



REDUCING CARBON:

Small production teams

FEBRUARY 2025



Reducing your production footprint : Small crews

Reducing your production footprint with small crews (5 or less) can be challenging as it's likely you're already adopting sustainable production practices such as:

- Using a skeleton crew.
- Shooting on location.
- No generator.
- No/minimal props, costumes or sets.
- Producing minimal food waste as you're buying food on the go rather than providing catering.

Whilst you always need to follow the story, please consider:



Renewable energy

From production offices to accommodation to edit suites, consider how these locations are powered.



Using **local crew** and kit wherever possible.



Creating a **Sustainable Travel Policy**

Essential travel only. Trains over planes, hiring EVS and hybrids. Building time into the schedule to travel responsibly.



Company Level Decarbonisation

Looking at what you can do on a company level

Travel

Travel & Transport are the biggest sources of emissions in our industry so it is vital that we consider the travel implications to locations and keep asking how we can minimise the impact.

Small crews can reduce their carbon footprint by making thoughtful travel choices:

- Prioritise public transport, carpooling, or using electric vehicles wherever possible. For longer distances, consider trains over flights to cut emissions.
- When travel is essential, combine trips to maximise efficiency and minimise journeys.
- Staying local by hiring crew and kit near your location also reduces travel impact.
- Small teams have the advantage of being more agile, making it easier to adopt sustainable travel practices.

TRAVEL HIERARCHY

Eliminate unnecessary travel



Reduce distance and frequency



Sustainable Travel Swaps:

Business ➡ *Economy*

Plane ➡ *Train*

Petrol ➡ *Electric Vehicle*

COMPARING JOURNEYS BETWEEN AIR, ROAD & RAIL

Energy Efficient Driving Tips – drive smoothly, shift up early to a higher gear, avoid excessive speeds, switch off tyre pressure, roof racks, boxes and bars, windows vs air conditioning.

Trainline Carbon Calculator – find out your carbon footprint when travelling in the uk.

Travel Maths – Compare flying vs driving

Energy

Small crews can make a big difference by prioritising efficient energy use.

- Opt for portable, battery-powered equipment or renewable energy solutions like solar chargers to minimize reliance on fossil fuels.
- Use energy-efficient LED lighting and power down kit when not in use.
- If using a generator is unavoidable, choose a low-emission or hybrid model and avoid oversizing equipment. No idling of cars/vans/trucks when waiting.
- Planning ahead to consolidate filming locations can also reduce overall energy needs. With fewer people and equipment, small crews are well-placed to lead the way in adopting low-energy practices.
- **GREEN ACCOMMODATION** - When booking places to stay, please consider using accommodation with green credentials. You can check directly with the service provider if they're on a renewable energy tariff.

POWER HIERARCHY

Inform your supply
(know and use what
you need)

Use Mains

Use Batteries

Use Hybrid

Use Certified HVO

A Focus On O/B Trucks / Location Filming : News & Current Affairs

The trajectory of news is unpredictable, with real time decision -making and varied team setups often leaving little time for planning. While you may not be able to control the destination, you can decide how many people to send and where to stay. For major planned events, focus on areas with the greatest impact:

Main sources of emissions on an O/B are crew travel and power generation:

- What energy supplier are you using?
How are you powering your generators?
- Are you using certified HVO? Can you hybridise?
- Make sure understand your power consumption with the use of telematics and reduce if possible.

Catering

Consider choice of energy, use mains power where possible, adopt energy efficiencies, ensure sustainable supplier procurement process – consider elimination/ frequency of beef, avoid single use plastic, prioritise reusable cutlery.

Ditching Diesel

Using Mains Power

Plugging into mains power on a certified green tariff will almost always be the most sustainable option. It also facilitates simple tracking and reporting of consumption. Check location mains supplies and tariffs as early as possible to see if you're able to plug in.

CO2e:	Up to 100% emission reduction vs diesel		
Cost :	Low	Complexity:	Low

Using Certified HVO

Certified HVO is a **transitional** fuel, acting as a lower carbon alternative while we move towards cleaner energy, and should be used rather than diesel wherever possible. It can be used in most diesel engine and generator and can be topped-up with diesel in an emergency. You may be able to reduce costs by purchasing HVO in bulk or at group level.

CO2e:	Up to 90% emission reduction vs diesel		
Cost :	Low-mid (up to 50p per litre more expensive than diesel)	Complexity:	Low

Using Batteries or Hybrid Generators

Battery technology is evolving fast. There are full battery solutions for numerous production scenarios, whilst hybrid set-ups (battery + generator) maximise generator efficiency (reducing generator run time by up to 66%) and save fuel and money.

