raising awareness about artistic activities:** What potential lies in our core business? How can music and other artistic approaches contribute to awareness raising, change of mindsets and taking action?
- **Establish an institutional sustainability framework:** Establish goals for the institution that can align with broader sustainability goals like the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The sustainability framework and

policy should include all three dimensions of sustainability - environmental, economic and social.

Challenges:

Newcomers

- Starting off, task seems be too big
- Knowing where to start
- Set realistic improvement goals & corresponding actions
- Competitive with other priorities
- Why us? Conviction that we all have to take responsibility for our activities
- Lack of time and focus
- Lack of expertise and resources

Advanced:

- It's a marathon not a sprint, it takes patience and acceptance of the long term journey. Perseverance is necessary.
- Prioritising the biggest focus points
- Long term vision and foresight decisions are needed.
- Competitive with other priorities
- Lack of expertise and resources

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD PRACTICES:

In 2023 the Belgian region of Wallonia facilitated the introduction of the post of Officer of Sustainable Development in most of its HEIs, including the Conservatoire de Liège. Its task includes designing and applying a Sustainability policy focusing on the implementation of SDGs.

The [Environmental Panel](#) of the Academy of the Performing Arts in Prague (AMU) was set up in 2020, it assesses its existing practice in terms of environmental impact and suggests measures to minimise the impact. The Environmental Panel works as an advisory body to the Rector and the Academic Senate of AMU and includes in its ranks renowned Czech artists to promote the Green shifter amongst students and staff.

As stipulates at RIAM's Climate Action plan, the academy's sustainability efforts are guided by key groups: the Executive Sustainability Committee ensures strategic alignment with its mission, while the Sustainability Office coordinates initiatives across departments. Working Groups focus on thematic areas like energy and waste, proposing actionable projects. The Student Sustainability Council advocates for student interests and promotes awareness, and the External Advisory Board offers expert advice, fosters collaborations, and supports resource acquisition for sustainability initiatives.

The [Uniarts Helsinki](#) supports sustainable daily choices with actions such as openly communicating its environmental impact on its website and reducing the environmental burden of facilities by optimising energy efficiency in cooperation with lessors and maximising facility utilisation. Achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 is a key goal, requiring an ecologically sustainable culture where every member contributes to spreading sustainable practices. Collaboration and responsibility are central to reducing emissions and embedding sustainability across all activities.

The [Royal College of Music](#) (RCM) of London embeds sustainability across its operations, focusing on areas such as energy, water, waste, sustainable events, and performances. RCM is dedicated to environmental sustainability and aims to achieve net zero carbon by 2035. Key goals include reducing scopes of carbon emissions by 73% by 2026/27 from a 2005 baseline, maintaining campus waste below 15 tonnes annually, and achieving a recycling rate above 75% by the same year. The RCM

Example from AEC:

In 2024 the AEC joined 15 other cultural networks to be part of the SHIFT eco-certificate. This three-stage audit, set for completion by the end of 2024, will result in a certification that demonstrates the AEC's commitment to addressing climate change and its dedication to environmental sustainability efforts. One of the first steps towards the eco-certificate is the implementation of the Sustainability policy action plan. The [AEC Sustainability policy](#) was composed by the AEC Green Team and was approved by the Council.

- **Green travelling and commuting**

OBJECTIVES:

- Reduction of the negative impacts of mobility for institutional purposes, as transport is responsible for about a quarter of the EU's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; it causes air pollution, noise, as well as habitat fragmentation.
- Regulation of travel activities and taking steps towards a more sustainable travel and commuting practice

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Beginners

- **Develop and implement a travel policy:** Design and implement a travel policy which regulates and gives guidance on travelling for institutional purposes. Key elements should be: (refer to the examples of travel policies - Good practices!)
 - Re-thinking of travel purposes and opting for virtual meetings if possible

- Choosing low carbon modes of transportation, e.g. trains instead of flights
- Reducing the number of short distance flights as these create a disproportional high amount of CO₂-emissions.
- Reducing the use of cars, take public transportation instead
- **Encourage alternative modes of commuting:** Staff and students are dependent on local infrastructure. Offer opportunities that make it easier to change habits and switch to low carbon means of transportation like charging stations for e-cars/e-bikes or convenient bike parking spaces close to the institution.
- **Cooperate with local authorities:** Communal infrastructure like secure and convenient bike or walking paths support the shift towards more eco-friendly and healthier commuting habits. Local renting and service facilities could be promoted.
- **Rethink car park management:** Car parks are well established services for staff members. Think of supporting public transportation tickets instead or at least equally. Create incentives for the reduction of individual car use with e.g. organising carpooling or mobility services for staff members.
- **Reduce travel/commuting to the institution**
 - Consider online sessions if fitting for the purpose in order to avoid travelling
 - Internationalisation at home: emphasise virtual and blended Erasmus+ mobilities in combination with real life exchanges.
 - Set up more flexible working/study schedules e.g. by combining in presence and online classes/working sessions.
 - Allow remote work whenever possible. Selected tasks can be well performed from distance. Establish distance working as an opportunity for a definite part of working time and tasks, e.g. 2 days per week for a full time employment.
- Consider inviting visiting professors/artists from an agreed distance (e.g. within 10 hours of travel distance)
- **Calculate the CO₂-emissions related to mobility activities.** Discuss and share the results with all stakeholders and develop an institutional travel policy. Benchmark with other institutions with similar size to use the data as a reference and make use for themselves.
 In 2023, CNSMD Lyon calculate its carbon footprint with a few selected arts higher education institutions in France of different sizes through a 4 months program financed by the Ministère de la Culture in order to set examples and draw recommendations for all the other arts higher education institutions. The program was lead by WeCount company: [free guides](#) are available on their website, notably one for Performing arts institutions and another one for higher education institutions.

