

### **Small-scale Sustainable Filmmaking Guide**

While large-scale film and television productions are often the focus for organisations such as ALBERT (UK), the Producer's Guild of America (USA), BFTP (Denmark), and MOIN (Germany), there are notable differences and ideas that can be implemented for smaller productions – as often developed by independent filmmakers.

Certainly, for larger (international) productions, both budgets and sustainability factors can involve sourcing local crew, cast, and hardware, plus ensuring that logistics such as catering promote sustainable solutions (i.e. use of containers from renewable sources, absence of plastic cutlery, provision of water fountains/ sources for bottles), and a reduction overall in the carbon footprint of productions through the use of green vehicles and power sources, not all of these options are applicable to those working on smaller budgets and can sometimes be discouraging to tackle.

**What can be achieved on a budget, however, does share some similarities with feature productions, and can be scaled up or down to suit. As such, we encourage filmmakers to consider the following, and provide a ratings guide for productions being submitted to the international #SDGFilmfest.**

- Use of public transport:  
Buses, taxis, trains, green modes of transport such as EVs, scooters
- Locally sourced:  
Cast, crew, kit, accommodation, security, PLI
- Resources and hardware:  
Portability of equipment, size, cost to transport (carnets), power and charging, use of more energy efficient kit such as LED lighting
- Catering:  
On site water sources/ use and promotion of renewable containers
- Recycled props and wardrobe  
Can the be sourced from organisations like Nottingham Community Wardrobe or Locationz?
- Sustainability narratives, storylines, actions, dialogue, props

What is your film about? How do you foreground sustainability? Are the objects in frame noticeably recycled, or are recycling practices undertaken by your characters?

Of course, we don't expect you to touch on all the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals from this production guide but is it worthwhile remembering that you can inform audiences, hire local talent, act sustainably yourselves and make a difference to local economies.

	Insignificant 2	Minor 4	Significant 6	Substantial 8	Superb 10
<b>Logistics</b>					
Transport	Substantial overseas transport for cast and crew	Uses only private transport	Some public/ some private transport	Only public transport used	Identifiable green public transport
Refreshments	External catering firm. Single use plastics and utensils. Limited menu choices	Limited evidence of sustainably sourced refreshments	Provision of some sustainable refreshments, e.g. reusable containers, water fountains etc.	Local catering, fully sustainable with plant-based alternatives	Cast and crew encouraged to bring own water bottles and use approved local catering
<b>Resources</b>					
Props etc.	Non-reusable elements including fast fashion, single use plastics, disposable set components	Single use props or wardrobe bespoke to the production	Some recycled props or wardrobe	Many reusable or recycled components	Fully recycled props and wardrobe including product placement
Equipment	High-end kit, and carnet services used for international transport	Limited compromise in terms of equipment or facilities used	Some attempt to render the production scalable	Portable small-scale kit brought in from an outside location	Locally sourced, energy efficient equipment
Power	Generator power, uses substantial external power sources for lighting etc.	Limited compromise in terms of power sources used	Some attempt to comprise and use on and off set power	Sourced from renewable energy providers	Powered exclusively from sustainable sources
<b>People</b>					

Local Talent	Talent hired in and accommodated/ transported	Limited attempt to source local talent	Some attempt to recruit/ work with local talent or crew	Strong liaison with local talent acquisition	Extensively local cast and crew used for production
Economy	No use or investment in local businesses	Marginal use of local businesses, mostly uses established or familiar sources	Some use of local businesses for on the ground logistics	Invests in local economy by hiring/ using local firms or agents	Exclusive use of local businesses and services
Narrative	No sustainable plot lines or narrative devices	Limited attempt to integrate SDG themes within the work	Some use of SDG themes within the work	Identifiable use of SDG themes within the work	Extensive use of sustainable plot lines, props, and dialogue
Health and wellbeing	No H&W provision	Limited attempt to manage staff wellbeing	Some awareness of promoting good H&W by building in rest stops and refreshments	Good awareness of promoting good H&W via reduced shift patterns, screen time, scheduled breaks	Promotes Health and wellbeing on and off set with organised activities and events
Equality, inclusion and diversity	Limited evidence of EDI in terms of recruitment, casting, crew	Limited awareness or integration of inclusivity and diversity	Some awareness of promoting inclusivity and diversity	Good awareness of use of EDI initiatives in terms of recruitment and employment	Promotes Equality and inclusion on set and on screen, strong awareness of legal obligations

Now, please add up the above factors in terms of how you have (or intend) to use them.

You will need to place these at the start of your film alongside the relevant sustainability certificate include on the #SDGFilmfest website.

Your total sustainability score = %