

GREEN LIGHT TO SUSTAINABLE FILM PRODUCTION

INFORM AND BE INFORMED!

COMMIT YOURSELF!

REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS!

COLLECT WASTE SEPARATELY!

REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE!

REDUCE PAPER WASTE!

REDUCE ORGANIC WASTE!

NFI

NATIONAL
FILM INSTITUTE
HUNGARY

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This is a short summary for those who want to establish environmental awareness in the film industry. **Every stage of production and every department is involved**, and there are some general principles that can be applied to significantly reduce the ecological footprint of a film production. In this publication, we provide you with some useful advice. Sustainable film production is our common interest!

Surprising as it may seem, filmmaking is **one of the most polluting industries**. Producing films has a particularly high ecological footprint. It consumes energy, fuel, creates petrol fumes, and waste. It is difficult to calculate an accurate average figure, since every film is different, however a recent BFI study shows, that a \$70 million budget film produces an average of 2.840 tonnes of CO₂e, a figure equivalent to the amount of what a 3700-acre forest could absorb. (15 million m²).¹



¹The Guardian 2020.09.02.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/sep/02/bfi-study-calls-on-film-industry-to-urgently-reduce-emissions>

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Hence one of the most important questions of film production today is how to make it more sustainable. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of greening film production, higher sustainability standards can also lead to **significant cost reductions, increased efficiency and time saving** in the long run. The optimisation of resources is something that benefits both studio and crew, more accurate planning and less wasting serves everyone socially and environmentally, the Earth and the production as well. All the more so since there's an international race in this area as well: major film studios have announced their commitment goals, and they now increasingly consider how the sustainability goals are met in each of the chosen filming locations.

The most polluting part of production is the **usage of energy and fuel**². It is important to note, that the fuel section accounts for not only the petrol used by production cars but also for generator usage. The European Green Deal aims to introduce policies to achieve a 55% reduction of net greenhouse gas emission by 2030 in order to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.



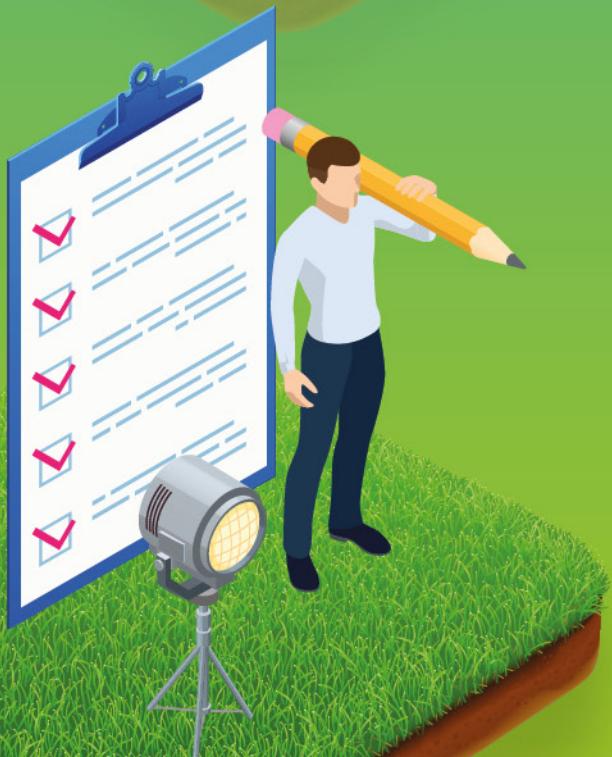
²Sustainable Production Alliance 2021.03.

<https://www.greenproductionguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SPA-Carbon-Emissions-Report.pdf>

HOW TO SHAPE YOUR APPROACH?

INFORM AND BE INFORMED!

Crew members need to be aware of new, more environmentally friendly ways and means in order to replace and combat the old polluting habits. Lead by example: the director, producer and department heads are the best role models for establishing and implementing the new mindset on set. A discussion forum ahead of the shoot or the creation of an information board on set does not incur significant additional costs.



COMMIT YOURSELF!

At the moment, it is up to the commitment of crew members whether a film is made with a reduced ecological footprint. It is important to have as many sustainability-minded crew members in your team as possible. It is therefore in your own interest to consult a company engaged in sustainability before filming, or to employ a green steward on set to ensure sustainability considerations are implemented to the highest degree possible. However the most important thing is to have the right approach. If you start thinking about sustainability during the development phase, it is much easier to apply the above mentioned suggestions.



HOW TO HAVE GREENER WASTE MANAGEMENT ON SET?

COLLECT WASTE SEPARATELY!

- Paper, glass, metal, and plastic can all be easily recycled. Throw them in the recycling bin instead of the communal bin! In Budapest alone, 700.000 tonnes of communal waste are taken to landfill or incinerated every year, when 70% of the plastic waste could be recycled if separately collected.
- Flatten it out: the more plastic bottles and paper containers you can fit in the bin, the cheaper it is to take away them. Processing waste costs money, so you can save money by compacting.
- Collect the hazardous waste (batteries, light bulbs, printer cartridges, etc.) separately! Recycling centres or the printer supplier can take the used cartridges. There are also organisations specialising in hazardous waste disposal that are worth to contact.
- In Budapest and in other towns there are many recycling centres that will take hazardous waste such as empty spray cans, used cooking oil or Styrofoam.



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REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE!

- Instead of bottled water, use water dispensers!
- Have your own reusable water bottle, water in Hungary is potable!
- Today people often carry their own water bottle. Produce only as many water bottles as needed!
- For packaging try to use recycled or environmentally friendly, biodegradable plastic if possible!
- If possible, try to use hand sanitisers that come in large packaging and are refillable!
- For mandatory single-use plastics (e.g. masks, rubber gloves), look for compostable, biodegradable solutions! If this is not possible, collect separately and send them to the designated collection and disposal companies!