Advanced

- **Build up infrastructure:**
 - Consider a bike park for sharing amongst staff & students
 - Offer convenient bike parking close to the institution
 - Explore the possibility of electric bikes for local transport purposes
 - Consider service stations with tools and spare parts (free or at one's own costs)
 - Think to organise repair & service checks for bikes
 - Explore the possibility of installing showering facilities
 - In case you run an own fleet: consider purchasing e-cars or transporters in case of replacement/new orders
- **Create financial incentives:**
 - Consider collecting extra sums for air travels, earmark the money for the specific purpose of supporting public transportation or night train tickets
 - Offer seasonal public transportation tickets as part of the employment contract
- Partial to full monetary compensations of complementary products and services that improve convenience of sustainable travel: Discounts, upfront top-ups, or reimbursements of products and services such as travel cards or extended accommodation
- **Include alternative criteria for travel expenses reporting:** like CO₂-emissions, km, regional aspects, duration vs. €
- **Rethink car park management:**
 - limit issued parking permissions to staff members who live a certain distance away, stop issuing permissions within a certain distance
 - adopt prizes for car parking permissions and support public transportation tickets or bike services with the extra money
 - reduce the number of sealed up parking slots and transfer them into shared spaces for communication & recreation. This also benefits the microclimate and reduces ambient temperature.
- **Student and staff commuting:** Recommend working out a meeting schedule combining online meetings with in-presence only for key moments (hybrid programmes, project management etc). Meetings should be held online whenever possible and meaningful. This saves time for commuting and traffic volume at the same time.
- **Launch awareness raising campaigns on the importance of green mobility:** Communicate the importance of green travel activities aligned with your actions. Stress the fact that mobility has a major share on overall Greenhouse Gas emissions and low carbon alternatives are available. You could start challenges amongst staff or students e.g. bike or walking challenges.
- **Concert touring and performance-related travel**
 - **Green touring:** Explore environmentally sustainable approaches to touring and live performances. Consider lowering the carbon footprint of touring activities up to performing carbon-neutral tours by opting for greener means of

transportation for artists and equipment. Adapt tour planning and organisation for the prevention of extra miles.

- **Green concert organisation:** Choose venues which are well connected to public transportation systems. If you organise/perform in more remote areas, organise shuttle services for your audience. Cooperate with local transport companies for special offers and promote the use of public transportation.

Challenges:

- Geographical location: alternative travel choices tend to be more time-consuming and eventually non-compliant to existing travel regulations
- Financial constraints: e.g. flights might be cheaper than train tickets, but not necessarily in any case!
- Time expenditure: workload e.g. for logistics of instruments might be higher, also necessary resting periods between performances
- Adaptation of established routines: adapt performing schedules, align with alternative travel modes e.g. plan more resting time between performances as travel takes longer and resting time will be shorter - take also care of the personal resources!
- Lack of convenient public transportation infrastructure
- Address the Erasmus+ mobility top-up for green travels: advocate for a meaningful mirror of the practical needs
- Choice of CO2 calculator

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD PRACTICES:

- Spotlight on good practices:
- *Orchestra for the earth*: [environmentally positive music-making](#) - green performances & sustainable touring

AEC Example:

The AEC Council has recently approved the [AEC Travel Policy](#), which encompasses key practices for travel not only for the AEC office team but also for all Working Group (WG) and Task Force (TF) members, as well as anyone for whom AEC holds financial responsibility regarding travel. Moreover, the AEC office calculates the travel-related carbon emissions of its team members and all individuals whose travel is financed by the association, with the aim of reducing the organisation's carbon footprint annually. In terms of commuting, the AEC encourages its staff to use public transport by offering an incentive for this and has implemented flexible office arrangements, further reducing employee travel-related emissions.

- Students and employees of AMU can participate in the free bike-sharing project organised by Prague municipality. Short rides between AMU buildings thus can be free of charge. At the same time, AMU continuously motivates students and staff to choose a more sustainable mode of commuting.

- RIAM encourages the employees to cycle to work thanks to a scheme allowing them to purchase, via their employer, a bicycle and approved safety equipment. This purchase operates as a tax incentive scheme and is not liable to tax, PRSI or USC, which can give a saving of up to 51% on the purchase of a new bike.
- **Openyoureyes** project (OYE) (also connecting to artistic projects): The collaborative project *Open Your Eyes And Tell Me What You See* has been inspired by the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and responded to the global challenges they recognise. Inspired Students from the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Conservatoire de Paris (CNSMDP) and the University Mozarteum Salzburg artistically dealt with the climate crises and consequently implemented green touring for their performances from Dublin - London - Paris - Salzburg:

Repertoire: OYE is an artistic response to the climate crisis. The programme includes repertoire from underrepresented composers and poets, ensuring a diverse voice and perspective. Artistic director: Ian Burnside.

Preparation/meetings: Planning meetings took place online to minimise travel. Artistic meetings with students took place online to reduce in-person rehearsal days.

Transport: Boat and train were prioritised over air travel, public transport was used rather than taxis and participants walked where possible.

Accommodation: was booked within walking distance of venues and hotels were selected with certified eco-labels or green buildings certifications.
- The Cellissimo Festival, organised by [Music for Galway](#), is an international event with sustainability as a core value. It focuses on promoting eco-friendly practices for both attendees and performers. For example, the festival encourages sustainable travel options by partnering with Irish Ferries and Irish Rail, suggesting train travel over flights wherever feasible to minimize carbon footprints. The program, rich in classical cello performances, also includes themes of climate, migration, and empathy through art. The festival only runs once every three years, making its sustainable practices part of a long-term commitment to reduce environmental impact while celebrating classical music in an innovative format.
- A lot of institutions with adapted hours (result from the survey): This environmental step is already implemented in 44% of the institutions, whilst 59% of the respondents would suggest doing so (group example)
- in 2021 [Universität der Künste Berlin](#) introduced a “chart” of self-commitment not to fly distances less than 1000 km or less than 12 hours travel time,
- Uniarts Helsinki’s internal sustainability fund operates within the principles of sustainable travel and university [environmental programme](#). It involves the charging of an extra fee for each flight taken and providing of financial support for land-based travel. In addition, Uniarts is committed to restricting domestic flights.

- Mozarteum University in Salzburg implemented a [travel policy](#) in 2024 focused on economic efficiency and climate protection. The policy aims to minimize CO2 emissions by restricting short-distance flights under 750 km, which are considered high in emissions, and prioritizing direct flights to reduce the environmental impact of takeoffs and landings. For journeys under 6 hours one-way, train travel is mandatory, and for journeys up to 11 hours, it is preferred. The use of private vehicles must be approved in advance and should be in the institution's interest. Exceptions to these rules require justification and permission. The university also supports sustainable commuting through financial assistance for public transport tickets and offers a home office regulation allowing staff to work from home two days a week based on full-time employment.
- Sustainable daily functioning

Procurement policy

- **General procurement**

Objective: Establish a framework for the institution that provides clear orientation and general recommendations for making responsible purchases. Every purchasing decision has an impact, so it's essential to minimise negative effects and strive to create positive ones. This involves making conscious choices that support sustainability and ethical practices.

Recommendation:

Introduce a procurement/purchase policy/guideline as an outstanding document or as a part of the Green/Sustainable policy. In the policy suggest to prioritise buying third-party verified eco-labelled products (e.g. [EU Ecolabel](#), [Nordic Swan](#), [Blue Angel](#)) or from suppliers certified with an eco-management schem (e.g. [EMAS](#) or ISO 14001). We encourage making sustainable, reflected choices also in terms of actual needs.

How to recognise sustainable products?

- long-lasting, high quality
- repairable, available spare parts
- easy to use, easy to maintain/clean
- low/efficient energy use
- contain no harmful substances
- based on non-fossil materials

- certified with independent eco-label like [Blue Angel](#), [Nordic Swan](#), [EU Ecolabel](#), ...
- cooperate with local dealers, manufacturers
- Upcycle non-functioning instruments (such as furniture, decoration) or to donate
- Books - use library and try to buy second-hand

Challenge:

- Sustainable products could sometimes cost more
- availability in certain regions
- restrictions from buying from certain outlets due to the status of the institutions
- time constraints and need for planning and research
- lack of knowledge of the sustainable market

Procurement of instruments

- Buy local: cooperate with local dealers and instrument makers
- Buy good quality, take care of the instruments for long lasting pleasure
- Raise awareness: many instruments are outstanding long lasting products if treated properly. Instruct students to treat them well.
- Sustainable sourcing: instruments made from certified wood like [FSC](#) (Forest Stewardship Council), no use of endangered species, use of temperate and local woods instead of tropical ones, use of salvaged wood, or the raw material coming from fallen trees or old buildings

Examples

Raising Awareness with music and engagement for sustainability projects

ORCHESTER DES WANDELS - "[ORCHESTRAS OF CHANGE](#)" is an organisation of musicians of professional orchestras in Germany. As musicians, they view protection of the climate, nature and species as part of our cultural mission. [Concerts for change](#): They play for climate, nature and species protection and thus confront the current crisis in creative ways through music. *"We want to use the emotional power of music to reach and inspire people."*

Conservation projects: The illegal cutting and trade of precious woods is a major global problem, and in some places contributes to the disappearance of, or threat to, entire ecosystems. Some of these threatened woods are used for instruments, so the protection of these woods and their ecosystems lies near to the hearts of the musicians. To ensure that this protection has a lasting effect, the conservation projects in Madagascar and Brazil focus on ecology, economy and social issues for the local people.

Reduction of paper use

Objective: Reduce unnecessary printing, and make conscious choices when printing is unavoidable

Recommendations:

- If printing is unavoidable, use eco-labelled certified paper
- Track the number of printed pages, with automatic email informing on a certain number of printed pages.
- In case of printing in large numbers (reports, books, concert programmes), start printing from a small number, then re-print, if necessary.,
- Posters; consider use screens, Introduce the usage of tablets instead of printing music sheets
- Print in demand: (e.g. ask the students if they need the music sheets before printing them)

Challenge: Printing is easy; printed material is more direct, marketing-friendly and appealing, potentially eco-labelled paper could cost more

Examples: The reduction of printing is one of the practices that is implemented largely at the AEC membership: 60.5% of respondents to the survey on Sustainable Needs and Practices conducted in the summer of 2023 state that their institutions practice reducing printing by downloading and reading sheet music and scores from electronic devices.

Waste management:

Objective: Reduce the generated waste

Recommendations:

- Install Recycling Program: Expand recycling programs to include paper, plastics, glass, metals, and electronic waste.
- Ensure that recycling bins are easily accessible and are well-marked.
- Composting: Implement a composting program for organic waste from cafeterias and green spaces.
- Organise regular waste audits to identify opportunities for waste reduction and improve recycling rates.

Energy and resource efficiency and low consumption:

Objective: Reduce the energy consumption

Recommendation:

- Daily maintenance: Switch off electronic devices after use

- Switch off music equipment after use, reduce room temperature in case of heating (1 degree saves 6% of energy), insert temperature regulation, increase room temperature in case of cooling,
- Organise general inspection of the building. try to detect energy loss points, track costs and consumption, and detect unusually high consumption.
- Create the checklist for the last person leaving the room (close the doors, switch off the lights...)
- Install LED-bulbs (it allows 80% of electricity reduction)
- Consider creative initiative e.g. "Climate days" when the heating in the buildings is reduced considerably (as Big Sweater Day in Belgium or in other countries)
- Be mindful of the water usage
- Explore ways of modernising the building

Challenges:

- Old/historically protected building
- Investment for infrastructure
- Rented buildings = no priority to invest
- Different cultures - not so easy to reach people
- Technically inflexible building

Example:

The Janáček Academy of Performing Arts in Brno, Czech republic, in cooperation local municipality, has implemented a cutting-edge and innovative system of geothermal heat system for its buildings.

Green digital actions¹

Objective

Recommendations:

- **Move to the Cloud**
Transition to cloud computing to cut emissions, as it can reduce carbon impact by 72-93%. Choose providers that use renewable energy sources for enhanced sustainability.
- **Use Green Web Hosting**
Opt for web and cloud services that are powered renewably, and prioritise providers with transparent energy and emissions policies.
- **Extend Device Lifespan**
Before buying new devices, consider using your current ones longer, repairing them, or opting for refurbished devices to conserve resources and energy.

