

The Greenhouse – Insight (Film) recommendations

The Team

- **Set the tone** – meet with all the members of the team to discuss that the project will be going for green. Get their input on the process and ask if there's anything they think would be particularly useful to running a green production.
- **Contracts and Job Descriptions** – it helps to make sure everyone feels included in a social mission like this one. From production team to performers, include a small action in everyone's job description, outlining that they are responsible for ensuring everything that falls within their remit is conducted with sustainability in mind. They are also responsible for their own personal environmental impact when on set.
- **Green champion** – appoint one person on team to specifically be the Green Champion. It's explicitly their job to question decisions through the lens of sustainability, and make sure everyone is adhering to the production's green ambitions.
- **Get educated** – collect the team for a short workshop or talk (we'd be happy to run one for you) to learn more about the climate crisis. Help them understand the key challenges we face, and what they can do both at work and at home to combat those challenges. Discuss both the crisis in general, and the specific role of the film industry.

Pre-Production

- **Second-hand set, props, and costumes** – zero-waste practice can be a really great way to not only reduce your footprint, but to save money as well. Before buying the materials that you need new, have a look on Gumtree, eBay, or any other similar platforms to see if you can find what you need there. Often, you'll be able to save money, and you'll find interesting items with a lot of character and history!
- **Sustainable set, props, and costumes** – of course, you may need to buy some of your materials new. That's okay! Try to make sure what you're buying is made sustainably and sourced responsibly. Is any wood you need FSC certified? Are costumes made from natural fibres? We'd be happy to help with this by providing a list of the key things to look for and to avoid.
- **Cut down on paper** – where possible, try to conduct as much of your work digitally as you can. Sign contracts electronically, and look at other important documents on screen. When communicating with members of the team, encourage them to do the same. Send preliminary drafts of the script digitally too, if you can. And then, when you do have to print, make sure it's on FSC certified paper.

On Set

- **Ban coffee cups** – this might seem extreme, but the vast majority of single-use coffee cups are not recyclable. If you have coffee on set, ask members of the team to pick up a re-usable flask for themselves rather than buying cups. If they are bringing coffee to set, insist they should do so in a reusable cup. If you can afford it, you can even get branded re-usable coffee cups as merchandise to give to the team!
- **Ban single-use plastics** – similarly, it's actually surprisingly easy to avoid single-use plastics. By putting in that simple rule on set, you're encouraging everyone to start

making that change themselves. Instead, encourage them to bring re-usable containers. Or, if they need some soda, ask them to bring it in a can rather than plastic.

- **Switch off** – the lights on film sets use up a lot of energy. Simply, when you're taking a break in filming (especially for lunch, but in shorter breaks too), chat to the Gaffer and lighting team to ensure the lights get turned off.
- **Public transport, or car-share** – transport to and from set can be a big part of your emissions as a production. Encourage members of the team to travel to and from the shooting site in public transport – perhaps offering to subsidise part of the bus/train tickets. And if you must drive, get your Green Champion to create a transport rota, to make sure each car is as full as possible!

Resources

BFI Sustainability – the sustainability policy and reports of the British Film Institute. <https://www.bfi.org.uk/about-bfi/policy-strategy/sustainability>

Eco-Friendly Practices in the Film Industry – interesting article from the CC lab that outlines the current state of play. <http://lab.cccb.org/en/eco-friendly-practices-in-the-film-industry/>

Albert – leaders in sustainable film and TV in the UK. A really cool organisation, but a little gloopy to wade through. Some really great resources on their website. <https://wearealbert.org/>