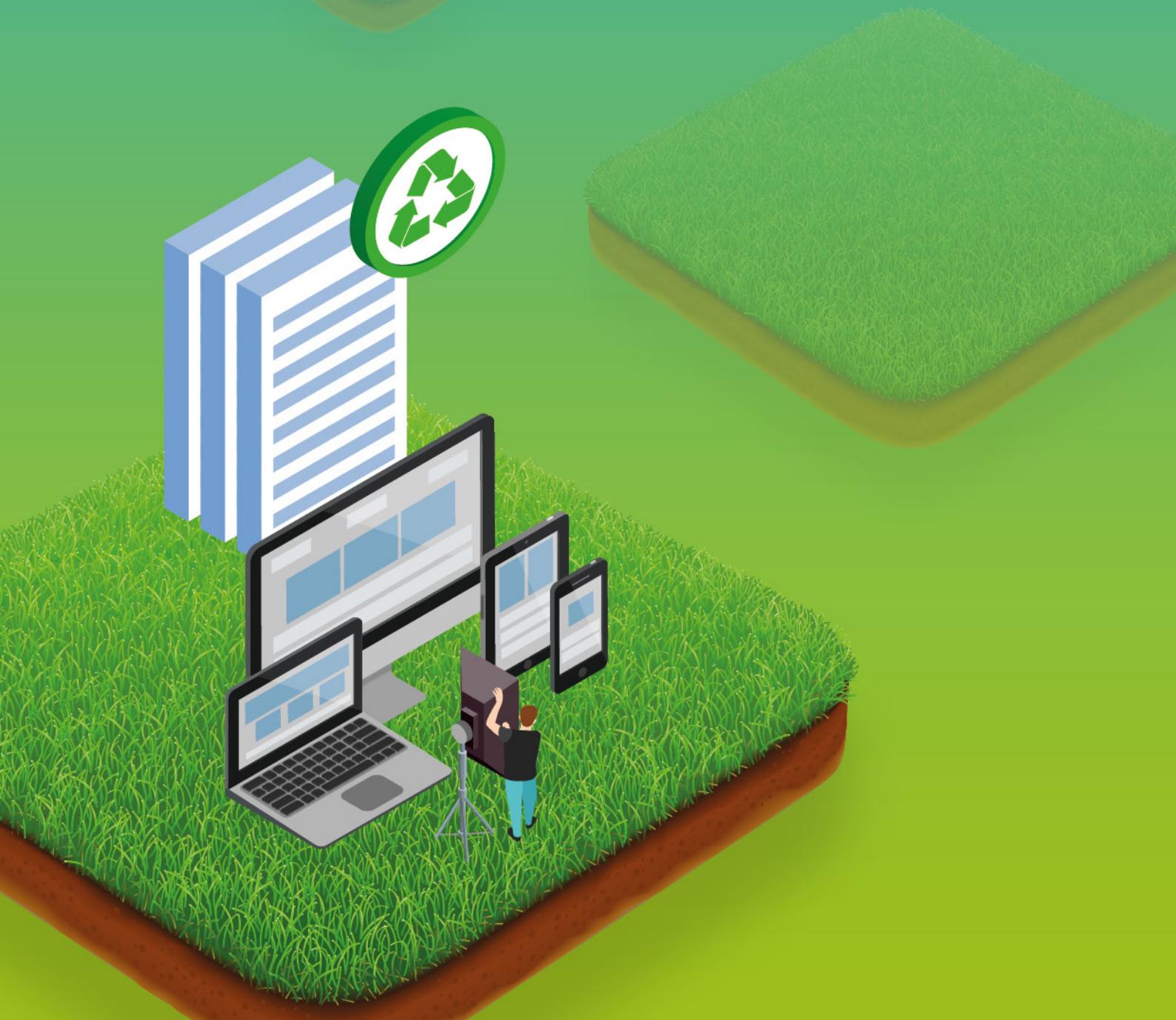


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REDUCE PAPER WASTE!

- Instead of printing use electronic versions wherever it is possible.
- If you do have to print, print on both sides with narrow margins!
- If possible, use recycled paper, alternatively you can also buy paper made from sugar cane or grass paper.
- Reuse the used too: use also the other side of the paper.



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REDUCE ORGANIC WASTE!

- At the end of the shooting day donate the leftover food, contact local charity organisations (e.g. Budapest Bike Maffia, Hungarian Food Bank etc.).
- You can compost too. In outdoor locations provide a well-sealed container in which compostable waste can be collected. Be aware that not all organic waste can be composted. If your bin is full, take it to a nearby community composting site, in Budapest contact Főkert or check out ShareWaste!
- You can even produce biogas from the catering waste collected in barrels. Contact a specialist!



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REDUCE “POST-SHOOTING” WASTE!

- Plan ahead what to do with the accumulated waste! Consult with your construction vendors at the beginning of the shooting regarding what to do with the leftover wood.
- Upon wrap, if possible, do not throw away supplies and equipments. Donate what you do not need anymore! Only store if it's legally mandated or you have an upcoming production to use it on, storage is money and energy - it also has an unrequited carbon footprint.
- Try to rent instead of buying new costumes and supplies!
- Ask for environmental certification wherever possible, avoid toxic materials! There's a lot of greenwashing happening, check the source, check the ingredients, check the supplier.
- Instead of building a set, use live, real locations whenever possible!

HOW TO BE GREENER IN YOUR ENERGY USE?

REDUCE CO₂e EMISSIONS!

- Encourage your crew to use public transport! The less you use your car, the smaller your carbon footprint is.
- If possible, use fewer petrol cars, buses, or trailers. Less petrol, less CO₂e emission! Ask the studio if they have electric charging points and if you have the possibility, use a hybrid or electric fleet!
- Use solar panels and energy saving light bulbs, if available!
- Do not leave the engines running on the set neither in winter nor in summer. Provide crew members warming and shaded places.
- Instead of aggregators try to use electricity or renewable energy alternatives.



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- Solar and hybrid solutions can work well in outdoor locations. In addition to their low emission, they have the advantage of being completely silent and odourless.
- If you have the opportunity, work on nearby locations. Consider this when choosing accommodation, filming locations, etc.
- With the contribution of catering try to create a more seasonal menu. Use local ingredients! Beef reduction and elimination from the menu can lead to significant CO₂e reductions. Make sure that the menu always includes a vegetarian option.
- Pay for the damage you caused: instead of offsetting and writing a simple check, make sure you inset - invest in your local supply chain that have a direct effect on your work.

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Step by step, productions in Hungary can reach realistic sustainability targets. The adoption of new habits within the film industry can gradually bring us closer to the goal. Market demands from international productions also urge the importance and relevance of wide-spread environmental awareness.

Many organisations at domestic and international level are working towards guiding the film industry on the imminent journey of transforming our crew and supply chain's habits and mindset and leading them down on a more sustainable path.

For more information:

[LAFC - GREEN GUIDE - PRISMA](#)

[YOUR GUIDE TO CREATING WORLD-CHANGING CONTENT](#)

[REEL GREEN STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024](#)

[ADGREEN: WHERE LOW IMPACT COUNTS](#)

[GREEN PRODUCTION GUIDE](#)

[GREEN THE BID](#)

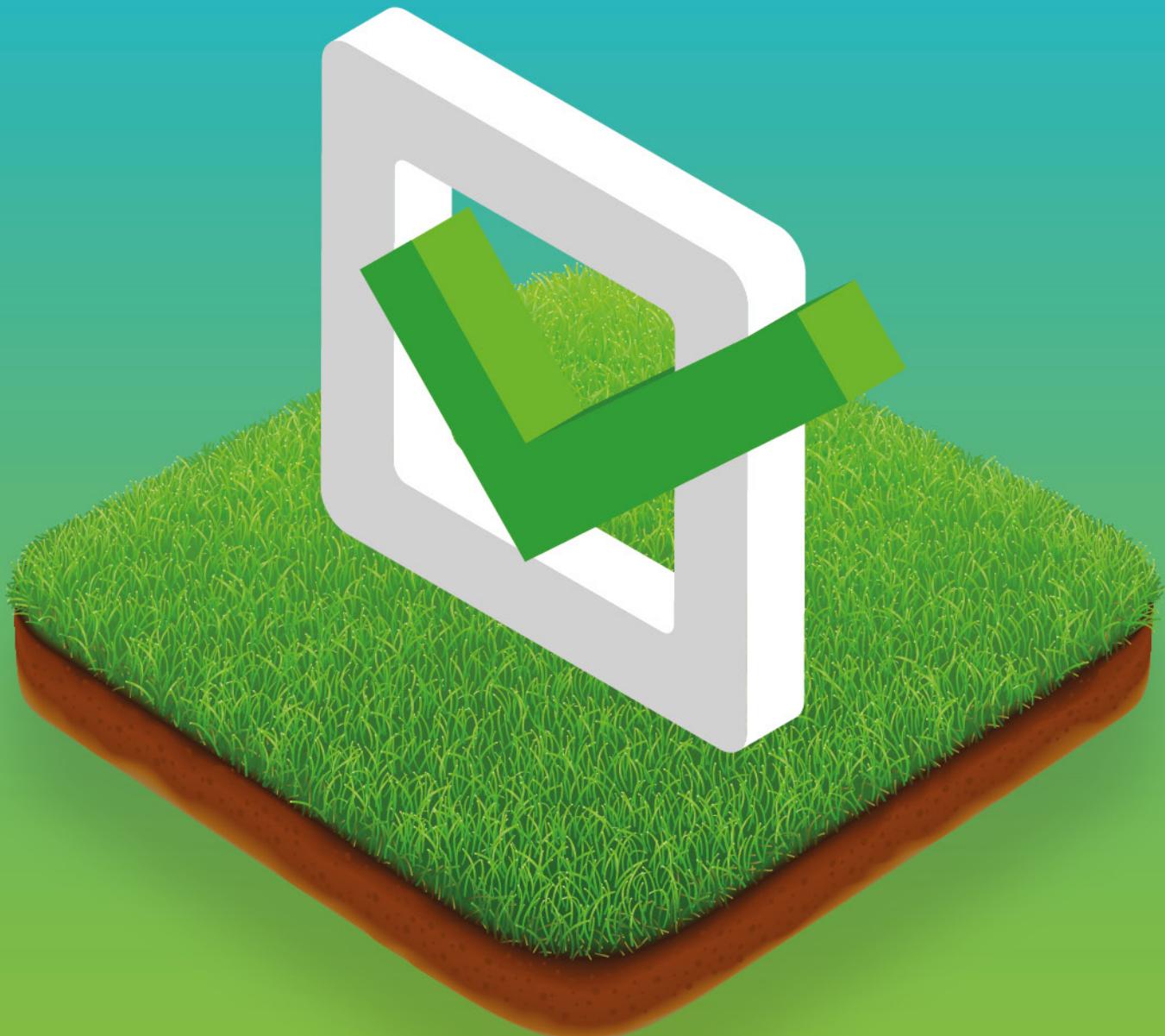
[ALBERT](#)

[GREEN EYES](#)





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IMPRESSUM

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