¹ source:

- **Support Circular Economy**
When purchasing devices, choose brands with sustainable practices, like Fairphone, which uses modular, recyclable materials and promotes trade-ins.
- **Recycle Responsibly**
Recycle broken or obsolete devices through country-specific programs
- **Avoid Device Hoarding**
Donate or recycle unused devices to prevent resource waste and maximize their lifespan.
- **Choose Smaller Devices**
Smaller screens consume less energy. For online meetings or streaming, use a phone instead of a laptop or TV whenever possible.
- **Use Wi-Fi Instead of Data**
Whenever possible, connect to Wi-Fi, as 4G consumes four times more energy.
- **Organise digital clean-up days**
Review what is being stored digitally and where. The more stored digitally, the more energy needed to store it. Delete anything no longer in use or needed such as apps, emails and files and unsubscribe from unwanted emails
- **Use green search engine**
Consider using search engines that contribute to the planet and are sponsoring solidarity projects: [Ecosia](#), [Ocean hero](#), [Lilo](#)...
- **Take small everyday actions to reduce our digital footprint:**
 - Simplify your research on the Internet: consider to enter directly the URL link then to use a search engine
 - bookmark the websites you use the more often
 - use only key words when using a search engine
 - target your recipient when sending an email: the more recipients the more energy used
 - delete any attached documents that are not relevant
 - prefer the use of hyperlinks or compressed documents to attachments
 - archive and keep only relevant emails
 - delete and/or directly unsubscribe to any spams/unwanted emails lists/newsletters

Find out more :

<https://juliesbicycle.com/resource/briefing-report-environmental-sustainability-in-the-digital-age-of-culture/>

- **Catering**

Objective: Encourage the adoption of plant-based alternatives and support local food sources to reduce the environmental footprint linked to long-distance food transportation and the impacts of meat-based diets.

Recommendations:

- Make agreements with canteens to provide:
 - good quality vegetarian options (preferably cheaper than the meat options)
 - certain share of local, organic, seasonal food
 - Incentive for reusable options allowing to save money when one uses own mug
 - only reusable dishes and glass bottles for drinks

 - Develop leftover policy,
 - Avoid throwing away food, consider passing on the leftovers
 - Use of water fountains
 - Optimising bathroom water use
- **Daily consumption:**
- Encourage bringing own mugs, water bottles,
 -

Challenges: cultural differences and habits, miscalculations in food preparation, stubborn community

Examples: [The Royal Conservatoire, Hague](#) teamed up with their canteen to promote environmentally conscious choices. E.g. the canteen serves more vegan and vegetarian options and labels them with green stickers to make them more visible. The canteen banned almost all plastic and replaced it with more sustainable options (e.g. bamboo spoons, paper plates, real plates and cutlery in the evenings, paper straws). The canteen also now offers a discount for customers who bring their own mugs, plates and cutlery.

RIAM has partnered with Airfield Estate, Dublin's sustainable food hub, to spread awareness about food citizenship and food waste. Awareness campaigns are planned with RIAM's community in 2025 around limiting food waste, sourcing locally grown products, and biodiversity. RIAM students also currently perform in Airfield Estate, and we include music by underrepresented composers in these concerts.

More inspiring examples

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD PRACTICES

- **Green conservatoires and music academy buildings.** A good example of national and regional support for the green transition of the music conservatoires is the construction of a new state-of-the-art building of the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, known as [Bosco della Musica](#) (Forest of Music). The new building is focused on the integration of green policies, sustainability, technology and enhancement of the local environment. The design of the conservatory emphasises sustainability through the use of renewable energy sources and the integration of green roofs on the pavilions.

Similar example represents the newly [completed campus](#) of the National Academy of Music “Gheorghe Dima” in Cluj-Napoca in Romania. It has revitalized a once overlooked area. This initiative focuses on implementing sustainable solutions to enhance energy efficiency, resource conservation, and environmental responsibility. By integrating renewable energy technologies, eco-friendly systems, water-saving measures, and energy-efficient heat pumps, it aims to reduce reliance on traditional energy sources together with minimizing the ecological impact.

- **Encouraging sustainable practices of students in exchange programmes.** Metropolia University of Applied Sciences from Helsinki developed the [Guide to a Greener Exchange](#) offering practical advice for exchange students to make environmentally conscious choices and adopt sustainable practices during their mobility period in Finland. The topics include such as eco-friendly travel, responsible energy consumption, sustainable shopping and waste management.
- **Inspirational student green practices.** Students of the Lyon conservatory (CNSMD Lyon) carried out [a number of environmental initiatives](#), one of which is setting up a compost bin for the building. With the logistic help and support of local associations, students built the compost bin themselves and launched it in October 2022. The compost product is distributed among students for their home plants or has been used into the conservatoire garden to grow tomatoes, potatoes, cabbages or seasoning herbs.

Example from the AEC:

The AEC embedded environmentally-responsible and sustainable activities to their daily functioning. Whenever possible, the AEC follows the Reuse-Reduce-Recycle approach: we reuse badges from previous events, donate rather than discard items, reduce our energy consumption, and actively work to decrease our carbon footprint. We recycle generated waste and purchase second-hand electronics.

A key step towards sustainable practices for the AEC office was the adoption of the internal [Purchase Policy](#), alongside the Sustainability Policy. As per the Purchase Policy, the AEC prioritises products with recognized eco-labels or those sourced from local producers, while avoiding purchases from companies known to contribute to the climate emergency.

- Green event organisation

OBJECTIVES:

- Integrate sustainability considerations into event planning. Recognize that music events have a unique environmental impact, but practical measures can minimize it. Focus on key areas such as transport and logistics, catering and services, resource and energy consumption, and waste management.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Location of the event:** choose a venue which is connected to public transportation and offers accommodation and services nearby
- **Know your venues:** Collaborate with certified green event venues, whenever possible. Venues that have strong sustainability policies, promote zero-waste events and ensure that (all) equipment used is energy-efficient. Also, rely on your partnerships to encourage venues to adopt energy-efficient lighting and sound systems, implement waste reduction programs, and use renewable energy sources (Source: [Music Declares Emergency Climate pack](#)).
- **Add a sustainability clause** in the cooperation agreement with the venue/event host institution (Communication about making the event green, waste management, going, paperless, sustainable catering, ban on promotional material and plastic bottles, etc).
- **Encourage use of public transport and sustainable transport modes to the audience:** communicate sustainable transport options in event brochures (such as public transport options, access to a bicycle park, for conferences and festivals - add a section such as “how to reach us” by bus, train, etc).
- **Sustainable event and promotional material:** Prioritise digital tickets and programmes, utilise events apps, and consider QR codes and digital screens. If printing is necessary, opt for recycled paper.. For promotional materials, strike a balance between the promotional message, quantity and the choice for materials, with particular attention to plastic badges. Aim to provide waste-separation points when possible.
- For events such as conferences that include accommodation and meals: suppliers (local, more plant based and vegetarian, seasonal products - when possible and respecting cultural differences and specifics), hotels with green certificates, when possible. Avoid single-use packaging.
- Consider organising regional or local satellite events to the main one to reduce travel
- **Consider streaming or recording**, and/or making the event hybrid
- Explore ways of **tracking CO2 emissions** for events - as a step further
- Explore **local support and resources** for green events organisation

