**Environmental Policy**

The growing evidence of a catastrophic environmental emergency is becoming more apparent every day, from extreme weather events to widespread extinction of species. Hawk’s Well Theatre recognises the role the theatre has played in this environmental emergency through the work we have created, the raw materials we have used, and by inviting artists and audiences to travel to our location.

However, we believe the theatre can be part of the solution, by examining every part of our business to make change. We believe these changes will happen through the stories we tell, the culture we create and by encouraging empathy and understanding throughout our community.

We have already started to make significant progress towards reducing the carbon impact of the theatre and are pledging to continue this journey in line with the Irish Governments 2021 Climate Act and Action Plan, which commits Ireland to 51% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The scale of the changes required means we will scrutinize every part of the way we operate with the full commitment of the theatre’s staff and board.

**Our commitments are:**

* To embed environmental sustainability at the heart of the theatre’s practice.
* To set year-on-year carbon reduction targets within our environmental action plan.
* To report on our progress annually.
* To seek expert advice and guidance and to share our experience and learn from others within the wider sector.

**Our areas of focus are:**

 **Energy -** We are improving the efficiency of our 1980s building to reduce energy usage. We will achieve this by making significant improvements within the fabric of the building, upgrading our lighting and equipment as well as monitoring and quantifying our energy usage.

**Waste –** We are committed to improving our waste management and significantly reducing the waste that is produced by the theatre by examining the material we use, our work practices and the products we sell.

**Water –** We will monitor and reduce water usage throughout the theatre building through upgrades to existing facilities.

**People -** We will empower our staff and artists to examine their own practices and decision making, with ideas for change that will filter throughout the business. Our mission is to embody environmental action that will galvanise positive change, informing our community through storytelling and our achievements, enabling audiences to understand the importance of our goals and for those audiences to then minimize their own pollution and carbon footprint.

**Monitoring and reporting -** We are committed to quantifying and monitoring our progress through the actions we set out and the data we collect. Our Environmental Policy will be supported by our Environmental Action Plan and both will be reviewed on an annual basis by our Board and updated as necessary.