# Sustainability Policy

At the Kerry International Film Festival, we are committed to hosting a world-class cultural event with minimal environmental impact. Sustainability is woven into every aspect of our planning and operations — from how we choose our venues to the way we celebrate at our social events. Our core environmental values are reflected in the following key areas:

**Venue Selection**

We select venues with sustainability in mind, focusing on accessibility and environmentally conscious locations. We prioritise venues located near train and bus stops to reduce reliance on private car travel. Venues with safe, secure bicycle parking are strongly favoured to encourage low-carbon travel. We choose areas with restaurants, cafés, and amenities within walking distance, reducing travel emissions and supporting the local economy.

**Guest Travel**

We aim to make guest travel as sustainable as possible.

**Special Events**

We love a good party — and we make sure to party responsibly. All food, beer, and wine are sourced from local, green-minded producers. No plastic serving ware or utensils are allowed. Only 100% biodegradable options are used. All waste must be composted or recycled. We maintain a strict zero landfill policy. Leftover food is either taken home by team members or donated to local charities and organisations. We provide glass bottles or offer water refill stations with fresh tap water.

All volunteers are trained and committed to supporting this initiative at the ground level. We are proud supporters of Refill Ireland, helping make free tap water refills a norm across Killarney. Our goal is to increase the number of refill stations listed on the Refill Ireland Tap Map, with Killarney House and Lir Café already on board.

**Marketing Materials**

We take a minimal and mindful approach to marketing materials. We limit printed materials and prioritise digital communications wherever possible. When printing is necessary, materials are printed locally using recycled paper and soy-based inks (where available). Festival signage, décor, and promotional items are designed for long-term use — for example, by omitting dates from vinyl banners. We encourage our sponsors and partners to use digital formats and on-screen messaging instead of paper-based promotional content.

**Digital Films**

From submissions to screenings, we've moved to a digital-first process.

Each year, we receive over 1000 film entries electronically, eliminating paper, DVDs, and unnecessary shipping. Our screening committee conducts all reviews and discussions online. Where possible, we screen digital versions of films, reducing the need for celluloid prints and their associated shipping emissions.

**Festival Office**

In a bid to reduce energy and resource consumption, our team operates remotely with no permanent physical office. We use electronic formats for film submissions, volunteer applications, ticketing, invitations, reporting, and surveys.

**Volunteer T-Shirts**

We provide our volunteers with T-shirts that are organic and Fairtrade Certified, ensuring both environmental sustainability and ethical labor practices.

The Kerry International Film Festival is proud to champion sustainability across every aspect of our operations. We are committed to ongoing improvement and innovation in our green practices, and we invite our partners, guests, and audience to join us in celebrating culture while protecting our planet.

**KIFF support REFILL IRELAND**

Refill Ireland is an environmental project aiming to make Irish towns and cities tap water refill friendly for everyone while on the go (like the old days!). We locate and encourage the creation of locations where filling your reusable water bottle for FREE from an increasing number of refill stations becomes an easy to do everyday habit helping hydration and ultimately protecting our environment from bottle waste.

https://www.refill.ie/

We hope to secure more Killarney pins on their Tap Map through the work of KIFF volunteers but Killarney House, a KIFF venue, and Lir Cafe, a KIFF Recommends, are currently two of the three refill stations in Killarney.