



## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

These are exciting times in the filmmaking industry. Whilst the global film production companies have been incorporating sustainable production practices around environmental, social and economic issues for some time, this awareness and change of practice is starting to take hold across the wider industry as a new normal is introduced.

**WSFF** as an organisation strongly believes in environmental sustainability in all walks of life, and we are closely following these practices and behaviours with interest, with a view to engendering more initiatives as apply to our operations in the planning, production and delivery of our festivals. Whilst we accept we are currently a fledgling organisation, we are committed to ensuring sustainability is integrated into our day-to-day operations from the start.

We have the opportunity to address this in two major ways - our day-to-day behaviours and practices in hosting our festivals, and in our selection of the films and documentaries that we screen.

### Hosting the Festival

We're fortunate enough to be able to host our Berlin event at a wonderful, open-air venue in Angermünde, where we have the following short term sustainability goals:

- Biodegradable toilets
- Non-plastic festival
- Recycled water
- No internet
- Bicycle only space
- Organic food
- Recycle bins
- Solar electricity

We were able to introduce some of these in our previous events, and are actively working towards the rest in our planning and budget activities.

We are proud to state that these principles are shared by our entire team, and we strive to educate and inspire our volunteers, as well as our guests and audiences, in active demonstration of our beliefs.

One of the reasons we have chosen Watermans Arts Centre for our London festival is their strong commitment to this cause. For **WSFF** this is the perfect organisation to 'get into bed with'.

In addition to the infrastructure offered by Watermans, we are looking at other ways to minimise environment impact in our logistics, such as taxi/bus shares between hotels and Watermans, donation of food to a local charity/shelter at the end of each day.

## Film/Documentary Selection

We understand the opportunity we have in the film industry, especially in independent cinema, to share new, thought-provoking stories and ideas with audiences. There comes with that certain responsibilities, both in addressing diversity and variety in those stories and characters, but also in the behaviours that we as filmmakers follow and champion.

In recognition of these opportunities, we will be selecting at least one documentary focusing entirely on critical environment impact/sustainability. Although submissions will continue until March 2021, we already have a number of documentaries submitted in these areas, looking at rainforest ecosystems, reducing plastics in our oceans, reducing carbon footprint across a variety of industries.

Similarly we see storylines, characters etc representing a wide range of environmental issues in different and interesting ways in many of the films that are submitted, and this is one of our core criteria for film selection.

We also include lectures/talks on environmental impact within the film industry at all our events, and were honoured to host Birgit Heidsiek, of Green Film Shooting <https://greenfilmshooting.net/blog/en/about-us/>, in 2018 who gave a fascinating lecture on minimising the carbon footprint in filmmaking, and who will return to talk at **WSFF** (London) 2021.

**We hope that one day, WSFF will be synonymous with all things ecologically friendly, and not only in the film industry.**