

Aerowaves Environmental Policy

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	Approved By: The Board	Date Approved: 26/09/2025

Revision History

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
1.0	04/11/2024	Actions on travel for two main events	
1.1	24/09/2025	Actions on green touring for partners	

Policy:	This policy seeks to ensure that Aerowaves operates in an environmentally sustainable way in all that it does.
Purpose:	Its purpose is to define how Aerowaves will operate in an environmentally sustainable way.
Scope:	It applies to all of Aerowaves' work.
Governance:	This policy will be reviewed every year. It is managed by the current Aerowaves Green Team (Elisabetta Bisaro and Claudia Bufrau), shared annually with the Aerowaves' partners and overseen by the Aerowaves Board. Developing a policy is a process. The Aerowaves Green Team will meet annually to assess the network's progress according to the stated objectives and share the results with the partners at the annual business meeting, to enrich the content of the policy. It will be implemented through the associated Sustainability Action Plan, equally managed by the Aerowaves Green Team.
Responsibilities:	This policy applies to Aerowaves staff and board members, as well as Aerowaves Partners and any actor engaged in its activities. The policy sets the initial parameters for the network to take concrete actions that improve the sustainability and ecological impact of Aerowaves' activities. The suggestions and good practices presented in this policy shall be acknowledged and approved by all partners, artists, freelancers, programmers, volunteers and other guests involved in Aerowaves' programme of activities. Aerowaves belongs to a consortium of European cultural networks organised around the SHIFT (Shared initiatives for Training) initiative and will strive to meet the criteria of its eco-label.

Introduction

AEROWAVES began in 1996 at The Place in London, as a small group of European dance colleagues brought together by John Ashford, then Director of the theatre there. Aerowaves now has partners in 34 countries. The network brings together the professional knowledge, personal insight and love for dance of 44 members. Each year in October, these partners vote for the next group of Aerowaves Twenty artists. Each Spring, these Twenty artists are programmed as part of the Spring Forward festival, which gathers over 300 professionals from Europe and beyond. Other capacity building projects – Springback academy, Startup Forum and Artists’ encounter – run in parallel of the annual festival.

The annual selection meeting and festival are the two actions with the potential highest ecological impact. Aerowaves does not have a permanent office. Its staff works from their respective homes. Board meetings are held online. While sobriety is already at the core of how Aerowaves functions, we are committed to keep track and continue reducing our ecological footprint and develop sustainable actions in all our own activities. We will encourage partners to be equally responsible and proactive.

Our Environmental Approach

Aerowaves acknowledges the connection between human activity and the climate crisis and that the climate and nature crisis is exacerbated by inequality. This policy sets the initial parameters for the network as well as any actor engaged in its activities to take concrete, measurable actions that improve the sustainability and ecological impact of Aerowaves’ programming. It is a statement of values, principles and commitment to positive environmental change. It is informed by the [Action on Climate](#) recommendations carried out by the network in 2021 and a workshop led by independent environmentalist consultant David Irle in 2022.

The recommendations and good practices presented in this policy shall apply both to how we work with others and the way in which we ourselves operate. As a European platform, we appreciate the great diversity of political and cultural contexts that our members operate within. We understand that we are not all equally responsible or equally affected, but we all have a role to play, and we cannot do this alone. Hence, Aerowaves will encourage rather than impose solutions to its Partners. Aerowaves should become a hub for gathering and signposting to members practical tools and successful examples of new sustainable models of good practice that can be adapted to the circumstances and needs of the network, its Partners and beyond.

The Aerowaves Environmental Policy is a process and not a tick-box exercise. The Aerowaves Green Team will meet annually to assess the network’s progress according to the stated objectives. It will share the results with the Partners at the annual business meeting, to enrich the content of the policy.

Below we set out the key areas this policy applies to and how we will approach them. The policy is fully supported and welcomed by the staff and has been agreed by our Board.

