




Eliot Smith Dance (ESD)

Policy and Procedures on Environmental

For further information or to report a concern, please contact ESD
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Name	Date	Reason for update	Signature	Version
Eliot Smith and the Board Checked by Green Heart Collective	06 Feb 2024	Contents: Added new page Measuring Our Impacts (P7. P4/5: Updated current progress on pledges. P8: Introduce Measuring Our Impacts P9: Updated next review date January 2025	<i>E.Smith</i> (approved at Board Meeting 23 Feb 2024)	V03
Eliot Smith and the Board	24 Feb 2025	P6: Updated current progress on pledges. P9: Updated next review date January 2026	<i>E.Smith</i> (approved at Board Committee Meeting 25 Feb 2025)	V04
Eliot Smith and the Board	27 March 2026	P5&6: Updated current progress on pledges. P9: Updated next review date March 2028	 (approved at Board Committee Meeting 27 March 2026)	V05

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Introduction

The climate crisis is the most important issue facing the world today. Eliot Smith Dance (ESD) acknowledges its responsibility to minimise the environmental impact of its activities whilst providing a quality service.

It is our ambition at ESD to be a leader in environmental sustainability and to act as a catalyst for positive change in the arts industry.

We recognise the importance, no matter how small, of the impact of our activities on the environment and that there is a need to constantly consider ways in which we can conserve energy and minimise waste in all activities that we undertake.

ESD's initial Environmental policy was approved by the Board of Directors in February 2021 and has subsequently been updated in November 2022.

Raising Awareness

Since Spring 2021, ESD's focus has been on raising awareness of climate change and in doing so, ESD commissioned Eliot Smith to create a contemporary dance work to highlight the climate emergency.

The result was LIFE, performed by five diverse dancers, with original music by composer Adam Johnson and paintings by figurative artist Bernadette Koranteng.

LIFE premiered at the Alwick Playhouse and toured across the North of England, watched by 600+ people.

Alongside performances, ESD has delivered multiple dance and arts related workshops for children and adults in Newcastle upon Tyne and the surrounding areas. The result was a series of online and live performances to give audiences an inspiring message about climate change and the impact of fast fashion on the environment. These workshops have reached 200+ children, young people and adults.

Eliot has participated in various climate campaign groups which included standing up for the rights of rainforests, indigenous communities and female, intersex, non-binary & trans people in the face of climate change. Eliot joined the Alwick-based Friends of The Earth and has since delivered a talk on Climate, Fashion, and Culture at Green Heart Collective.

ESD is the first recipient of The Green Dance Award at the One Dance UK Awards 2022.

ESD will continue to seek out opportunities to use its position to raise awareness of energy conservation and to connect with partners and collaborators in the arts sector.

Pledges

Date pledges made	Pledges	Action taken	Progress (Complete / Ongoing)
Nov 2022 (To be implemented within 24 months)	Transport: ESD will aim to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● encourage staff to use public transport and/or work from home at least 1-2 days pw. ● encourage dancers to live walking distance of rehearsal venue or car share. ● encourage guest artists to use public transport. ● recruit dancers locally and nationally to minimise long distance travelling (aviation). 	Completed	From autumn 2023, ESD has updated its audience / participants response forms to include “How Did You Travel” enabling ESD to gather data.
Nov 2022 (To be implemented within 24 months)	Performances /Events: ESD will aim to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● allow virtual participation in the early stages to save bringing people together in one place all the time. ● perform in community halls in rural areas, rather than people travelling long distances to city performances. ● host performances online. ● promote awareness of climate change. 	Ongoing.	ESD participated in the International Touring and Environmental Responsibility round 2 programme funded by Arts Council England, Danish Arts Foundation, led by Julie’s Bicycle. More details at www.eliotsmithdance.com/merge ESD delivered 24 dance and arts related workshops for a cohort of 20 children at two primary schools and for a cohort of 10 community adults. The result was Rivers of Newcastle - a short dance film to present family, friends and the wider community an inspiring message

			about the protection of the Rivers of Newcastle and environment.
Nov 2022 (To be implemented within 24 months)	Materials: ESD will aim to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reuse previous costumes if possible. • use recycled materials for making stage props. • print programmes on recycled paper. • dispose of any costumes, props and stage equipment appropriately. 	Completed.	For “Coalfield to Landscape” (Oct 2023) all costumes were reused from previous ESD rep. No stage lights or design was used. For “The Three Jolly Ghosts Christmas” (autumn 2023) one out of three costumes were reused from previous ESD rep, 30% of the set design was made from previous ESD sets, the performances took place in eight open libraries and one museum already open to the public.

