



Sing Ireland – Climate Action Policy

Sing Ireland recognises the urgent need for all organisations and individuals to address the climate crisis and acknowledges the unavoidable impact it has on our environment and communities. This policy outlines our commitments, goals and actions towards addressing climate change.

Our Commitment

We will mitigate our impact

As an organisation, Sing Ireland is committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. We will actively reduce our carbon footprint, promote sustainability, and work towards ensuring a safer future in the face of the climate emergency.

To help mitigate climate change, we will prioritise the use of renewable energy where practical and will consider energy efficiency and environmental impact in the management of our events, residential programmes, workshops and other activities. Planning and management will emphasise sustainable materials and responsible waste management, with environmental considerations incorporated from the outset of projects.

Sing Ireland will set measurable environmental objectives and actions through its environmental planning and review processes, enabling us to monitor progress and identify areas for further improvement.

We will raise awareness and advocate

Sing Ireland will create opportunities for staff, members, stakeholders and partner organisations to share knowledge and increase understanding of the impact of the arts and cultural sector on climate change.

Through our programmes, communications and engagement with the singing community, we will encourage practical and achievable approaches to environmental sustainability. We will collaborate with others on initiatives that promote climate action within the arts and cultural sector and the wider community.

We will continuously improve

Sing Ireland will regularly review this policy and our activities to ensure that they remain aligned with emerging best practice, relevant legislation, Arts Council guidance and new knowledge within the environmental and cultural sectors.

We will monitor progress against our environmental objectives and review our approach annually, using the findings to identify practical improvements. Where appropriate, progress and actions will be incorporated into organisational planning and reporting.

Singing Sustainably

Sing Ireland proactively shares sustainability resources with its members and programme participants, leading by example and encouraging our members to adopt similar policies and objectives.

Some of our sustainable singing practices include:

- Encouraging the use of digital sheet music, rehearsal tracks, and online resources to minimise paper use and reduce transportation emissions.
- Promoting events through social media and digital channels to decrease the need for paper flyers and printing.
- Using projector screens or tablets for sheet music instead of printing copies and providing loaned copies where necessary.
- Using QR codes for event programmes, eliminating the need for printed materials.
- Choosing local venues to reduce travel-related emissions and encouraging carpooling and public transportation for rehearsals and performances.
- Setting up recycling and compost bins in rehearsal and performance spaces to help reduce waste.
- Encouraging the use of reusable cups and water bottles for all events and residencies.
- Reducing food waste through careful planning for residencies and partnerships to donate surplus unopened items.
- Encouraging partnerships with environmentally conscious organisations and venues and engaging in local sustainability initiatives.

Sing Ireland also supports choirs and singing groups in providing education and training on sustainable practices, which can create lasting change in their communities.

Embedding Climate Change Initiatives

Our leadership commitment

Sing Ireland's senior leadership team will champion climate change action and sustainable practices within the organisation. The Board and Executive Team will work together to incorporate clear climate change goals into our strategic planning and organisational objectives.

Our staff engagement

Sing Ireland will foster a culture of sustainability and knowledge sharing related to climate change within our sector and community. We will encourage staff to participate in implementing climate change initiatives and provide them with resources to enhance their awareness and understanding of our organisation's role in creating positive change.

Our suppliers and funders

When procuring goods and services, Sing Ireland will prioritise sustainability alongside cost-effectiveness. We will apply clear criteria for procurement processes related to our events, operations, and services. Higher costs may be justified when they deliver significant environmental benefits.

Suppliers will be asked to provide their environmental policies as part of their quotes to ensure alignment with our sustainability goals. If a supplier lacks an environmental policy, we will seek details on their efforts toward becoming more sustainable. At least one environmentally sustainable option will be evaluated when sourcing physical goods. Sing Ireland is also committed to transparent funding, with all donors disclosed to stakeholders.

Working with partner organisations

When collaborating with partner organisations, Sing Ireland will encourage them to adopt similar environmental policies. We will request a copy of their environmental policies and aim to minimise travel-related impacts by using platforms such as Zoom, Teams, and video conferencing. We will encourage partners to communicate their environmental commitments to their audiences and share how others can contribute.

For training workshops, meetings, or events, Sing Ireland will seek out venues with strong environmental policies, including in their catering services. Where necessary, we will provide our own materials and equipment. If a venue lacks an adequate environmental policy, we will work with them to improve it by suggesting areas for enhancement and ways to make their policy more actionable.

Travel and accommodation policies

Sing Ireland's travel and accommodation policies prioritise sustainability. Travel expense claims include departure and arrival locations, as well as the mode of transportation used. This information allows us to track and report our travel-related carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it.

