



ABBEYSTOWE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

PRESENTED BY THE ABBEY MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AT ABBEYSTOWE

Abbeystowe has in many ways, achieved it's own goals without conscious efforts or rather through fortunate coincidence. In our efforts to recreate Medieval Authenticity, we have already established expectations and practices with our operations and vendors, by eliminating single use plastics, encouraging sustainable 'authentic as possible' packaging with our food vendors and discouraging excessive waste practices with our retail stallholders.

Our facilities are designed with 'medieval practices' in mind, and we have worked towards eliminating single-use water bottles and introduced aluminium 'collectible' water bottles in 2023, to partner with our long-term supporter 'UnityWater' who provide a refillable water bottle stations.

We also adopt a circular economy, reselling our haybales used across the site during the Festival back to local farmers at a reduced price, and our retail efforts adopt upcycling and recycling of garments in our hand made banners and decorations, 'abbeymade' shop for costumes and accessories. Many of these practices will carry forward to our other Abbeystowe events.

In 2024 we are making a conscious marketing effort to reduce print waste by ceasing our DL Flyer Distribution which ordinarily saw 50,000 flyers printed and distributed, and strengthening our digital branding, which has similar engagement reach.

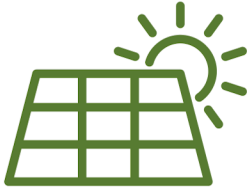
The Abbey Medieval Festival has been utilising recycling and Containers for Change facilities for many years at our own food and beverage outlets, and in 2023 we had support of Containers for Change bins across our back of house. We didn't implement these bins throughout the site as we discourage container sales to the public.

As a team, and through careful planning during our operations and planning stage, we are also adopting sustainable practices by reducing waste through collaboration via digital platforms and planning applications such as Monday.com and Sharepoint.

Abbeystowe is actively seeking to improve our sustainability practices with support of training and awareness resources supplied by Moreton City Council through their Sustainable Tourism program.

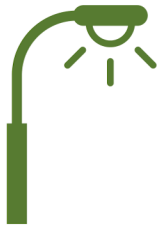


ABBEYSTOWE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION



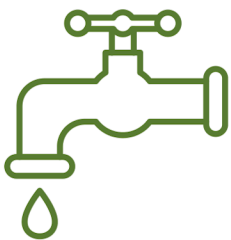
POWER USE

- Installation of solar panels to the Abbey Museum - reducing energy consumption on a daily basis for the planning and management of the Festival.
- Solar energy charges battery operated tools for site maintenance.
- The Festival requests only biodiesel generators (hired), which provide the power for the sound and food stalls.



LIGHTING

- The Festival requests only hybrid mobile lighting towers (hired), powered by batteries.



REDUCE MAINS WATER USE

- Irrigation of Festival site from dam water, reducing reliance on town water supply



ABBEYSTOWE SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION



PACKAGING

- All stallholders at events are required to use recycled or biodegradable food packaging, cutlery and cups.



TRANSPORT

- We encourage guests to choose a sustainable form of transport to and from the festival. We offer free bus shuttles between Caboolture Train Station and Abbeystowe and heavily encourage carpooling to events.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Working with the team from Clean Vibes to ensure recycling bins do not get contaminated and looking at composting bins for future events.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Utilising resources that can be reused for other purposes, for example Hay Bales sourced for seating is sold onto Farmers post-festival, banners, signage.

ABBEYSTOWE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AT A GLANCE

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Reduce General
Waste by event
participants by

25%

Increase by

50%

landfill diversion



EQUIPMENT

Use hybrid
technology for
all temporary
lighting solutions



Use bio-diesel
generators for
off-grid power
supply only



Use electric
vehicles
around site
where feasible



ENERGY & EFFICIENCY



Replace existing
lighting with LED
lights



Reduce Water
Consumption
with addition of
water tanks

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

\$0 Free
Shuttle
Bus

Links to main
transport
hubs



Encouraging
Carpooling
to events

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCUREMENT POLICY



Source
environmentally
ethical
products only

WASTE MANAGEMENT

We are committed to working with waste specialists to reduce the festival footprint. We aim to reduce our overall general waste by 25% in 2024 and increase our landfill diversion by 50% in the same year. We aim to do this by the following methods:

- Increase the percentage of bin stations positioned around the Festival site to offer both a general waste and recycling bin, in the aim to separate the waste into waste streams.
- Hire composting bins for all food vendors - with guidelines on how and when to use.
- The Abbey Community has a composting heap on site which can remove a significant proportion of compostable waste.
- Enforce the use of biodegradable cups, plates, cutlery and packaging for all food vendors.
- Restrict the sale of all plastic bottles across the site.
- Utilise the services of Containers for Change bins for back of house areas
- Use refillable drinking containers across the site - with water refill stations positioned in key locations
- Communicate with all festival stallholders the importance of sustainable goods and importance to reduce general waste, with incentives to those who do.

