

Tumastaðir - Tom's Place

The European Festivals Forest

2023-2053

WHO

Arts Festivals across Europe are coming together to plant a forest in Iceland to offset their carbon emissions. The project is run by The European Festivals Forest Foundation, a not-for-profit registered in the Netherlands. Our key partner is Skógræktin - the Icelandic Forest Service.

WHY

Festivals are gatherers of progressive early adopters, free- and forward-thinkers, and are incubators of both societal positivity and behavioural change. 75% of all festivals' carbon footprint is audience and artists' travel. The European Festivals Forest is a simple way for the festival industry to lead a progressive call to climate action together.

From Myrkvidr and Silvanus to Gretel and the Gruffalo, the forest is central in European mythology.

WHAT

We are working with Skógræktin to plant 2,500 trees per hectare with locally incubated seedlings of Lodgepole pine, Sitka spruce, black cottonwood and downy birch in a mosaic landscape – a bio-diverse forest, with open glades, wetlands, streams and ponds.

In our sector's drive to Net Zero by 2030 this afforestation project is the carbon sequestration plan that complements best practice in reduction, repurpose and recycling sustainability policy in the events industry.

WHERE

Tumastaðir (Tom's Place) was originally a plantation owned by the Norwegian Forest Service. At the time, the land was completely forestless. In 1944, a grove of Sitka spruce was planted on the slope; the first in Iceland with more than a few trees. Tumastaðir is now a diverse forest - including ash, oak, martáll - with open areas and good access to roads and trails. The Sitka spruce seed garden is located in Tumastaðir with selected trees that will produce seeds in the coming years. Also produced there are seeds of the so-called 'Emblu', a mixture with Icelandic birch, which is bushy and fast-growing.





“A bio-diverse forest with open glades, ponds, streams and wetlands.”

WHEN

This is a big project. Let us break it down into long, medium and short term, and then the NOW.

LONG TERM vision will enable Strava Sigríksdóttir, a 22nd century luthier, to make violins and guitars from the spruces planted in the 2020s. Forest thinking is like Cathedral thinking, but instead of generations we are planning centuries of arboretum.

MEDIUM TERM stability of geography, the Icelandic Forest Service land management and partner ownership enables our festivals to plan for sustained and sustainable biodiversity, and carbon certification in 30-year cycles. Time and international collaboration maximises both carbon sequestration and efficacy.

SHORT TERM project management in 2023 sees mapping, fencing, scarification and seed cultivation. May 2023 first planting of saplings. Seeds will be pre-ordered in summer 2023 for planting in spring 2024.

NOW we can work together to pool our energy and resources to greatest effect. Please join us.

HOW

Participation in the European Festival Forest is simple and can be done in several ways:

- > a Carbon Coin levy of € 2 on every booking
- > voluntary donation of € 2 (or a multiple) via your ticket system
- > a fixed amount to offset travel movements

We will map the forested area and provide and issue an annual certificate for the newly planted trees.

Festivals can join the European Festivals Forest via www.festivalsforest.eu.

HOW MUCH?

The cost for seedlings and planting is €2 per tree. Carbon sequestration can be metered and certified at 1 tonne of carbon per 3 trees, over 30 years. A 1,000-kilometre flight can be offset, over 30 years, by planting 1 tree.

By combining with other festivals and collaborating across Europe we improve economies of scale - the unit costs are low, the sequestration rates are high, so we get the best possible deal.

European Festivals Forest's costs (such as website maintenance, administration costs and occasional travel expenses) are covered from the donations. These costs are detailed in an annual report on the website.



www.festivalsforest.eu

EUROPEAN FESTIVALS FOREST FOUNDATION

Charity registration number 84843225 at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce