

# Guildhall

## Events Sustainability Policy

### **Recognition of Sustainability**

The City of London Corporation has a vision for a world leading sustainable business ecosystem and commits to several initiatives and goals in order to achieve this.

The City Corporation has adopted a radical Climate Action Strategy which sets out how the organisation will achieve net zero, build climate resilience and champion sustainable growth, both in the UK and globally, over the next two decades.

By adopting the Climate Action Strategy, the City Corporation has committed to:

- Achieve net zero carbon emissions from our own operations by 2027
- Achieve net zero carbon emissions across our investments and supply chain by 2040
- Support the achievement of net zero for the Square Mile by 2040
- Achieve Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

The City Corporation has also produced a report entitled 'Responsible Business Strategy, Towards a Sustainable Future' detailing its commitment to responsible business. If you wish a view these reports, please ask a member of the Events team who will be happy to share it with you.

The City Corporation has confirmed its commitment to renewable energy by signing up to RE100, a global initiative aimed at moving the world's biggest and more influential organisations to run with 100% renewable energy by 2050. The City Corporation has gone further; it has pledged to do this by 2030.

The City Corporation recognises the need to continue to build a globally recognised, vibrant, forward thinking environment in a sustainable way. These principles are adopted by every department and area of the Corporation, and the events teams are no different.

Recognising three key areas where the team focusses on sustainability at events, namely our supply chain, our operations and building management, and our local area, highlighted below are several policies, procedures and initiatives that are employed to support sustainability at all our events.

### **Catering**

The City of London Corporation is committed to its Responsible Business Strategy and to the responsible sourcing of food and catering services. As such the City Corporation has:

- A Policy on 'Welfare of Egg-laying Hens', which commits our caterers to using free range eggs, whether shell, liquid or powder
- A Sustainable Fish Cities Pledge
- Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering adopted as part of the City Corporation's Procurement Code 2015
- Our Fairtrade Accreditation and Fairtrade Resolution, which was renewed in 2019
- Our Modern Slavery Statement

The City Corporation abides by these at every event it hosts, and it also expects its commercial and external hire clients to do so as well. That is why we always require all our catering suppliers to adhere to these policies when working at Guildhall. Review of sustainability and CSR policies forms



part of the procurement and tender process, and we invite them to commit to this by signing our Framework Agreement for the provision of services at Guildhall. We also continue due diligence by requesting updates on their sustainability and CSR policies every 6 months. Their sustainable practices, and CSR policies, are also considered when we go out to tender, and we include this in our Framework Agreement (our contract permitting caterers to operate at the venue).

We are also committed to reducing waste and following a successful pilot at the Lord Mayor's Banquet in November 2017 have been working to implement the appropriate infrastructure to allow for the redistribution of surplus food from events that take place in our venue. Guildhall purchased a blast chiller to aid in the redistribution of food by cooling food to an appropriate temperature rendering it safe for storage, transportation and subsequent consumption, and this is made available to every caterer that operates an event at Guildhall. We also introduced all our caterers to Plan Zheroes, a food redistribution facilitator who aims to tackle food shortages by 'inspiring people to be zero food waste heroes', and who worked at the 2017 banquet.

### **Transport and getting to and from Guildhall**

Guildhall is centrally located within close proximity to some of London's major train stations and several well-served tube stations.

Guildhall encourages the use of public transport, cycling or walking to the venue, and further information on public transport routes can be found on our website or be provided by our Event Coordinators. There is a Santander docking station and personal use bike rack located on Aldermanbury, one of the four roads that encompasses the Guildhall complex.

For further information on how to get to Guildhall by foot from four of London's major train stations (Waterloo, Charing Cross, Liverpool Street and London Bridge) please see our Instagram page for quick walking videos from each station to Guildhall – keep an eye out for the landmarks you'll see on the way, too!

### **Support with Hybrid events**

Advances in technology mean that people can connect in more ways than ever before. Guildhall recognises that you may want to connect with team members or clients based in alternative locations, and for that reason we have upgraded our WiFi and AV offering to support with the demand of producing hybrid events. We also work alongside several AV and production suppliers that provide the services required to facilitate hybrid events, and details of these can be found on our Frequent Suppliers List.

To learn more about how one event can be run concurrently across multiple locations please watch this video that collaborated on with Bubble, a premier catering company, showing how an event can take place at Guildhall with a secondary location elsewhere.

### **Plastic**

The City Corporation operates a zero tolerance policy on single use plastics and expects this of all suppliers and contractors that engage with the City. To support this initiative in 2020 the City Corporation installed 17 on-street water refill points throughout the City to eliminate the need for disposable plastic water bottle use. To learn more about the City Corporation's policy please click here: <https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/city-of-london-cuts-out-36-million-single-use-plastic-items/>



## **Energy Efficiency**

Guildhall has embarked on a comprehensive upgrade of the Building Management System (BMS). This upgrade not only ensures the day to day running of the building is more efficient, but it allows our Facilities Management team to continuously monitor the usage of all energy outputs throughout the complex and to identify where further efficiencies can be made. This ensures that there is continuous focus on the energy used by the buildings and that we can continue to reduce output where we can. This applies to the heating, lighting and ventilation systems throughout the complex.

## **Well-being and enjoyment of outside spaces**

Albeit Guildhall is in the heart of the City it is close to many areas in which residents and visitors can enjoy being outside. From Guildhall Yard which hosts a number of benches, and in the summer months has tables and chairs for everyone's enjoyment, to public roof top space at the top of One New Change, there are plenty of open spaces in close proximity to Guildhall where fresh air, sunshine and nature can be enjoyed. We actively encourage enjoyment of these spaces, and should you wish more information on what else is close by, please speak with our Event Coordinators.