- Communicate all that you do to make your events green to raise awareness of the impact

Challenges:

- Organisational matters
- Financial and human resources
- Existing established long-term cooperation with local suppliers that are not “green”
- Music venues that satisfy music characteristics but are not green

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD PRACTICE

- mdw green meetings: Green Meetings are characterised by better-than-usual energy efficiency and waste avoidance as well as by the environmentally friendly arrival and departure of their attendees. Central aspects are also regional value added and social responsibility. Events conducted at the mdw can apply for certification as Green Meetings by contacting the initiative [Green mdw](#). Available environmental label, templates, examples: <https://www.mdw.ac.at/gruene-mdw/fairanstaltungen/>

- AEC example: AEC Annual Congress and General Assembly, Royal Conservatoire The Hague, 2023; AEC IRC Dublin 2024
The AEC events organised during the last years are marked with attention to sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches. Examples of such events can be considered at the [AEC Congress 2023 in The Hague](#). This event, which gathered a record number of 470 participants, exceptionally offered a vegan menu for the lunch break, with vegan/vegetarian options for the dinners. Such green practices as waste separation stations, reusable badges and choice of non-usage of once-usage cups and dishes were also practised. The event was hosted in the cutting-edge and fully sustainable premises of Amare.

Another good example of a green event is the [IRCs meeting](#) organised in RIAM (Dublin) in September 2024. The organisation took every step to minimise the environmental impact of the event. Only around 40 pages were printed for the entire event; the signs helping the participants to find the needed rooms were reused by the institution for the next events. The event app helped to organise carpooling for the participants from the airport. Any new purchases for this event (desk for the badges, reusable adhesives) were made from natural materials.

For both events, the speakers and the AEC team stayed at a Green Key eco-labelled hotel, all the participants were encouraged to take public transport or walk to the event venue.

- Inspiring change: Education, communication and raising awareness

General objective

- Education and students: Learning & Teaching for green transition

OBJECTIVES

- One of the primary objectives of a greener curriculum is to **embed environmental awareness into music education**. This includes teaching students about sustainability and understanding the role that music can play in fostering ecological consciousness. By addressing environmental themes through music theory, production, and performance, students learn to use their artistic endeavours as a platform for social and environmental change. Integration of environmental awareness into the music curriculum, emphasizing sustainability and the role of music in society is among recommendations from [Greening of the Creative Europe Programme Guide](#).
- Music universities should not only prepare students for successful careers in the music industry but also guide them toward more sustainable career paths. A comprehensive approach is needed to integrate environmental responsibility into career development, ensuring that students enter the workforce with a strong commitment to sustainability, whether they pursue careers as performers, educators, or industry professionals.
- Include green knowledge and skills in lifelong learning offer for teachers and staff
- Addressing the gap in practices, from the survey: “An overwhelming majority of the respondents (86%) declare that green skills and sustainability topics are non-existent in the music studies curricula, with additional 7% reporting being unaware if there are any. Nonetheless, 65% of them think those topics should be included in music studies.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Encourage interdisciplinarity**: Create learning environments that promote interdisciplinary learning, including green skills and knowledge, focusing on how the arts can contribute to and benefit from sustainability. It can combine music theory, music production (using modern technology, digital and green skills), and education for

sustainability (In music research programs) Exploring intersections of music and the environment/ecology, such as ecomusicology, Soundscape studies and acoustic ecology

- **Green skills**, particularly in entrepreneurship-oriented courses and programmes. Also, **training for staff, procurement staff**: Training in procurement guidance for everyone who has the option of ordering, budget allocation authority or other powers related to procurement.
- **Sustainable music production**: Teach students about eco-friendly recording and production techniques, such as minimising energy usage in studios, using sustainable equipment and materials, and exploring the environmental impact of digital versus physical music distribution.
- **Guest lectures and workshops**: Inviting professionals from the green music industry (eco-conscious artists, event organisers, sound engineers) to provide students with practical, real-world insight into sustainable practices, sharing knowledge and practices.
- **Creating and learning about green music**: Creating, studying and performing music dealing with issues of environmentalism. Assignments where students create music pieces or performances that highlight climate change, biodiversity loss, or renewable energy themes.
- **Student Green Artistic Projects**: Encourage student green artistic projects exploring the link between music, art and sustainability. Encourage students to initiate green music projects or participate in community outreach programs that combine music and environmental activism. This could involve creating soundscapes for nature reserves or composing pieces that advocate for ecological awareness. **For students**: Include event management courses emphasising green practices in organizing music festivals, concerts, and other events. This could cover sustainable venue management, waste reduction strategies, and eco-friendly event materials. · *Example*: Students could design a mock sustainable music festival, incorporating energy-efficient lighting, biodegradable materials for marketing, and zero-waste food options for attendees.
- As some conservatoires have entrepreneurship lessons, we could possibly recommend good green practices regarding curriculum

SPOTLIGHT ON GOOD PRACTICES

- Green Study Programme: Uniarts Helsinki

“Arts management, society and creative entrepreneurship” is a master’s program (MA) implemented by UNIARTS Helsinki in 2021. It addresses sustainability, ecology, and digitalization as interdisciplinary issues in the performing arts and music industry.

The curriculum includes courses such as “art, work and sustainability,” “art, ecology and social justice,” and “ecology, music and sound,” where students can learn about ecological sustainability, ecophilosophy, acoustic ecology, and ecomusicology and apply future-oriented thinking to cultivate ecologically and socially sustainable working practices.