When travelling for business purposes, the method of transportation should be chosen based on cost-effectiveness and environmental impact. For local travel, cycling, walking, or public transportation are prioritised when time permits, rather than relying on taxis or private vehicles. For international trips, direct flights are preferred over flights with multiple short-haul connections. Cars should only be used for business travel if they represent the most sustainable option. If using a personal vehicle, the mileage reimbursement rate applicable under Sing Ireland's travel policy will apply.

Sing Ireland aims to increase the use of video conferencing where appropriate and establish clear guidelines on when travel is necessary, as our work continues to evolve over the coming years. When selecting accommodation for business travel, it is preferable to stay with friends or family over hotels, to reduce the carbon emissions associated with hotel services such as laundry.

Breaches and misconduct

Any incidents of non-compliance with this policy will be investigated and reported through an incident report process. This ensures accountability, adherence, and continuous improvement in our commitment to mitigating climate change.

Evaluation and review

Sing Ireland will monitor progress in achieving the goals and targets outlined in this policy. Actively seeking feedback from stakeholders, including staff and the community, allows us to gather diverse perspectives and make necessary adjustments to enhance our climate change mitigation efforts. Annual reports will disclose results and progress transparently, fostering accountability and ensuring continuous evaluation and improvement. In future, this will be managed through Sing Ireland's Environmental Action Plan.

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Sing Ireland – Climate Action Plan 2026

1. Introduction

Sing Ireland is committed to translating its Climate Action Policy into tangible steps through an annual Climate Action Plan. This plan outlines five key actions for 2026, with specific strategies to reduce emissions, integrate sustainable practices, and promote environmental responsibility within the organisation and the wider singing community. By implementing these measures, Sing Ireland will move closer to its goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

2. Actions for 2026

2.1 Conduct a Full Carbon Audit

In 2026, Sing Ireland will conduct a full carbon audit to establish a baseline for emissions across its operations. Subject to funding considerations, this audit will be carried out in collaboration with an environmental consultant, to ensure accurate measurement and further analysis. The findings will be published in an Annual Climate Report, which will track progress and help identify priority areas for future reductions. The carbon audit will guide strategic decision-making and provide a framework for continuous improvement.

2.2 Reduce Travel-Related Emissions

To address travel-related emissions, Sing Ireland will implement a policy requiring carbon offsetting for all international flights and banning domestic flights where viable train or bus alternatives exist. Additionally, the organisation will increase the use of video conferencing for meetings and workshops, aiming for a 20% reduction in business travel-related emissions. To further encourage sustainable transport, Sing Ireland will introduce incentives for staff and members who carpool or use public transportation when attending rehearsals and events.

2.3 Implement a Sustainable Procurement Policy

A Sustainable Procurement Policy will be introduced to ensure that all goods and services align with environmental best practices. Where appropriate, suppliers will be required to submit an environmental policy before contract approval, and at least 30% of physical purchases - including merchandise, event materials, and operational supplies - will come from sustainable sources. In addition, Sing Ireland will use eco-friendly venues where appropriate, balancing the social impact on the community being served and venue accessibility with sustainability priorities.

2.4 Promote Digital & Paper-Free Practices

As part of its commitment to paper-free and digital-first practices, Sing Ireland will aim to reduce printed materials by 50% in 2026. This will be achieved by transitioning to QR codes, tablets, and online platforms for event programs, rehearsal materials, and internal documents. Training materials will be developed for choirs to encourage the use of digital sheet music, ensuring that technology adoption is smooth and effective. Promotional materials will also move to digital platforms, eliminating the need for paper flyers and reducing unnecessary waste.

2.5 Sustainability self-audit for choirs

Sing Ireland will work to create resources to encourage and recognise sustainable practices among choirs. This will include a self-audit and sustainability questionnaire designed to help choirs assess their efforts in key areas such as waste reduction, travel efficiency, and environmentally responsible event management. By completing the audit, choirs will receive guidance and resources to help implement eco-friendly initiatives. Our goal is to foster a culture of environmental responsibility and leadership within the choir community.

3. Monitoring & Evaluation

To ensure accountability, Sing Ireland will hold quarterly sustainability meetings to assess progress on the Climate Action Plan. An Annual Sustainability Report will be published, detailing the impact of implemented measures and identifying areas for further improvement. Additionally, feedback from choirs, stakeholders, and staff will be gathered to refine future plans and ensure that sustainability efforts remain relevant and effective.

4. Future Considerations for 2027

Looking ahead to 2027, Sing Ireland will explore further initiatives to expand its sustainability efforts. This may include the introduction of zero-waste event guidelines, the development of enhanced sustainability training programmes for choirs, and increased collaboration with national and international environmental initiatives. These efforts will build upon the progress made in 2026, ensuring that Sing Ireland continues to lead by example in promoting environmental responsibility within the arts and cultural sector.

This Climate Action Plan provides a structured, measurable approach to sustainability and will be reviewed and updated annually to reflect progress, emerging challenges, and evolving best practices.