

## **WBTS Energy and Sustainability Policy**

**adopted August 2022**

**Next Review: 2024**

The WBTS Sustainability Statement aims over time to encourage a culture of sustainable development across all the organisation's activities and to establish and promote good environmental practice in our operations.

Sustainability is important to us. This statement sets out our principles in relation to sustainable practice.

1. WBTS aims to protect our natural environment and biodiversity.  
Its objectives in this aim are to:
  - recycle as much waste as possible
  - provide a safe and healthy environment for our volunteers and patrons
  - participate in initiatives to promote sustainable practices
  - minimise the use of paper wherever possible e.g., by sending notices, correspondence etc. by email
  - recycle equipment that is no longer useful to the organisation
  - ensure that all green waste produced by us is properly disposed of
  - keep our use of plastics to a minimum
  - recycle all unavoidable plastic to comply with environmental regulations
  - keep our use of energy as low as possible
  - avoid unnecessary travel by using messaging apps, telephone and video-conferencing to communicate, whenever it is feasible to do so
  - choose suppliers who promote good environmental practices where possible
  - reuse/recycle waste-paper and packaging
  - purchase supplies made from recycled material where possible.

Examples of measures WBTS are putting in place include:

- Providing reusable, insulated 'keep' cups for beverages, recyclable water bottles with a view to acquiring a dispenser for fresh drinking water when funding allows
- Using recyclable or compostable containers for lunch servings
- Using wooden or washable, conventional cutlery
- Replacing conventional dessert with whole fruit/fruit salad dessert at lunch and at break times
- Sending digital festival programmes to attendees, with a view to gradually eliminating printed programmes over time
- Adapting a festival programme to be scrolled on large screen in the venue lobby when possible
- Ensuring the minimal use of printed festival posters, designed to be reusable.
- Installing low energy LED lighting and sound systems
- Procuring furnishings and equipment of the highest quality and best value for money
- Monitoring and maintaining of all equipment by a designated sub-committee to ensure fair and proper use and long-lasting benefits

- Supporting Kilmore Quay in its aspiration to become Ireland's flagship coastal eco-village and a sustainable community of national and international significance.
2. WBTS aims to sustain and strengthen our local community. Its objectives in this aim are to:
- Enhance the cultural life of the local community
  - Offer opportunities to local people to become involved in cultural activities
  - Promote an awareness and appreciation of the arts in the local community
  - Stimulate economic activity late in the tourism season
  - Provide opportunities for local people to engage in arts education and training
  - Ensure fair usage, equality of opportunity, inclusion and respect for diversity in all our activities

Examples of measures WBTS are putting in place are:

- Designing and producing literary festival events to a very high standard
  - Inviting the local community to become involved with the festival
  - Making some festival events free to the community
  - Mounting visual arts exhibitions in conjunction with the festival
  - Hosting writing workshops regularly to encourage and support local talent
  - Attracting visitors from other areas and from abroad to come to Kilmore Quay
  - Offering access to WBTS short training programmes to members of the local community
  - Making available the use of WBTS equipment to other community groups and events
  - Making no distinction between those who attend WBTS events ensuring that all events are inclusive and that all of our venues are wheelchair accessible
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- Making no distinction between those who use WBTS equipment, once an undertaking has been received that due care of property will be adhered to at all times.

WBTS will continue to strive to find ways to improve and implement our sustainable practice.

This policy was adopted by the WBTS Committee at a committee meeting on Tuesday 9th August 2022.

**Date for Review August 2024**