In 2024, the program was restructured considering contemporary global challenges such as climate change, the energy crisis, economic turmoil and pandemics to develop a more inclusive and responsible academic environment for teachers, researchers and students of the sector.

- Developing Green Skills: Reina Sofia, Madrid ; Student-led sustainability week (Prague)

The Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofia’s “GreenME” program promotes synergies between music and environmental commitment, to raise environmental awareness.

The main curriculum activities are a green conference and week at the institution, a theoretical-practical module on music and environment, and the design, development and implementation of a real project at the intersection of these two subjects. These entrepreneurship projects are actively carried out by students or alumni of the School.

In particular, the Green Week was articulated around 5 challenges for the planet for the entire educational community and staff. The aim was to create a collective movement with a high impact through simple actions such as not using the lift or deleting unnecessary emails to free up cloud storage.

Furthermore, "Paseos Sonoros" was produced as part of the ADAR Festival, a music festival bringing the arts to the rural environment. These sound walks aimed to encourage conversation with nature by bringing together history, land, and communities while energising the bond between people and the natural world. Therefore, the concerts held in these rural environments were accompanied by environmental awareness-raising actions, including the participation of artists and

audiences in activities such as collecting rubbish and cleaning up the forest, promoting the conservation of the region's natural environment.

Green ME is a project co-funded by the European Union through the MusicAIRE programme.

- Green Lectorate: [mdw, Vienna: Lectures for Future](#)

The Lectures for Future (L4F) is a cross-university, interdisciplinary lecture series organised by the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW). These lessons provide current insights about sustainable development goals (SDGs) and deal with the connections between art, science and sustainability. Moreover, this series asks about the potential of artistic design processes for socio-ecological transformations and looks for interdisciplinarity, networking approaches and solutions to strengthen active future thinking and knowledge (or literacy).

Since the winter semester 2021/22, this course has been offered at the university as an elective subject for all kinds of students and as further training for MDW members.

By questioning existing systems and attitudes of thinking or acting, these lectures foster an understanding of such complexities, rethinking and exploring new paths of inspiration through Art practice and research.

The resulting knowledge inspires new individual and collective artistic paths and aims to remove the division between art and science, between thinking and acting, being human and being an artist.

Lecture recitals were held to show sustainability and collective leadership culture on stage through projects such as #bechange and #freesolo. In particular, #bechange focused on the mindful approach to oneself, the world and art is an essential part of the orchestra's identity by using 17 Sounds of Sustainability deals with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and four historical composers in 16 workshops, four premieres and a new "Symphony of Change". Instead, #freesolo explored the topic of leadership culture and power structures in the deconstruction (re)construction of the solo concert, examining forms of collective collaboration and the interplay of different leadership styles.

- Student-led initiatives: KC, The Hague; Reina Sofia, Uniarts

- Environmental Sustainability Guide: Publication from Reina Sofia, Madrid - *Environmental sustainability guide for enterprising musicians*

The Environmental Sustainability Guide for Enterprising Musicians is a publication by the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía on environmental impact reduction for music performers and entrepreneurs.

The guide comprises seven focus areas such as sustainable travelling, accommodation, food and beverages, acquisition of tangible goods, human resources, waste management, communication and motivation campaigns.

This publication tackles these issues pragmatically, providing practical solutions, including green alternatives and clarifying the subject matter. This volume prioritises enterprising musicians and their needs, providing an honest, efficient, and functional outlook on reducing one's environmental impact when touring or playing, encouraging self-reflection, training, and rethinking as a way forward.

This document is part of the GreenME project co-funded by the European Union through the MusicAIRE programme.

- Lifelong learning workshop opportunity: **Education for staff: Good practices:** CNSMDP

In 2023, the Paris Conservatoire (CNSMDP) committed to building its carbon footprint as part of the French Ministry of Culture's strategy for ecological transition.

One of the priority actions delegated to the Conservatoire was to ensure the training of its staff on the challenges of ecological transition.

Carried out in December 2023 in the form of 3-hour participatory workshops, "[La Fresque du Climat](#)" (The Climate Fresco) aimed to raise awareness among participants about climate change through a gamified educational approach.

During the workshop, participants linked cause and effect and integrated climate issues through a pedagogically collaborative approach based on collective intelligence. The first phase encouraged reflection through a flash card game using data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The second phase focused on creativity, while the third promoted discursive moments encouraging individual and collective reflection.

This workshop was strongly recommended and highly communicated within the institution as an open-access activity.

This action was included in the Conservatoire lifelong learning plan from 2023.

- Green HMEI Certification: NMH, Oslo

The Norwegian Academy of Music (NMH) has made notable progress in its sustainability efforts since earning the Eco-Lighthouse certification. This milestone acknowledges NMH's comprehensive efforts to reduce energy consumption, enhance waste management, and incorporate eco-friendly practices into their operations.

The Academy's commitment extends beyond administrative practices to influence educational programs, encouraging students and staff to adopt sustainable behaviours. By embedding these principles into its daily activities, NMH aims to set a precedent for environmental responsibility within the music community and beyond.

Furthermore, the institution has successfully reduced electricity consumption and nearly halved paper usage while increasing the purchase of eco-labeled products. A new bicycle workshop supports green transportation by providing tools for cyclists.

Despite a rise in overall CO2 emissions due to increased car travel and inefficient waste sorting, NMH is actively working to address these issues. Future objectives include reducing air travel and improving waste management.

NMH emphasises the importance of community involvement and innovative approaches in their environmental advocacy efforts.

- Sustainability Course: Artistic Entrepreneurship at SDMK, Odense

The Danish National Academy of Music (SDMK) in Odense emphasises sustainability within its entrepreneurship course, preparing students for environmentally responsible artistic careers. The program blends theoretical education with practical application, focusing on Artistic Entrepreneurship that encourages sustainable practices in the music industry. SDMK's commitment to sustainability is further enhanced through workshops and career days that address eco-friendly business models and industry standards.

