

Environmental Policy

About Central

Central is a self-governing college of the University of London, combining practical training and production with a highly ranked research programme and the largest grouping of performing arts specialists in the UK. It offers undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses, covering: acting; drama, applied theatre and education and; theatre practice.

Key facts and figures:

- Founded 1906
- Approx. 155 staff and 1000 students
- Location: 1 campus in Swiss Cottage, comprising six buildings, built at different times since the early 1900s, and one off-site studio a five minute walk away
- Main facilities: lecture halls, rehearsal rooms, performance studios, one theatre, workshops, computer room, library, offices, café, canteen and student bar

Environmental Statement

Central's ambition is to become a leader in environmental sustainability for theatre thereby being a positive influence in the industry. It is seeking to target sustainability from a variety of angles; by embedding sustainable practice throughout its estate and operations, curriculum and production activity. It is by seeking to embed environmental thinking/practice into every aspect of theatre production, as a theatre specialist, that Central wishes to grow green practice throughout its whole being and thereby act as a beacon for all within the performing arts sector.

Environmental Objectives and Responsibilities

Environmental sustainability is embedded within Central's Corporate Plan (2013-2018). The School is committed, as part of its institutional identity, to maintaining a sustainable institution and recognises both the challenge and need to optimise environmental performance to enhance economic sustainability.

Consideration of the environment is implicit to the roles of all Central employees, however specific responsibilities are an integral part of the posts of the Director of Operations and the Environment & Safety Manager (at a current allocation of 0.1fte and 0.7fte respectively) to ensure and develop sustainable practices throughout the institution.

Implementation Strategy

The environment in which Central operates presents many challenges and opportunities. Central has aimed to embrace issues of sustainability by incorporating environmental criteria as part of substantive job roles and via the creation of tailored policies. These policies are in the process of being revised and expanded to incorporate more key areas where Central's activities impact upon the environment.

Waste Management Policy

General waste:

In 2013/14 Central recycled approximately one third of its general waste; the remaining two-thirds were disposed of as residual waste (43% incineration and 22% landfill).

In 2014/15 the aim is to increase the recycling rate at Central; the objective is to recycle two-thirds of all general waste produced across campus. Central will seek to achieve an increase in general recycling via the following measures:

- A waste contract that recycles a wide variety of materials
- Fit for purpose bins with clear signage
- Food recycling facilities for canteen and staff kitchen
- Staff and student recycling information/ guidance on intranet Environment page

Workshop waste:

In May 2014 Central introduced formal recycling facilities for specific workshop materials and set production waste. Previous to this, the majority of unwanted set production materials, props and workshop waste had been recycled; however there had been no formal procedure or documentation in place to guarantee sustainable practice. The updated facilities now allow for the collection and recycling of smaller materials that previously were disposed of as residual waste e.g. material scraps from Wardrobe and sawdust/wood chips from the Scenic and Props Construction workshops.

Central's aim in 2014/15 is to document all workshop/production waste; this will facilitate the creation of a baseline recycling and residual waste figure specific to theatre production. The monitoring of waste channels will also ensure the highest proportion of all waste is being recycled.

Hazardous waste:

The quantity of hazardous waste produced at Central is relatively small. The school actively avoids or minimises any activity or process that would incur waste with a hazardous component. The main hazardous waste items are therefore limited to discarded electrical equipment and light bulbs. Central ensures that all hazardous waste is disposed of via licensed hazardous waste carriers.

Energy Management Policy:

Central has a Carbon Management Plan which requires it to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by August 2015 from a 2009/10 baseline. In 2009/10 Central's carbon footprint resulting from electricity, gas and water consumption was 689 tonnes of CO₂. Central has reduced its carbon emissions from its 2009/10 baseline, however its current infrastructure has made it difficult to make significant reductions. It is therefore hoped that by investing in the following projects recommended in the Carbon Management Plan, Central will advance closer towards its 2015 carbon emissions target.

In 2013/14 Central contracted to have all its electricity supplied from renewable sources.

In 2014/15 Central aims to:

- Replace and consolidate boilers/install new centralised BMS/install variable speed drives within Main Building, Embassy Extension and East Block.
- Revise and optimise existing BMS controls in West Block to increase efficiencies.

Sustainable Production Policy

Central has developed a Production Policy that has sustainable principles at its core. This policy is based on artistic and environmental best practice developed by the UK and international theatre sector, and Central's own practical research into theatre production. It prepares students for work within a creative sector that is rapidly adapting to Arts Council England's environmental funding requirements, and recognises that increasingly more organisations and individual practitioners are concerned with the sustainability of the work that we make and tour.

Staff and students are required to read and apply the guidance included in this policy for every show that is produced at Central, and to use it as a resource to inform their professional career. A copy of the policy can be found by contacting David Ripley, Head of Technical Support Department or Susanne Page, Environment and Safety Manager, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

Sustainable Catering Policy

Central outsource their catering operations to Bartlett Mitchell catering services. The company have an established environmental policy which Central has adopted as their own Sustainable Catering Policy.

In recognising our environmental responsibilities we are determined, where ever possible, to exceed legislation and set standards within the food service industry. We benchmark ourselves against and are working in conjunction with the ISO14001 Environmental Management Standard.

We concentrate our efforts on:

- Compliance with all environmental legislation and relevant best practice
- Establishment of environmental risk management measures designed to minimise the likelihood and severity of our incidents and impacts
- The establishment of relevant indicators to help us continually improve, in particular:
 - consider the most ethical, local, sustainable & environmentally friendly products and production methods
 - minimise waste of disposable materials, fossil fuels, energy or other consumables
 - work to eliminate any polluting emissions into our environment
- The provision of appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision to all team members to ensure our values and objectives are met

Signed:

Date:

Due for Review: