

SURVIVING THE SWITCH

THE BAFTA ALBERT NEXT GENERATION TOOLKIT: A PICTURE ZERO TRANSITION GUIDE

Everything productions and production companies need to know about the new calculator, the new certification routes, the evidence you will be asked for and the deadlines that matter between now and the end of 2026.

16 SEPT 2026

Next Generation Toolkit launches

17 DEC 2026

Current Toolkit closes for good

INTRODUCTION

BAFTA Albert launches its Next Generation Toolkit (NGT) on 16 September 2026. The current Toolkit closes for good on 17 December 2026. In between sits a three month sunsetting window in which both systems run side by side.

This is not a cosmetic update. The calculator changes, the emission categories change, the Carbon Action Plan disappears, pre-approval disappears, certification becomes evidence-based with weighted scoring and nothing moves across automatically when the old system shuts down.

THE PICTURE ZERO VIEW

The changes are broadly positive: better data, clearer expectations and stronger evidence, but the transition window presents risks, especially for productions that straddle it. A drama or feature that shoots this summer can easily be in post next spring. By then, the crew who knew what the production actually did will have wrapped and moved on. If the certification route decision, the data and the evidence are not locked down before wrap, a post-production coordinator will be left navigating a new system with no one to ask for guidance. In light of this, it is important that productions decide the certification route early, collect evidence from day one and export everything before the old Toolkit closes.

1. WHAT IS CHANGING

AREA	WHAT IS CHANGING	WHAT IT MEANS
Carbon calculator	New GHG Protocol-aligned calculator reporting in Scopes 1, 2 and 3, with updated emission categories.	Data collection needs to be more structured and reconciled against the production's financial accounts ledger (the cost report or accounts spend data). BAFTA Albert now expects productions to finalise their own footprints via the new review function and check them against spend.
Carbon Action Plan	The CAP is gone. It is replaced by the Sustainable Production Guide (planning) and a separate certification programme (recognition).	Planning and certification are now two different things. Nothing from the SPG is submitted to BAFTA Albert.
Certification	Two routes: BAFTA Albert Certified (standard, at end of production) and BAFTA Albert Committed (exceptional, early, for live / news / sport / fast turnaround / continuous).	Pre-approval no longer exists. Choosing the right route early is the single most important transition decision.
Scoring	Around 94 flat yes/no questions become 21 focused questions (14 on Committed), scored by impact with a 55% pass mark.	High impact actions earn more. Generic box-ticking earns little.
Evidence	Assessors request evidence proportionate to production size and type, selected at assessment, after submission.	You will not be told in advance which questions to evidence. Gather dated, production-specific evidence as you go, across all areas.
Data entry	Optional Excel Carbon Footprint Data Tracker enables offline data collection and one-click bulk upload into the NGT.	Available now. Productions can start collecting data today and upload from 16 September.
Logos and marks	Completions on the current Toolkit receive the old footprint logo. Completions on the NGT receive the new BAFTA Albert mark.	Finishing on the old system means using the old logo. No production can use the old logo after 30 December 2026.

What is not changing: user accounts carry over automatically (same login on both systems), BAFTA Albert support continues with a three-working-day response time and productions finishing entirely on the current Toolkit this year

can carry on as normal, provided they hit the deadlines below. For Picture Zero clients, please do reach out to us for any support with the transition.

2. THE PICTURE ZERO TIMELINE

These are the dates Picture Zero is working to. Some are BAFTA Albert's hard deadlines; others are Picture Zero buffers, set earlier on purpose so no production we support is finishing a footprint or exporting data too close to the deadline.

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS	WHOSE DEADLINE	WHAT PICTURE ZERO DOES
17 June 2026	Everything goes public on baftaalbert.org . Pop-ups appear in the current Toolkit.	BAFTA Albert	We contact our clients from this date to explain what is changing and what it means for each production.
By 30 June 2026	Every active and upcoming production we support is assessed: post end date, TX date, endboard need and likely route.	Picture Zero	We share a slate-level view with each client so no production is left undecided.
July to Sept 2026	Productions finishing after 16 September start collecting data in the Data Tracker (or structured equivalent). Evidence folders set up on every show.	Picture Zero	We make day-one evidence capture the standard, so nothing has to be reconstructed after wrap.
16 Sept 2026	NGT launches. Certified and Committed routes open. Bulk upload goes live.	BAFTA Albert	We move new productions onto the NGT and stop creating productions on the current Toolkit.
31 Oct 2026	PZ target: current-Toolkit productions have footprint data complete and CAP actions evidenced.	Picture Zero buffer	We make sure current-Toolkit productions have footprint and CAP complete by now, leaving a month before Albert's deadline.
1 Dec 2026	Hard deadline: footprint and CAP must be complete on the current Toolkit to avoid rejection.	BAFTA Albert	We ensure every current-Toolkit production we support is finished before this hard deadline.
By 10 Dec 2026	PZ target: all footprint and CAP reports exported from the current Toolkit for every production whose data we may ever need.	Picture Zero buffer	We export and save all current-Toolkit reports for every production whose data we may need.
16 Dec 2026	Last day both Toolkits are supported side by side.	BAFTA Albert	We confirm all exports are already done; this date is only a safety net for us.
17 Dec 2026	Current Toolkit closes. Access ends.	BAFTA Albert	Your data is already secured with us, so closure of the Toolkit has no impact on the productions we support.
30 Dec 2026	Pre-approved endboard logos issued on the current Toolkit stop being valid.	BAFTA Albert	We make sure any continuing series has reapplied via the NGT Committed route for its 2027 episodes.

DO NOT TREAT 17 DECEMBER AS THE WORKING DEADLINE

The real deadline for anything still on the current Toolkit is 1 December (completion) and, in Picture Zero practice, 10 December (export).

3. THE NEW TOOLKIT AT A GLANCE

ELEMENT	WHAT IT IS	PICTURE ZERO INTERPRETATION
Carbon Calculator	GHG Protocol-aligned. Calculates production emissions in Scopes 1, 2 and 3, with reporting dashboards. Three ways in: manual entry, import from a previous production or bulk upload via the Data Tracker.	This should produce better records, clearer categories and reconciliation with spend.
Sustainable Production Guide (SPG)	Departmental advice and checklists, biodiversity guidance, travel guidance, on-screen guidance and templates, and so stands alone from certification and nothing is submitted.	The practical replacement for the old CAP. Use it from day one of prep.
Certification	Revamped criteria, weighted scoring, two routes, new BAFTA Albert marks.	It asks what the production actually did, or credibly committed to, and whether the evidence supports the claim.

NEW EMISSION CATEGORIES

Categories have been restructured to align with the industry carbon accounting white papers covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (the UK and US film and television guidance on how production emissions should be measured and reported). Business travel and accommodation are now separated from freight and couriers, and food and catering from other materials. The top-level categories are: Business Travel and Accommodation; Energy and Utilities; Post-Production Services; Freight; Fuel and Temporary Power; Food and Catering; Materials; Waste Disposal; Home Working; Commuting; Cloud Computing; Intentional Discharges of Gases; and Purchased Goods and Services.

Picture Zero is revamping its data collection templates, supplier data requests and accounts tracking procedures to the new categories ahead of September, so the productions we support move across without disruption.

4. CERTIFICATION: CERTIFIED VS COMMITTED

Pre-approval and the Carbon Action Plan are gone. In their place are two clean application routes. Once a mark is issued, the process ends; there is no follow-up audit and no reopening of the assessment.

BAFTA ALBERT CERTIFIED		BAFTA ALBERT COMMITTED
Who it is for	The standard route for most productions: films and any TV that transmits after post-production ends.	Exceptional route for TV with a legitimate need for the endboard mark before TX: live, news, sport, fast turnaround (under 10 days), continuous programming.
When to apply	Towards the end of production. Submission opens no earlier than one month before the end of the production phase.	Any time from day one of prep until before first TX.
Getting access	Criteria visible from day one of prep; just apply at the end.	Submit an access request justifying why you need the route, plus a signed Sustainable Production Code of Practice (see below). BAFTA Albert accepts the request or redirects you to Certified.
What you evidence	Actions that actually happened across the production's impact areas, for example travel, power, materials, catering, waste and budgeting.	Processes, policies and frameworks established in pre-production, since actions have not happened yet.
Questions	21 questions across four sections.	14 questions across four sections.
Assessment clock	Around 3 days from submission to evidence request, then around 10 days to a decision, plus one discretionary feedback loop (see note below).	Around 2 days to evidence request, then around 5 days to a decision, plus one discretionary feedback loop (see note below).

BAFTA ALBERT CERTIFIED		BAFTA ALBERT COMMITTED
Afterwards	Mark issued. End of process.	Mark issued. End of process.

Note on the "discretionary feedback loop": the BAFTA Albert process diagrams show a single feedback loop marked "discretionary" and "may impact timing", but the paperwork does not yet define what it is. It appears to be a one-off chance, at BAFTA Albert's discretion, to come back to a production once during assessment (for example to query or request missing evidence), rather than a guaranteed right of appeal against a fail. We will confirm exactly what it means once the full methodology is published at launch.

HOW SCORING WORKS ON BOTH ROUTES

SECTION	WEIGHT	WHAT IT COVERS
Sustainability Leadership	40%	Budget, processes, suppliers, training, communication. 5 questions on Certified, 2 on Committed.
Environmental Impact Actions	55%	Power, buildings, travel, accommodation, materials, waste, catering, biodiversity. 9 questions on Certified, 8 on Committed. A "does not apply" option exists on all but the waste question, with justification, and the score adjusts so there is no penalty.
Contribution to a Sustainable Future	5%	One question on going beyond your own footprint: insetting, community, environmental projects, legacy, high-quality carbon credits as a last resort.
Climate / Sustainability On Screen	0%	Not scored but every question must be answered (6 on Certified, 3 on Committed). Tracks themes, tone, screentime and whether unsustainable behaviour is normalised.

PASS REQUIREMENTS

Overall pass mark of 55% on either route. You must score, and be able to evidence, in each of the three scored sections. Options within each question are weighted by impact: a plant-based menu scores more than reusable cups; following the power hierarchy scores more than a single green memo. Every question also has a narrative option for approaches BAFTA Albert has not thought of, scored on merit.

The behavioural change that matters most: under the old CAP, a production submitted its plan in pre-production and BAFTA Albert came back within days naming the roughly 15 questions it would need to evidence. Under the new system you do not find out which questions will be evidenced until assessment, at or after wrap. In effect, BAFTA Albert is now forcing productions to evidence everything as they go.

The risk this creates: if a production has not gathered evidence throughout and the evidence it can produce at the end is thin, it may fall below the 55% pass mark and fail certification. Until the new calculator and evidence structure are actually running, we also do not yet know how strict BAFTA Albert will be about what counts as acceptable evidence. This is not a risk for Picture Zero supported productions, which always carry strong, dated evidence of what was done.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKED TO EVIDENCE

The two criteria documents set out every question in advance, grouped into four areas. You do not need to memorise them, but you do need to know the kind of evidence BAFTA Albert is now looking for, because some of it is new and can catch production companies out. The full question list, the points available and Picture Zero's recommended evidence for each one are set out in Picture Zero's workbook.

AREA	WEIGHT	THE KIND OF EVIDENCE TO START GATHERING NOW
Sustainability Leadership	40%	Evidence here is increasingly about the company, not just the show: written sustainability policies and internal guidelines that state how the company and its leadership operate across all productions; named sustainability roles and responsibilities; and crucially budgetary evidence - dedicated sustainability budget lines and spend tracking that prove sustainability was funded, not just intended.

AREA	WEIGHT	THE KIND OF EVIDENCE TO START GATHERING NOW
Training	Incorporated within leadership scoring	A high and continuing dependence on evidence that crew, cast and leadership have been trained. BAFTA Albert scores training by how widely it reaches (all crew vs some) and who delivered it. Picture Zero can provide BAFTA Albert-accredited training and arrange these sessions, which is one of the simplest ways to secure points in this section.
Environmental Impact Actions	55%	Evidence of what was actually done, proportionate to the size of the show: power planning records and telemetry, travel and transport policies and invoices (for example showing EV or rail use), accommodation and catering choices, materials sourcing and reuse, and waste management. Dated, production-specific documents, not generic templates.
Contribution to a Sustainable Future	5%	Evidence of going beyond your own footprint: insetting or supply-chain funding, community support, environmental project donations, lasting legacy or high-quality carbon credits as a last resort.
Climate / Sustainability On Screen	0%	Not scored, but every question must be answered. Be ready to describe how climate or sustainability themes feature (or why they do not), with timecodes or episode references where relevant.

WHAT A SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION CODE OF PRACTICE IS

For the Committed route, BAFTA Albert asks for a signed Sustainable Production Code of Practice. In plain terms this is a company-level or production-level policy, signed by someone senior, committing to how sustainability will be applied - across leadership, suppliers, training, carbon measurement, waste, catering, biodiversity, on-screen content and continuous improvement. It is a commitment to principles, suited to the early stage at which Committed productions apply, before most actions have happened. Picture Zero can draft this with you.

5. THE CARBON FOOTPRINT DATA TRACKER

An official Excel workbook mirroring the calculator's data entry forms, available now. Teams record emissions data in it offline, then bulk upload into the NGT from 16 September. It is optional: productions can still enter data manually, and a hybrid of both is fine. It can be a useful upload mechanism, but Picture Zero's clear position (set out below) is that the tracker is a tool for getting data into BAFTA Albert, not a system for collecting or auditing that data.

THE RULES THAT CATCH PEOPLE OUT

- Only the official BAFTA Albert tracker uploads. Your own spreadsheets, however good, cannot be bulk uploaded.
- Excel only. There is no Google Sheets version and working through Sheets risks breaking the locked formulas.
- Do not add columns or edit protected cells. The sheets contain locked cells and formulas; pasting large blocks of data in can damage them. You may hide or delete irrelevant sheets, but keep your real working data in a separate source workbook.
- Uploads are additive only. Re-uploading a file duplicates everything in it. Use a fresh file for each staged upload, or do one big upload at the end. Keep an upload log.
- Validation is all or nothing. A single invalid line rejects the whole file and nothing is saved. The error report identifies the tab and row, and the tracker homepage shows a readiness status. Check it says "ready for upload" before trying.
- No CO2e values appear in Excel. Emissions appear only after upload.

- Accommodation: enter rooms and nights separately. Do not pre-multiply rooms by nights; the system does that, and pre-multiplying inflates the footprint.
- It cannot upload into the current Toolkit. Anything destined for the old system still has to be entered manually there.
- No source field. The tracker has nowhere to record where each figure came from, so on its own it cannot show an audit trail back to the original source.

PICTURE ZERO POSITION: THE TRACKER IS NOT YOUR DATA SYSTEM

We do not consider the BAFTA Albert Data Tracker to be auditable evidence in its own right, because it does not show the source of any figure, and on its own it is not compliant with ISO 14064. Treat it as an upload tool only.

Our recommendation: keep collecting data the methodical way, in workbooks, toolkits, ledgers or production log books that record where each figure came from and follow the production company's agreed data and accounts processes. Departments can help populate those log books. One named person then brings everything together into the Data Tracker at wrap, runs a quality assurance check, and only then uploads to BAFTA Albert. The new calculator should change none of the company-level or production-level data processes already agreed.

WHY WE DO NOT RUN THE TRACKER AS A SHARED, MULTI-USER FILE

It is tempting to let several people enter data straight into one shared tracker, but we advise against it. There is no process or source field inside the tracker to ensure everyone follows the same data principles or to assure quality, and nothing can be traced back to a source. Combined with all-or-nothing validation (one bad line stops the whole upload), uncontrolled multi-user entry is how productions end up with rejected files and footprints they cannot defend. Collect in source log books; consolidate and QA through one owner before submission.

PICTURE ZERO RECOMMENDATION

Use the Data Tracker as the upload step, not the collection step. Where we run our own PZ toolkit trackers and log books with a client, we will map them to the new categories, so transferring data into the official tracker at wrap is a clean, checked transfer, with the source records retained as auditable evidence.

6. THE RISK FOR PRODUCTIONS THAT STRADDLE THE TRANSITION DEADLINE

BAFTA Albert's guidance handles productions that finish neatly before September or start neatly after it. The danger sits with everything in between, and that is a lot of productions. Drama and feature productions can spend several months in post. A production that wrapped principal photography in spring 2026 may not deliver until autumn 2027.

For those productions, the people who know what actually happened on the floor - what the generators ran on, where the crew stayed, what the sets were built from, what was donated at wrap - will have left long before anyone presses submit. Under the new system the application is evidence-based and the evidence is requested at assessment. A post-production coordinator cannot conjure dated fuel invoices from a unit that wrapped six months earlier.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

- Decide the route before wrap, not delivery. The choice of certification route happens in prep or, for current productions, now.

- Lock the evidence before the crew goes. A complete, organised evidence folder (leadership, impact actions, sustainable future, on-screen) is a wrap deliverable, owned by a named person, finished while HoDs are still on payroll.
- Finalise data at wrap, not in post. Footprint data entered, reconciled against the ledger and reviewed within weeks of wrap, while accounts are still live and queries can be answered.
- Name a custodian for post. One named person (production side or Picture Zero) carries the BAFTA Albert responsibility through post, with access to the evidence folder and a clear brief.
- Anything still on the current Toolkit at shutdown loses its workflow. If a production cannot complete footprint and CAP by 1 December 2026, plan it onto the NGT now rather than racing a closing system.

7. WHICH TOOLKIT? THE FOUR SCENARIOS

BAFTA Albert's sunsetting guidance boils down to four scenarios.

SCENARIO	ROUTE	WATCH OUT
1 Post ends BEFORE 16 Sept 2026, endboard logo needed for the first time after that date.	Stay on the current Toolkit for footprint and CAP.	Must be able to complete BOTH footprint and CAP by 1 December 2026 to avoid rejection. Receives the old footprint logo.
2 Post ends BEFORE 1 Dec 2026, seeking pre-approval for TX before 15 Sept 2026 (early TX, live, sport, news).	Stay on the current Toolkit for footprint and CAP.	Same hard deadline: footprint and CAP complete by 1 December 2026.
3 Post ends AFTER 1 Dec 2026, but pre-approval needed for TX before 15 Sept 2026 (live, sport, news, continuous drama).	Footprint: collect in the Data Tracker now and upload to the NGT from 16 September (or enter manually in the NGT). Certification: pre-approval on the current Toolkit if the logo is needed for early episodes, then reapply for the Committed route on the NGT for future episodes.	The pre-approved logo is only valid until 30 December 2026 and cannot be used on post-2026 episodes. This is the dual-system scenario: typically sports seasons and continuous drama straddling the transition.
4 Post ends AFTER 16 Sept 2026, endboard logo needed for the first time after that date.	Everything on the NGT: Data Tracker or manual entry for the footprint, Certified or Committed route for certification.	Do not start certification on the current Toolkit. If already collecting data, use the Data Tracker so it uploads on day one.

Productions with genuinely unusual timing should be checked against the full BAFTA Albert transitioning guidance. If you are a Picture Zero client, send any queries to your Picture Zero contact and we will work them through with you.

8. WHAT TO DO NOW

EVERY PRODUCTION ACTIVE IN LATE 2026

- Map the timeline: prep, shoot, wrap, post end, TX or delivery and whether an endboard mark is needed and when.
- Choose the likely route: current Toolkit, NGT Certified or NGT Committed, using the four scenarios above.
- Assign responsibility: a named owner for BAFTA Albert, data and evidence, including through post.
- Set up data collection: Data Tracker, manual entry, existing PZ workflow or hybrid, mapped to the new categories.
- Collect evidence from day one: dated, production-specific, organised by the four certification sections.
- Review the new criteria early: if you will certify on the NGT, look at the Certified or Committed criteria and the evidence required at the start, not the end.

- Update supplier asks: build data reporting and sustainability requirements into contracts and POs.
- Review budgets: sustainability roles, equipment, materials and trials visible as budget lines. This is now directly scored (up to 8 points on Certified question 1.1).
- Brief crew and HoDs: production, accounts, transport, locations, electrical, art, construction, costume, catering and post.

PRODUCTION COMPANIES AND BROADCASTERS

- Build a slate-level view: which productions finish before 16 September, which can complete by 1 December, which straddle and which start fresh on the NGT.
- Put route checks into greenlight and prep meetings, alongside budget and schedule.
- Prepare finance teams for stronger reconciliation between footprint data and ledgers.
- Standardise evidence folders and supplier templates across productions to cut repeated work.
- Export early: any historical current-Toolkit data the company wants to keep must be exported before shutdown. Only company admins can export reports, so do not let admin access lapse during the transition.
- Brief the people who inherit the production: make sure post-production coordinators and any new hires know what is expected on BAFTA Albert, especially where wrap and delivery are far apart.
- Build company-level foundations now: this is an opportunity to put strong environmental policies, procedures and training in place for your production teams. It benefits every show and helps score higher under the new certification.

9. HOW PICTURE ZERO HELPS

SUPPORT	WHAT WE PROVIDE
Transition planning	Review a production or slate, plus company policies and procedures, and confirm which route applies before timing forces the decision.
Workflow set-up	Data collection, evidence folders, supplier asks and named responsibilities, mapped to the new categories.
Team briefings	Short, targeted sessions for execs, PMs, coordinators, accounts, HoDs and post teams.
Data Tracker support	Whether to use it, how to avoid duplication and validation failures, and how to move data from existing PZ trackers.
Certification preparation	Pre-submission review of likely scoring, evidence quality and gaps, on either route.
Wrap and post support	Final reconciliation, evidence lock-down at wrap and custodianship of the application through post.

TALK TO US

If you have any worries or concerns about the new calculator and certification, or you would simply like to talk it through with someone, please contact your existing Picture Zero contact in the first instance. For any other enquiries, or for further information, email info@picturezero.com and we will get back to you.

NEXT GENERATION TOOLKIT ROUTER

Answer two questions about your production to find the correct certification route for the new BAFTA Albert NGT, launching 16 September 2026.

[Open the Toolkit Router →](#)