Additionally, the Entrepreneurship Prize acknowledges student initiatives that foster cultural, social, or economic value, reinforcing the conservatory's mission to promote sustainability and environmental consciousness in artistic endeavours. By integrating these principles into its curriculum, SDMK aims to cultivate a new generation of

musicians who are not only skilled artists but also responsible stewards of the environment, prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of the arts.

- Communication and raising awareness: research, artistic projects, performances

OBJECTIVES

- Music as a tool for environmental activism: (Encouraging students, teachers and staff) on the one hand to use music as a tool for environmental activism and raising awareness through research, artistic projects and performances that advocate for sustainability through the arts.
- Inspire change by promoting the voices of artist-students and by showing examples of environmental artistic choices, new career paths, landmark decisions from institutions such as orchestras or HMEI towards environmental issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use all your communication platforms and tools to raise awareness - in general, and of your actions - internal and external communication channels.
- Make sure that your Green team and/or Sustainability officer works closely in cooperation with the Communication team in order to regularly communicate the institutions' efforts towards the green shift
- Instead of deleting all paper options in your communication tools, use it wisely : in some situations paper is more efficient than digital, more appropriate for the targeted people, you can also print locally, choose eco friendly papers and inks, and think of the afterlife of your communication product : can it be reused (best), recycled, or collected as a souvenir or a gift ? etc. (Digital tools also have an environmental footprint, and an exponentially increasing one).
- Train your communication as well : they need to understand the full picture to do their job well and in the greenest way possible (know the dos and don'ts of green communication)
- Avoid greenwashing, be responsible and humble : keep a realistic eye between your actions and what is at stake. All your every greenish actions do not need publicity : less is more. Also note that the public

eye is more challenging on the matter than ever (every brands seem green and yet, climate change is still happening...)

- Set an environment monitoring internally and externally : keep eyes and ears open, there is plenty to know and share already.
- Good Practice
CNSMD Lyon's internal newsletter (which is sent each monday to students, teachers and staff) regularly shares environmental-related news : actions, projects and decisions from the institution, but also reports or data about climate change, state-sponsored program or projects on which students can apply, inspirational quotes, local events or initiatives... (The head of communication has been trained on environmental issues and on eco-friendly actions in communication. And she keep an active environment monitoring to find these contents.)
- **Artistic projects:**
- Good practice Open Your Eyes And Tell Me What You See project (Royal Irish Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Conservatoire de Paris and the University Mozarteum Salzburg):
<https://www.openyoureyestour.com/environmental-sustainability>
- Choirs against ecocide (Sibelius Academy, Helsinki):
<https://www.uniarts.fi/en/articles/features/choirs-unite-to-avert-ecocide-music-affects-our-bodies-and-feelings-and-allows-us-to-deal-with-difficult-topics-through-tangible-experiences/>
- *Orchester des Wandels*: protection of the climate, nature and species as part of their cultural mission:
<https://www.orchester-des-wandels.de/en/our-idea/>
- *Orchestra for the earth*: [environmentally positive music-making](#) - green performances & sustainable touring
- *Music & Climate*: Artistic exploration of the climate emergency
https://musik-klima.de/en/songs-co_en/
- *Percussion Meets Environmentalism*: A method of performance for environmental awareness (2023) by Porter Ellerman

This study lays the groundwork for future explorations and performances centred on percussion-based environmentalism. It investigates four distinct pieces chosen for their potential to address various environmental issues by modifying performance variables such as location, instrumentation, personnel, and contextual material. This research showcases one of many possible approaches to advocating for the environment through music. By emphasising decisions related to sound production and integrating context or subtext within each piece, the study provides a rationale for performance choices grounded in modern musical activism and theories of promoting positive

behaviours. Additionally, it explores contemporary musical activism in popular music and the emerging genre of ecoacoustics. The findings highlight the advantages of flexibility and creativity in this approach and the crucial role of audience engagement, while also addressing the challenges of sustainable practices for modern artists. Finally, the research underscores the potential for community interaction to foster small-scale environmental change and serve as a creative outlet for the emotional impacts of climate change.

- AMu organises various activities to raise awareness of the climate emergency: the Environmental panel organises the annual Environmental Day, which pairs interactive activities related to climate issues with various performances. Students play a key role in the Environmental panel's actions: they participate at the HEIs' *Strike for action*, and even put their skills to spread the word, such as creating short animation on the [recycling](#).
- Odense: student project (trumpet player)

● Final remarks and tasks for the future

- Give more visibility to students and more student engagement. Explain big student representation in the WG

In our efforts to foster sustainability, we recognize that students play a critical role as both visionaries and advocates for change. Engaging students in green practices not only helps raise awareness but also encourages the development of innovative solutions tailored to their institutions and future professions.

- **Integrate Green Topics into Student Councils:** If a student council or similar body exists, introduce environmental issues as a regular topic of discussion. This can be a platform to conduct brainstorming sessions where students can freely explore ideas and strategies for promoting sustainable practices.
- **Invite Student Input on Sustainability:** Students often bring fresh and creative perspectives to complex issues. Encourage students to share their ideas on improving green practices within their institutions. This approach not only empowers young minds but also allows for practical, innovative solutions that may otherwise be overlooked.
- **Conduct a Student-Led Survey on Green Practices:** Organise a survey designed and led by students to gather feedback and insights on current green practices. This can be instrumental in identifying areas for improvement and understanding students' priorities and concerns.
- **Support Student Ideas with Resources:** Providing students with tools, resources, and mentorship to turn their ideas into action demonstrates a commitment to sustainability. Where possible, allocate resources or seek partnerships that help students bring their projects to life.

- **Host a Green Student Meeting:** Organise an event specifically for students to discuss environmental topics. Such a gathering can inspire students, create a sense of community, and spark collaboration on green projects across different institutions.
- **Green Week (advanced):** Organise a green week with your student body, create awareness by setting up specific actions throughout the week. Invite guest speakers for a workshop about implementing green practices in artistic projects, invite the entrepreneurship professor to brainstorm about adding green examples in the lesson content.

examples:

Our working group:

The AEC Goes Green Working Group exemplifies student engagement by including students as active members. Currently, 3 out of the 7 members of this group are students, bringing fresh perspectives and firsthand insights into our discussions and initiatives.