2025	Materials: ESD will aim to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reuse previous costumes if possible. • use recycled materials for making stage props. • print programmes on recycled paper. • dispose of any costumes, props and stage equipment appropriately. 	Completed.	ESD has carried out its recent projects “PITMAN” by reusing previous costumes and recycled materials and props. Alongside printing on recycled materials and using Julie’s Bicycle Green Tool to log its project carbon emissions. In Summer 2025, ESD will be carrying out an extended project of MERGE in Denmark that will investigate sustainable touring and performance. Further feedback will be provided here in January 2026.
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2025	International Collaboration and participation in the accelerate programme at International Touring Environmentally Sustainably Programme led by Julie Bicycle’s funded	Completed.	In 2025, Eliot Smith Dance has continued to actively develop and strengthen its Environmental Policy through its international project <i>MERGING</i> . Building on earlier
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	<p>by Arts Council England.</p>		<p>work from the International Touring & Environmental Responsibility programme, the company has explored new models of sustainable creation and touring. This has included adopting low-carbon travel methods—such as touring internationally by ferry, train, and bus instead of air—and embedding environmentally conscious practices into production, including the use of recycled materials and minimal technical resources. Through cross-border collaboration with artists in Denmark, <i>MERGING</i> has also deepened ESD’s commitment to integrating sustainability into creative processes, community engagement, and artistic outcomes, reinforcing the company’s ongoing ambition to reduce environmental impact and evolve its environmental practices. Discover: www.eliotsmithdance.com/merging</p>
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ESD Office

We operate from one small office space, subleased in Newcastle and carry out our activities and performances in hired venues.

Many of the venues we sublease from are committed to:

- Developing an Estates Plan that includes upgrades to their infrastructure and equipment, utilising technology to drive down carbon emissions.
- Monitoring energy and water consumption to target reduction initiatives in a timely and effective way.
- Promoting the waste hierarchy to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle waste to work towards zero waste being sent to landfill.
- Monitoring waste production and recycling rates, ensuring the right facilities are available for staff and visitors.
- Engaging and supporting staff to enable energy, waste and water reductions within areas of influence.

ESD Productions

Our productions have an impact on the environment across their lifecycle, from their creation through to performance with the transportation and storage of sets and costumes.

We are committed to:

- Establishing a framework for every project to reduce the environmental impact of our productions in partnership with the wider cultural sector, such as Julie's Bicycle Initiative.
- Promoting efficient use of materials for costumes and exploring more sustainable and ethical options to implement with local sustainable enterprises, such as Green Heart Collective.
- Minimising our use of resources including our consumption of energy, water and raw materials by working closely with our suppliers, designers and staff to ensure these reductions are prioritised and embedded.
- Avoiding unnecessary use of hazardous materials and taking responsible steps to prevent pollution.
- Guaranteeing that recycled paper is used for printed programmes and offer online programmes.

People

We are committed to working with our staff, artists, audiences and industry stakeholders to enable and inspire environmental action.

We will:

- Enable and support our staff to take action providing training and other resources where possible.
- Communicate with our audiences and visitors about our plans, progress and how they can make sustainable choices when visiting us.
- Encourage, enable and participate in public discussions concerning environmental issues.
- Be transparent about our efforts and share our knowledge, encouraging the exchange of ideas with stakeholders, suppliers and audiences.

It is our belief that reducing our environmental impact will not only have a positive effect on the environment but will also make our operations more efficient and economical and will enhance our company resilience in the long term.

We will continue to raise and maintain a high level of understanding of, and participation in, environmental workshops and working with local environmentalist groups and activists such as Friends of the Earth (Alnwick-based).

Measuring Our Impacts

From Spring 2023, ESD began measuring its project(s) impacts on the environment via Creative Climate Tools developed by Julie's Bicycle for the creative community.

Submissions of Creative Climate Tools Entry to the Julie's Bicycle from Summer 2023:

HUMAN (SPRING 2023) April 2023 - June 2023

Total emissions: 546.5 kg CO₂e

COALFIELD TO LANDSCAPE October 2023:

Total emissions: 541.4 kg CO₂e

THE THREE JOLLY GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS December 2023:

Total emissions: 3.56 t CO₂e

In depth reports are available upon request.

Monitoring and Communication

We use a Carbon Footprint and CO2 Tracker to monitor our waste and energy consumption during creation of productions and touring. The Board of Eliot Smith Dance also retains oversight of environmental policy commitments through scheduled committee meetings with regular reporting and matters arising.

We are always interested in hearing what your thoughts are on environmental issues, and we welcome your ideas on how we can become greener, so please email us at info@eliotsmithdance.com

A copy of the Environmental Policy is made accessible to all workers via the web. Requests for this policy in alternative formats are welcomed and every effort will be made to meet them. All workers, including newly appointed ones, must be made aware of this policy and these responsibilities for achieving environmental objectives.

Review

We undertake a review of this policy at least once every year and to communicate changes organisation-wide. The next review date is **March 2028**. To obtain further copies of this policy or if you have any questions or comments about it, please contact info@eliotsmithdance.com