



# Environmental Policy for the Orkney Nature Festival

## Promoting Sustainability and Conserving Natural Heritage

The Orkney Nature Festival is dedicated to celebrating the unique and breathtaking environment of the Orkney Islands while fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship. Recognising the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations, this policy outlines the festival's commitment to responsible environmental practices.

## Vision and Commitment

The Orkney Nature Festival aspires to be a leading example of an environmentally responsible event in the UK. Our vision revolves around the protection of Orkney's diverse ecosystems, minimising environmental impact, and inspiring attendees to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

## Key Principles

The festival operates under the following guiding principles to ensure sustainability remains at the forefront of all activities:

- **Conservation:** Protect and promote the unique wildlife and habitats of the Orkney Islands.
- **Carbon Neutrality:** Strive to minimise carbon emissions.
- **Education:** Raise awareness about local and global environmental challenges and solutions.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborate with local organisations, businesses, and residents to ensure a collective impact.
- **Zero Waste:** Reduce waste generation and promote recycling, composting, and reusable alternatives.

## Environmental Targets

### Carbon Reduction Strategies

- Promote the use of low-carbon transportation to and within the festival, including bicycles, public transport, and carpooling.
- Partner with carbon-offset programmes to counterbalance unavoidable emissions.
- Use renewable energy sources to power festival activities where feasible.

### Waste Management

- Implement a comprehensive waste segregation system for recyclables and compostables.



- Ban single-use plastics and encourage the use of biodegradable or reusable alternatives, such as refillable water bottles and eco-friendly utensils.
- Collaborate with local waste management providers to ensure proper disposal and recycling.

## Water Conservation

- Provide water stations to minimise bottled water consumption.
- Promote awareness of water-saving practices among organisers, vendors, and attendees.

## Wildlife Protection

- Enforce regulations to prevent disturbances to sensitive habitats and species during festival activities.
- Partner with conservation organisations to monitor and safeguard wildlife.
- Educate attendees about responsible behaviour in nature, such as adhering to marked trails and avoiding littering.

## Community Involvement

The festival embraces the spirit of community collaboration to achieve its sustainability goals. Local businesses, schools, and organisations are encouraged to participate in environmental initiatives tied to the festival. These partnerships help to amplify the impact of the festival while integrating its values into the wider community.

## Educational Programming

A major aspect of the Orkney Nature Festival is its dedication to education. Workshops, talks, and guided tours are designed to deepen attendees' understanding of Orkney's biodiversity and the importance of environmental stewardship. Topics may include sustainable living, climate change, and preserving marine ecosystems.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the effectiveness of our environmental policy, the festival will regularly monitor and evaluate its practices. KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) will include waste reduction metrics, carbon offset achievements, and attendee feedback on sustainability efforts. Annual reports will be made publicly accessible to demonstrate transparency and encourage accountability.

## Future Goals

The Orkney Nature Festival is committed to continually improving its environmental practices. Future goals include:

- Achieving full carbon neutrality across all festival operations.
- Expanding partnerships with conservation groups and renewable energy providers.

- Developing innovative solutions to reduce waste further, such as reusable event passes or compostable packaging.



## Conclusion

As a celebration of natural beauty and biodiversity, the Orkney Nature Festival stands as a testament to the harmonious coexistence of people and the environment. By implementing and adhering to this environmental policy, the festival seeks to not only minimise its ecological footprint but also inspire thousands of attendees to become advocates for nature conservation. Through collective effort, the Orkney Nature Festival aims to preserve and protect the invaluable natural heritage of the Orkney Islands for generations to come.