

THE GIRONA  
SUSTAINABILITY SESSION

A FESTIVALS INTRO TO  
CLIMATE ACTION

65 minutes of  
brainstorming  
at the 2023 EFA Summit

What can we DO about  
climate action?

Festivals of every size and  
format shared experience of  
practical climate actions.

TRUST THE ROOM



### Food

responsible use of natural resources, reuse residual flows, reduce waste



### Plastics

reduce and recycle plastic  
refuse single-use plastic



### Travel & Transport

reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
reduce fossil fuels

### Governance

Net zero Action Plan,  
Annual CO2 reports



### Resources

Recycle materials  
Reduce waste  
shorten supply chain



### Energy

use of renewable electricity  
reduce fossil fuel



### Water

reduce use of fresh water



### Mitigate

Pay the carbon cost



Introduce meat-free or plant-based options for staff and public.

Insist upon local 50km rule for all food sourcing.

Recycle food surplus and separate food waste responsibly.

Use minimally damaging packaging and service.

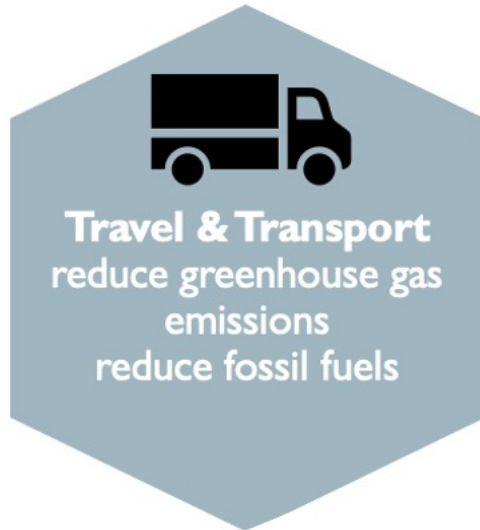
Use disposable plates and cutlery of bio-based material.

Celebrate your food offering. Share feasts and promote food culture as part of the festival. Humankind does not live by art alone.

NB – Catering is super-heavy on energy use and waste disposal

Don't fly less than 800km on the mainland.

Install good bike racks at your public venues. Rickshaw taxis?  
Publish bike routes to venues.



Encourage audiences to arrive by public transport. Cut a deal for ticketholders with train & bus companies.

Use electric fleet cars for artists' transport. Arrange electric charging points at your venue. And get sponsorship from the electric motor industry. Encourage car shares.

Develop festival tours for international artists to maximise benefit of intercontinental travel.

Zoom | MS Teams | skype | facetime....

NB – up to 70% of a festival's carbon footprint is audience transport & travel

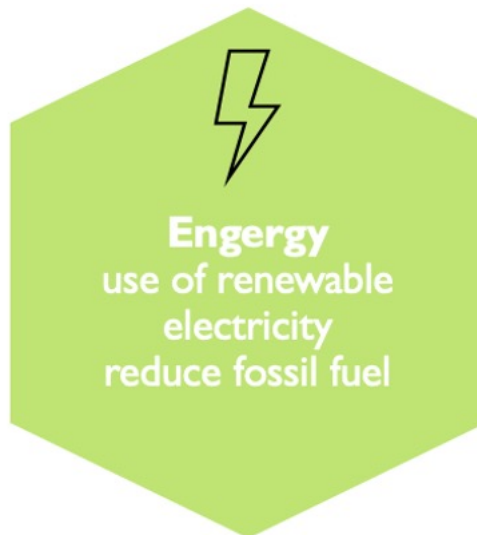
Use LED light bulbs.

Buy electricity from renewable sources.  
If you need to churn, negotiate.

Think about a smart power plan to use less electricity.

Use rechargeable batteries.

Install wind turbine or solar panels to power  
your own usage and feed the community.  
Capital capacity building is an attractive  
fundraising proposition.



Use biofuel not diesel in back-up generators.

NB – renewable energy companies have substantial acquisition costs  
for new customers and festival audiences are a target market

Just STOP.

Abandon single-use plastics in all elements of production.

Recycle everything you cannot ban.

Redesign Friends badges, lanyards, office material, merch, banners, ad boards with repeat usage in mind.



NB – As far as we know, plastic may take up to 500 years to decompose.  
Unless it's in the oceans, when it just doesn't decompose at all.

NB – it's really easy to do, and everybody likes it. Like banning smoking.

Replace plastic bottled water with free water taps and elegantly branded water bottles, sustainably sourced and free with every €10 note. Or ask them to bring their own flacons!

If you have a permanent festival site, think about the practicality of a bore-hole.

Think about collecting rainwater for festival gardens.

Think about recycled greywater use on site and for loos.

Think about composting human waste for your punters' gardens.

NB – Singing in the rain is really only fun for Gene Kelly  
See also – sunburn



Print less, on sustainably-sourced paper.

Share infrastructure and hardware with creative industry colleagues.

Sell ongoing-use and sustainably and ethically-sourced merch.

What further use does your festival kit have for the local community throughout the year.

Develop a green code for suppliers and contractors.



Buy local.

Forge alliances with event organisers in sports, education, religion etc.

Dispose of obsolete tech responsibly through local hardware salvage teams.

NB – how can we deepen our relationships within the community?