Our actions

As an organisation, our main areas of environmental impact are:

1. Carbon emissions from travel
2. Materials use in production and communication
3. Consumption and waste created during annual partners' meeting and Spring Forward festival
4. Energy use during annual partners' meeting and Spring Forward festival

We seek to understand our environmental impact so we can minimise our footprint. This policy seeks to identify and reduce emissions in our operations as follows:

Travel

- We will record annually our travel emissions for our two main activities, the annual partners' meeting (Autumn) and Spring Forward (Spring), using the SHIFT travel emission tool. We will ask our staff members, board members, artists and guests to provide their modes of travel upon registration and calculate emissions based on the information provided to collectively identify opportunities to measurably reduce them each year;
- We will encourage staff, board and partners to reduce travel when non-essential and to use sustainable means of transport wherever possible (use train and bus as opposed to flights);
- We will create and manage a ring-fenced voluntary fund to encourage sustainable transport and green touring initiatives: (1) Any partner who can secure another 2 performances for one artist in neighbouring towns and cities is eligible for additional funding. Collaborations with venues in another country are eligible as long as travel is sustainable (no flights); (2) Partners can claim additional funding per person for any company that would like to travel by train or another sustainable method.
- We will encourage Aerowaves members to work towards longer stays for artists at each tour to include, where appropriate, deeper engagement with local artists and communities;
- We will encourage partners and funders to point their audience to public transport, car sharing, cycling options when coming to their venues.

Materials

- Aerowaves creates very little printed materials and physical materials in its operations (festival programmes are not printed but shared online with guests). Nonetheless, we will ensure to minimise the use of printed materials wherever possible
- We will be attentive in reducing our digital impact, by using HD quality for video material and privileging less impactful means of communications (for ex.: podcasts)
- Where possible for events and meetings, we avoid the use of single use disposable items. We will recycle and reuse materials wherever possible (for ex.: lanyards)
- All staff and members attending our events are expected to use available recycling facilities
- We will opt for eco-friendly and reused materials for Spring Forward festival and annual meetings, and prioritising whenever possible new, sustainable innovations and local providers;
- We will work with our SF festival and annual partners' meetings' hosts to integrate environmental and ethical considerations when choosing supplies and services, and to use the most sustainable equipment
- We will encourage our artists and their staff to use low-carbon modes of travel, reuse materials and items when possible, and support environmentally friendly hotels and cafés/restaurants and to highlight these actions locally to be able to fundraise additional funds)
- We will share our sustainability policy with our partners, artists and guests attending our events

Food and waste

- All Spring Forward festivals will propose locally produced, vegan/vegetarian options and reusable utensils
- We will ensure availability of on-site recycling options for catering
- We will seek out local suppliers and partners whenever possible
- We will include a clause on environmental sustainability within our contracts with suppliers and partners, whenever possible
- We will work with our suppliers and partners to encourage them to apply the same principles, using their environmental sustainability policy as a criterion for procurement or partnership where appropriate. This will impact on our choice of suppliers and partners amongst other areas.

Energy

- We will minimise our use of energy and utilities during our annual partners' meeting and Spring Forward Festival.
- We will privilege places with a lower carbon emission impact for our selection meeting and Spring Forward festival, wherever possible;
- We will minimise use of energy for storage, downloading and streaming

Governance

Overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Aerowaves' co-directors and Board, who will review this policy on an annual basis.

To ensure that we are meeting the aims and the spirit of this policy we will:

- Discuss and review how well we are implementing this policy together with the partners, and adjust our practices and action plan where necessary
- Assess any significant new or revised policies and procedures for their impact on environmental sustainability
- Embed environmental sustainability into our work plans
- Ensure our employment practices and procedures are consistent with the aims of this policy.

All staff and Board members have a responsibility to ensure that their own actions are consistent with the spirit as well as the contents of this policy. We understand that this policy needs to be made understandable to, and embraced by staff, partners, and suppliers.