Together, these students provide an essential perspective, ensuring that student voices shape our green initiatives and that the work we do aligns with the priorities of the next generation. Their involvement reinforces the importance of student representation in sustainability conversations, inspiring others to engage in impactful ways.

By prioritising student engagement, we can create a more sustainable, inclusive, and forward-thinking approach to environmental responsibility within educational institutions.

● References, Useful links and Resources

References

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Relevant presentations at the AEC annual events

- ❖ *Play Green! Implementing the Green Shift in HMEIs*, by ARTEMIS AEC Goes Green Working Group, AEC Annual Congress 2024: [abstract](#), [presentation](#) and [video recording](#)
- ❖ *Green Citizen Artists: integrating sustainability into music performance and education*, by Anna Lardi (Cellissimo Festival) and the AEC Goes Green group, moderated by Dimitrios Marinos, Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2024
- ❖ *Toward the green transition in higher music education*, by Dušanka Jelenković and Maria Kalleitner-Huber (AEC Goes Green Working Group) and Esther Vinuela, Porter Ellerman, and Morten Qvenild, AEC Annual Congress 2023
- ❖ *Going Green*, by AEC Goes Green Working Group, Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2023
- ❖ *Going Green Together* by Dušanka Jelenković Vidović, Barbara Lalić and Maria Sanz (AEC Goes Green Working Group), Maria Hensen (ELIA) and CNSMD Lyon students, AEC Annual Congress 2022: [abstract](#) and [presentation](#)

- ❖ [Building a Shared Road Map for Sustainability and Green Strategies](#) by Dimitrios Marinos, AEC Annual Meeting for International Relations Coordinators 2020

AEC Publications

- ❖ *Green Music, for inspiring action and change* (coming soon)
- ❖ [AEC Goes Green Survey Report: Data Collection and Analysis of Environmentally Sustainable Practices and Needs in Higher Music Education Institutions](#) (2024)
- ❖ Dimitrios Marinos, [Building a shared roadmap for Sustainability](#) (2021)

Relevant publications (a selection)

- ★ European Commission. [Implementation Guidelines - Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Green Transition and Sustainable Development Strategy](#). Publications Office of the European Union, 28 Nov. 2024.
- ★ Araujo, A, López, R, Viñuela, E (2023). [Environmental Sustainability Guide For Enterprising Musicians](#). Digital Music Observatory. <https://www.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10379856>
- ★ European Commission: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Kruger, T., Mohamedaly, A., Muller, V., Rodriguez, A. et al., *Greening the Creative Europe Programme – Final report*, Kruger, T.(editor), Mohamedaly, A.(editor), Muller, V.(editor), Rodriguez, A.(editor), Feifs, T.(editor) and Buiskool, B.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/625636>
- ★ European University Association. [A Green Deal roadmap for universities](#), 18 Oct 2023.
- ★ Voices of Culture. [Culture & Creative Sectors & Industries Driving Green Transition and Facing the Energy Crisis: Brainstorming Report](#). European Commission, 2023.
- ★ European Commission: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Kruger, T., Mohamedaly, A., Muller, V., Rodriguez, A. et al., [Greening the Creative Europe Programme – Final report](#), Kruger, T.(editor), Mohamedaly, A.(editor), Muller, V.(editor), Rodriguez, A.(editor), Feifs, T.(editor) and Buiskool, B.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/625636>
- ★ [European Union Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on learning for the green transition and sustainable development 2022/C 243/01](#)
- ★ European Commission: Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, [Learning for the green transition and sustainable development – Staff working document accompanying the proposal for a Council recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability](#), Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/02392>
- ★ Royal College of Music. [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\) Strategy](#). 2022.
- ★ [Guide to a Greener Exchange](#). Haaga-Helia, Laurea, and Metropolia Universities of Applied Sciences, 2022.
- ★ [The SHIFT Eco-Guidelines for Networks](#), 2022.

Other useful resources

- ❖ [Julie's Bicycle](#) focuses on integrating sustainability into the creative industries by addressing specific topics such as carbon reduction, climate justice, and sustainable touring. They provide tools like carbon calculators, frameworks, and tailored guidance to measure and manage environmental impacts. Through detailed reports, they explore areas such as circular economy, renewable energy use, and eco-conscious cultural practices.
- ❖ [EcoArts Nexus](#) fosters cross-sector partnerships between artists, cultural entities, and environmental professionals, aiming to promote sustainability in the arts. It focuses on creating synergies that drive positive change through creative and environmentally conscious practices.
- ❖ The [SHIFT Eco-Guidelines for Networks](#) provide a comprehensive framework for cultural networks to minimize their ecological footprint and adopt environmentally sustainable practices. These guidelines address key operational areas, including management policies, travel, and events daily operations. While specifically designed for cultural networks, the recommendations are adaptable and can serve as a valuable reference for any institution, including HMEIs, aiming to implement sustainable practices.
- ❖ [CreaSus](#) focuses on creating sustainable business models for the Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCSIs). It aims to support organizations in adopting environmental, social, and economic sustainability practices. The platform offers resources and strategies for creative businesses to thrive while minimizing their ecological impact.
- ❖ For general knowledge on the EU Green Deal, the GreenDeal-NET project offers a free, self-paced online course [Understanding the European Green Deal – History, Challenges, and Opportunities](#). This course is designed for individuals with prior knowledge of EU institutions and climate-related issues, and it includes quizzes and reflection exercises to enhance the learning experience. It is accessible to all and takes approximately 23-28 hours to complete.
- ❖ The University of Graz has launched a unique service with regard to the greenhouse gas emissions of travel. The free [CarbonTracer for mobility](#) maps travel processes holistically and calculates the emissions according to the latest scientific standards. The aim is to raise awareness of the issue and increase climate protection success. CarbonTracer is based on a science-based professional system, which works with real partial journeys, stopovers, change of means of transport etc.
- ❖ [The European Green Deal](#) bringing a wide strategy aimed at making Europe climate-neutral by 2050 through policies promoting clean energy, sustainable industry, biodiversity protection, and circular economy practices. For higher education, it emphasizes the integration of sustainability in curricula, research, and campus operations, encouraging universities to lead in climate innovation, green skills development, and fostering an environmentally responsible society.

