



## FOCUSING ON COLLABORATION

This prestigious theatre is finding ways to build environmental sustainability into its productions, while encouraging creative conversations about the climate crisis.

### Introduction

Founded in 1970, the Young Vic is a renowned performing arts venue known for its creative, cutting-edge theatrical productions. Driven by strong social values, it is committed to nurturing young talent, engaging with local communities in South Bank and Waterloo, and making excellent drama that enthralls and entertains audiences from across the capital and beyond.



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## The challenge

As a dynamic, forward-thinking organisation with social justice and fairness at its core, the Young Vic is conscious of the impact of climate change and its responsibility to meet the challenges this poses head on. It is also aware of the opportunities that exist to present these issues to audiences through the power of storytelling. This has meant taking a diverse approach to sustainability, adopting practices that meet the challenges of running a busy public space and managing the environmental impact of its operations, while at the same time finding ways to address the climate crisis in its creative output and community work.



## The approach

**Tapping into existing expertise in the cultural sector through working with a range of advisory organisations has been a key part of the theatre's overall approach**

This has allowed them to develop a clear set of commitments which are helping to reduce emissions locally in line with neighbourhood-wide goals, including:

### **Adopting the Theatre Green Book**

Since January 2023, this is a cross-sector initiative that provides guidance to theatres across the UK in how to implement green strategies in Productions, Operations and Buildings. In practice, it means encouraging creative teams to think differently, e.g. re-using props or sets in productions or passing on useful materials to other organisations that need them.



## The approach (cont.)

### **Participating in 'Creative Green'**

Since 2012, the Young Vic has participated in this programme devised by Julie's Bicycle, an advisory group which helps cultural organisations take practical action in response to the climate crisis.

The theatre continues to capture data and apply these principles, which have included installing LED lighting across the building, practicing a zero waste to landfill policy, working with more ethical food and drink suppliers, and planting a green roof garden and terrace which helps to regulate building temperature, assists in localised storm-water management, and creates a space for urban wildlife.

The Young Vic has a 5 star Creative Green rating

### **Continuing the work of the Creators Program**

This engages the theatre's network of artists in conversations around sustainability and holds regular workshops and discussions that explore how to make work that addresses the climate crisis and our response to it.

## Results

The theatre has achieved the Baseline or Intermediate standards of The Theatre Green Book on all of its Productions, and sources its energy from a green energy provider.

It reduced business travel by staff and artists from 170 tonnes CO2 in 2022/23 to 47 tonnes in 2023/24. Energy use also reduced by 6 tonnes of CO2 in the same period.

## Key learnings

Building ways to fight climate change into a business or cultural organisation doesn't have to cost more. Making the most of what you already have, finding creative ways to reuse materials, sharing resources with others in the local community. All these things can save money in the long run.

*“The Young Vic is called ‘young’ because it is about the future, the next generation, emergence and wonderment. Artists are the real architects of change. We want to leave this theatre, our borough, and the world better than we found it.”*

Lucy Davies, Executive Director

## Find out more

Visit the Young Vic's website to [read more about their environmental commitment](#).

Read more [here](#) about South Bank and Waterloo's action plan for a fairer, greener neighbourhood.