## CREATE A ROAD MAP TOWARDS NET ZERO

Drive a climate policy of awareness and action throughout the organisation from baseline measurement. Staff your climate action plan and report at every board meeting.

Use a carbon audit to measure your impacts.

\*more from EFA coming soon on this

Use concerted climate action to build alliances in government and in business. We have a vibrant and vital constituency.

Set up training for staff and ask for help on carbon literacy.



COMMUNICATE what you are facing, what you are doing, and how everyone can help. Collaborate, share ideas and experience.

**Promote and commission work from artists who embrace change. Festivals inspire.**

Platform scientists rather than activists. Talk about sustainability at your festival.

Be a test-lab for start-up innovation in sustainability.

NB – get ahead of regulation and compliance  
Mandatory Climate Action Plans are coming. Let's set the agenda

# Let's Plant Trees

When you've reduced, recycled, repurposed and reused, there's still a carbon footprint to offset

Collaborate with festivals across Europe and with touring companies and venues

€2 per tree

Birch, Sitka Spruce, Cottonwood Pine

30-year, 60-year, 200-year cycles

3 trees per Carbon Tonne



**Mitigate**

Pay the Carbon Cost

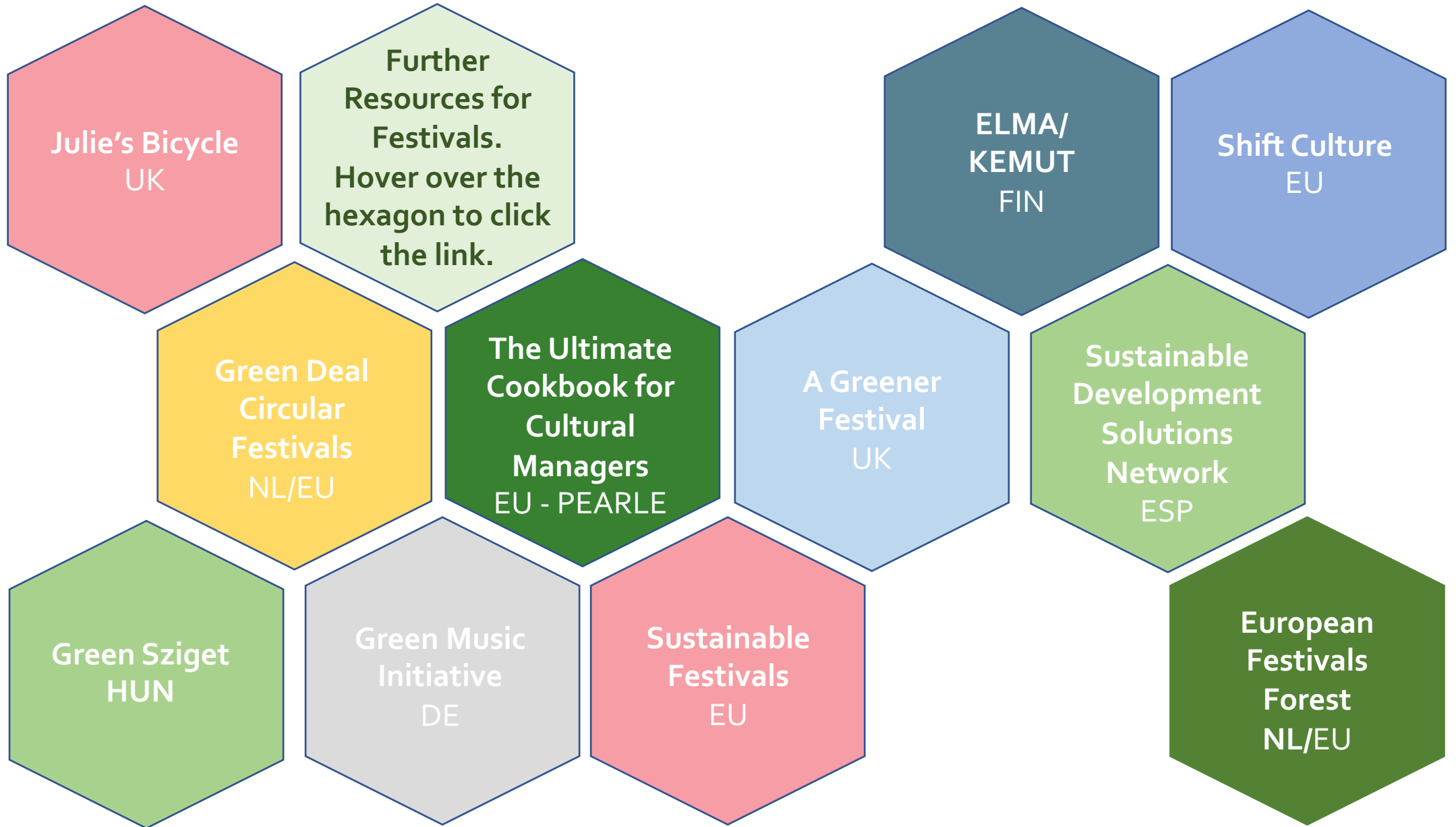
European Festivals Forest

in partnership with



**skógræktin**

ICELANDIC FOREST SERVICE



This is what happened when  
100 people came together to  
share practical experience for  
1 hour and 5 minutes.

Imagine what we can do now.

Thank you.

Tamar Brüggemann  
& Peter Florence  
  
For the  
European Festivals Forest