In 2024, plans are being developed to encourage vendors to go above and beyond with the development of a Green Trader Award for the most sustainable stallholder.



EQUIPMENT

A detailed review of all hired-in equipment occurs yearly to ensure we are engaging with the most reliable and sustainable organisations. By ensuring our suppliers have suitable products, we can help reduce our carbon footprint.

- Lighting Towers - Use of Hybrid Technology to reduce the use of fossil fuels
- Generators - Use of new, well maintained bio-diesel generators
- Vehicles - Use of electric powered vehicles where possible
- Hired Event Equipment - aim to source locally to reduce transport times

Co2 Emissions Policy

Climate Change is real and we all have a part to play. The Festival organisers recognise that the event generates carbon emissions as a result of producing the event (particularly through transport, electricity and diesel consumption) and is committed to avoiding, reducing and offsetting these emissions where feasible. In doing this we hope to significantly reduce and our atmospheric impacts and contribute to a growing awareness of the importance of environmental responsibility.

This policy forms part of a suite of policies and procedures designed to reduce the Festivals' overall environmental footprint, and reiterate our level of environmental awareness.



EQUIPMENT

Our Commitment

The purpose of this policy is to outline measures we are taking to reduce our Co2 emissions. We understand that we cannot completely eradicate the use of fossil fuels causing Co2 emissions for some time, so we have provided a number of objectives and commitments to minimize emissions. The underlying theme of this policy is to comply with the energy hierarchy i.e. avoid, reduce and offset carbon emissions. Co2 emissions can be broken down into four categories as follows:

1. Audience related emissions – guests arriving at our events
2. Transport – deliveries and equipment
3. Power – mains electricity and diesel generators / light towers etc.
4. Waste

Our Objectives

1. To calculate and review our carbon footprint through review and education
2. To actively avoid emissions where possible
3. To reduce, where possible, those emission that cannot be avoided
4. Offset – to commit to planting trees across the festival site and surrounds to offset some of those emissions that cannot be avoided

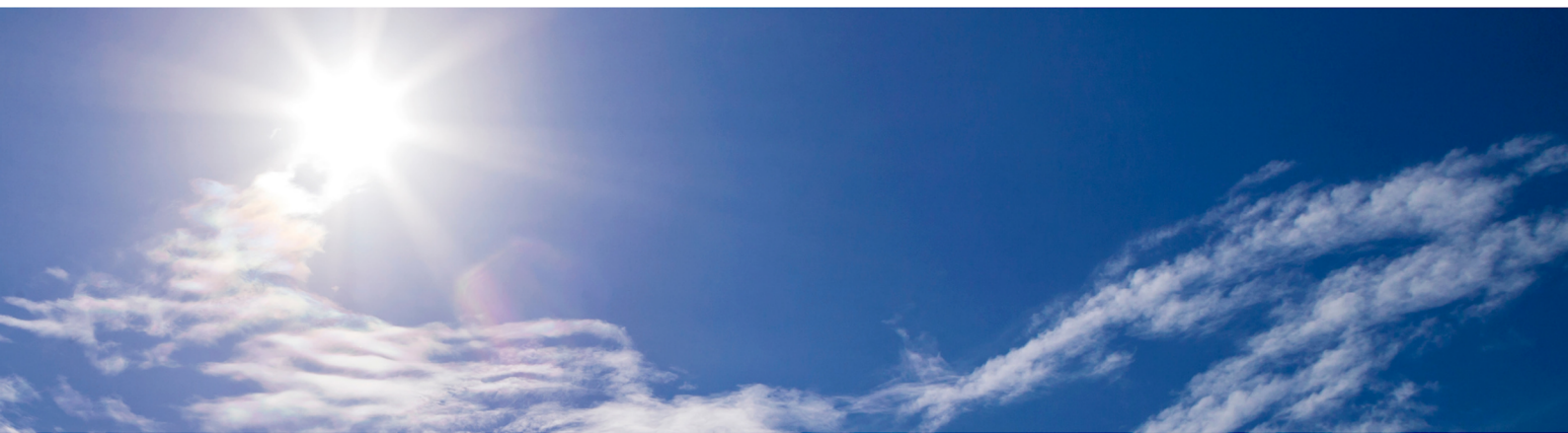


ENERGY & EFFICIENCY

The Abbeystone site has limited mains power, so we are always looking for options to reduce our reliance on temporary generators. We are currently investigating options to install solar system at the northern end of the site, with a battery system to function all year round.

We have obtained quotes to replace the existing spotlights with LED lights to reduce power consumption when in use and have replaced the lighting in the Volunteer & sewing centre with LED Bulbs in 2023.

We are also looking at options to further preserve water across the site with water tanks.



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

With Abbeystowe being a semi-rural location, away from major public transport, travel to and from the festival site is not straight forward. We offer a Free bus shuttle service between Caboolture Train Station and the Festival Site on event days, encouraging locals and those travelling via train to utilise this service, reducing the amount of vehicles on the roads around the Festival.

In 2023 we had a total of 2,469 passenger transfers between the Train Station and Abbeystowe, removing approximately 600 vehicles from the roads.

Carpooling – We promote carpooling to our ticket holders via social media and direct email campaigns in the lead up to the event and are looking at options to further incentivise carpooling in 2024 and beyond.

In keeping with our environmental impact awareness ethos, Abbestowe has created a transport policy to help reduce excessive usage of vehicles during events. One of the major concerns facing the global community is the impact of carbon emissions into the atmosphere which, in turn, exacerbates climate change. Climate change is a process that includes global warming and all other processes that increase the concentration of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This increase of greenhouse gases, such as Co2 from vehicle emissions, severely impacts on our climate and the natural environment we live in.

Transport accounts for roughly 13% of Queensland's carbon emissions and is the third largest source of emissions, so we feel that any unnecessary use of vehicles due to poor transport planning would be an oversight on our part. Since the reliance of transport to and from the festival is an important element in its success, there is a need to develop an appropriate transport policy with a strong commitment to the environment.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Our Commitment

We intend to manage the adverse affects of transport emissions by reducing transport requirements in a number of areas. We have designed this policy to outline the appropriate procedures when planning transport logistics.

The Transport Policy can be broken down into three main areas:

1. Abbey Festival Administration
2. Abbey Festival Site and Production
3. Festival Guests

Our Objectives

- Minimise the reliance on fossil fueled transport requirements
- Use careful planning to facilitate the transport needs of the administrative staff
- Minimise site and production related transport of goods and services
- Provide mass transit alternatives for festival guests
- Encourage the take up of mass transit transportation by way of incentives where applicable
- Encourage and Incentivise car pooling / sharing



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

Our Policy

The way we procure items for the festival creates substantial demand and can impact both positively and negatively on local and regional economies. We therefore have an ethical responsibility to embrace environmental sustainability through our guidelines for procurement. In implementing this we hope to influence the demand for environmentally preferable goods and services through our own direct market purchasing, as well as, by contributing to creating a market for ethically sourced goods and services. We feel a responsibility to influence the market in an environmentally responsible way.

Our Commitment

Our commitment to environmentally ethical procurement is constantly evolving and subsequently, the guidelines for this document will be updated to reflect developments in sustainable options for procurement. The purpose of this Policy is to define the procurement requirements for the AbbeyStowe Events. We understand that the environmental alternatives are not always available and so have constructed this Policy as a guide to be utilised by all event organisers when acquiring goods and services which will be used by the events. The underlying theme of this policy is that whenever possible, the Festival encourages and supports the procurement of locally sourced environmentally friendly products.

The Policy for Green Procurement can be broken down into three categories:

1. Festival Administration
2. Stallholders
3. Staging, Construction and Production



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

Our Objectives

- Ethically favourable items to be procured
- Ensure an ethical and environmentally favourable supply chain when sourcing Festival products
- Wherever possible, local suppliers are engaged to satisfy demand
- Sustainable Food – Supporting local Farmers working to improve animal welfare and environmental standards
- Fresh, seasonal and local food and produce
- Support Artisan producers of traditional and specialty products
- Encourage vendors to educate the public about food sources – providing information on what options are organic, free range and/or locally and responsibly sourced



GOVERNANCE & REPORTING



- Partner with MBRIT and Moreton City Council to continue to improve sustainable practices across events
- Engage EarthCheck to develop more detailed action plans in order to deliver Carbon Neutral Events
- Training and Support to staff and volunteers to ensure standards of sustainable practices are maintained.

ABBEYSTOWE EVENTS PRESENTED BY ABBEY MUSEUM

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**ABBEY
MUSEUM**

OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

*This sustainability plan is a work in progress and
subject to further updates. Last edit 20Dec23*