CO2e:	25% - 100% emission reduction vs diesel (dependent on solution type)		
Cost :	Low- Mid	Complexity:	Low- Mid

Using Green Hydrogen

The cleanest non-mains option. Due to their current large size, these units are best suited to productions with few location moves (providing additional power at a back lot, sound stage or studio). Green hydrogen is produced with renewable sources like wind, water or solar, whilst blue hydrogen is produced from natural gas.

CO2e:	Up to 100% emissions reduction vs diesel		
Cost :	High	Complexity:	Mid - High

Waste

For small crews, reducing waste is all about smart planning and practical actions.

- Pack light and only bring what's needed to avoid unnecessary materials.
- Use refillable water bottles and reusable containers instead of single-use items.
- Share resources like kit, props, and costumes where possible, and look for opportunities to repurpose materials.
- Set up a simple system for separating waste and recycling on location, even if it's just a couple of labelled bags.
- Small teams can make a big impact by keeping waste to a minimum.

WASTE HIERARCHY

Reducing waste at the source



Reuse and/or repurpose materials



Recycling



Energy recovery
(incineration)



Landfill



Company Level Decarbonisation

Alongside decarbonisation efforts at production level, investment across the organisation can have a significant cumulative impact:

- Create a role within the company that is dedicated to sustainability and decarbonisation
- Sharing resources across different productions and teams, such as rechargeable batteries, power monitoring kit, or HVO deals
- Bring in a green consultancy to support creating a company footprint and decarbonisation strategy
- Investment in low carbon production training for staff
- Investment in low carbon technology and practices for office spaces

ENERGY FOCUSED SPEND	
LOW –MID	MID –HIGH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switching to a renewable energy tariff • Lighting: switching to LED bulbs, installing daylight lighting controls and/or presence detectors • Implementing a system to record and monitor energy consumption or a dedicated site energy audit to identify energy conservation measures • Installing draught proofing and insulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove fossil fuels such as oil and gas by switching to electric alternative. For example, heat pumps for heating and cooling, electric alternatives for cooking • Installing on-site renewables such as solar panels • Installing double glazing

[Business Climate Hub UK](#) - a collaboration between the UK Government, businesses and business groups across the UK. The Hub is the UK partner of the SME Climate Hub, the global initiative which empowers small and medium-sized enterprises to take climate action.

[Climate Fit](#) – free online training course to help SMEs reduce their carbon emissions and join the collective race to net zero.

Best Practice – Operations

ENERGY



Understand and reduce energy use.

Move to low or zero carbon energy resources, promote good energy practice for homeworking

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT



Promote low or zero carbon options for business travel and staff commuting.

Switch to low or zero emissions transport vehicles and/services where possible

NATURE & WATER



Conserve water.

Consider nature as a stakeholder.

Minimise air, noise, water and light pollution

MATERIALS & WASTE



Avoid & reduce waste, chemicals and single use plastics.

Choose sustainable materials which can be used or recycled.
Use suppliers with strong environmental credentials

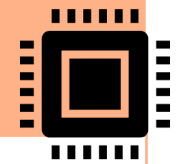
FOOD & DRINK



If providing food, opt for mainly plant-based food.

Avoid single use serve ware and food waste.

DIGITAL & TECHNOLOGY



Choose digital service providers who offer renewably powered hosting, cloud services and/or energy efficient digital design.
Keep and use devices for longer.
Make sure you dispose of electronics responsibly

Further Resources – Decarbonising Production

Albert

Request an albert account – albert toolkit is free but you will need to request an account to get access

albert Data Collection Tracker – Track your activity as you go and put the aggregated data into the calculator

Domestic Flight Guidelines – UK mainland domestic flights are actively discouraged in the albert and only accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Domestic Flight Tracker – Flying produces tons of carbon emissions, so this tracker provides demonstrable evidence for all unavoidable flights

Carbon Action Plan Evidence Guide – Submitting evidence for your CAP (includes list of questions)

Green Memo – Laying out the sustainability intentions for your production. The green memo is a pre-requisite of certification.

Cost Saving Template – Sometimes being sustainable costs more, sometimes it costs less. Consider a holistic approach and track savings.

Creative England : Filming in England

Sustainable Production Toolkit includes SP Guidelines, SP Start up Meeting template, SP Construction Supplier Memo, SP Wrap Memo and;

albert carbon impact calculator toolkit guidance

Green Production Guide

Resource Library – Here you have memos, flyers, fact sheets and waste signage that you can use as inspiration and/or foundational tools.

Best Practice Infographics – Best sustainable production practice for the production office, locations, stage and facilities.

International Green Production Programs – Great for resources and networks when working in different countries.

PACT: The Production Support Initiative

The Production Support Initiative for crew working on HETV Drama Productions. Sustainability (Pages 49-54)

Theatre Green Book

Sustainable Production Toolkit – Although aimed at the theatre, this is a highly transferable toolkit filled with excellent resources and industry expertise.