

# THE ABUNDANCE FILM LIMITED

## GREEN MEMO

Updated: 5 July 2022

The Abundance Film Limited prides itself on its green thinking and advances in sustainable production. We are aiming to be at the forefront of new initiatives that aim to embed green working practices in the Content industry.

Our emphasis is on efficiency, reducing what we are using and reducing waste.

To ensure that sustainability remains at the heart of our company, we email out a Think Sustainability 'newsletter' every week; sharing relevant news stories, case studies and handy hints and tips.

Please take a little time to read about our plans below and do share any of your own ideas with us. We would like this to be a document that is always being updated, evolves, and grows as we all learn more and as new developments are made.

### **Albert**

All employees will attend the Albert Carbon Literacy training.

All productions will seek to be awarded an Albert+ BAFTA accreditation.

At the beginning of each project, we will predict our carbon footprint, and this will be distributed to the team. The aim of the team will be to reduce this even further during production.

The production team will keep a detailed log of all travel / hotels / energy consumption / materials used / waste management on the production so we can reassess our actions throughout the production.

For further information on Albert, please click <http://wearealbert.org>

## **Environmental Impact Assessments**

Before each shoot a sustainability assessment called Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out. We will look at the purpose of each shoot and evaluate whether:

there is archive available negating the need to film at all;

- we can minimise the number of crew who travel;
- we can encourage hiring local film crew; and
- alternative and greener travel routes are available or whether we need to travel at all (can we direct remotely?).

We aim to scrutinise every shoot and have a clear justification for all approved shoots.

Additionally, after each shoot, we debrief what went well, what went wrong and what could have been better. As well as calculating the total carbon emissions of the shoot so that our carbon emissions can be brought to Net Zero.

## **Travel**

We will reduce daily emissions by working from home as much as possible – communicating via video conferencing / phone / email, thus avoiding travel altogether.

We encourage crew to walk / cycle to the office where possible. Those living further away are encouraged to use public transport rather than drive.

Before each shoot, the team will consult the travel decision tree. Do we need to travel at all? Can we use archive? Can we remote shoot using a local team?

If we do need to attend a shoot, we will send as few people from the production team as possible and hire as many local crews as we can to limit international travel.

On shoots, we will maximise vehicle sharing where relevant (and covid protocols allow).

We will hire electric or low emission vehicles where possible.

We will rent as much kit as we can locally, to avoid unnecessary airfreight.

If we do need to take equipment with us, when transporting film equipment, we will lightweight PeliAir cases, thus halving our carbon emissions on transporting equipment.

## **Vendors / suppliers lists**

As part of the tender, all vendors will need to show that they have an Environmental policy and are actively striving to be as sustainable as possible.

Albert has a [suppliers list](#) which is where we begin our vendors search from.

We then produce our own list of green and ethical suppliers whose environmental and sustainability credentials have been investigated further by us. We complete our TAF vendors questionnaire which tallies up a score to give the vendor a TAF rating. The best TAF rated companies are the ones we aim to work with.

We save the questionnaire and the vendor's sustainability policy together, enabling us to refer back to them in the future. We plan to go over and compare a vendor's credentials and update their TAF rating at least once a year.

This gives us confidence that we are working with like minded companies who are also striving to do their best for the planet.

## **Energy management**

The emphasis will be one of efficiency and reducing what we are using. We will be using efficient generation technologies and doing all that we can to manage and reduce our energy consumption so that we can make a big impact on our overall carbon emissions.

Our production office will run on green energy. We encourage everyone working at home to switch to a green energy tariff if they are not doing so already.

Always remember to switch off equipment when not in use and overnight.

Always switch off lights when not using the room.

We will be using more efficient kit (for eg. led lighting panels, renewable energy generators).

We will use rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.

Edit suite temperature will be limited to min 16 and max 22.

## **Office Equipment / Furniture**

Where available, we will buy repurposed phones and computers.

To encourage the move to a paperless production we will not have a printer in the production office.

All office furniture will be sourced second hand / upcycled.

## **Data storage / Media Management**

We will review media management and aim to reduce the amount of digitising required, saving energy and reducing on-going space issues.

We will eliminate the burning of dvds and the need to transport them to the recipient and upload cuts to site such as vimeo.

We will delete unnecessary online media – keeping our use of servers to a minimum. This includes deleting superfluous emails.

We will aim to rent storage management systems where possible.

## **Paper / Printing**

We want to do our best to ensure we minimise the amount of paper that is wasted, therefore all scripts, schedules, amendments, unit lists, Risk Assessments etc will be issued electronically and will only issue hard copies when requested. We will also use a paperless release form app. A hard copy of release forms will be made available if it is difficult to recharge the device containing the app on location.

All paper and paper products to be obtained from a recycled source. Where possible research books will be sourced 2<sup>nd</sup> hand or digitally.

## **Recycling**

Recycling bins will be provided in the production office. When on location crew are asked to recycle where it is possible to do so.

## **Water**

Our production has a ban on disposable plastic bottles. The crew and contributors are encouraged to use reusable water bottles in the office and on location.

## **Catering**

We will eliminate non-biodegradable disposables. Opt for re-usable crockery, paper or compostable.

We have a ban on polystyrene.

Compost food waste where possible.

We can reduce our footprint by cutting down on red meats such as beef and lamb. The carbon footprint of a vegetarian diet is about half that of a meat eater's diet. We encourage crew who are not already vegetarian / vegan to have at least one Meat Free day per week.

## **Accommodation**

Where possible, we will use shared self-catering accommodation when on location which has a lower carbon emissions than a hotel. Crew will also be able to prepare meals instead of rely on take-aways.

When using hotels, we will aim to use only those who use renewable energy and have a clear sustainability policy.

## **Sharing resources – the ultimate recycling**

Mindful of GDPR regulations and with permission from individuals, we will open source key production documents – such as vendor lists, global crew contact lists and sustainability assessments. These will be shared with the filming industry.

We aim to open source permitted rushes so that Charities and NGOS can use the material in their own films, reducing the need for them to film.

## **Offset plan**

We have been investigating the most effective form of offsetting, so that we know we have the gold standard.

SUPERCRITICAL - <https://gosupercritical.com/> are the company we are looking at to carbon offset with. Carbon capture is currently the preferred method.

## **Making the Carbon Count**

We cannot eliminate our carbon footprint entirely, so we need to make our carbon count.

As part of our sustainability assessment we will aim to pinpoint how we are making the carbon count. Questions will include:

How are we using the material shot? For what purpose?

Are we giving back to the communities we are visiting? How?

Are there continuing elements of the story whereby leaving a camera and training someone can negate the requirement for extending the shoot / returning?

Can we allow local community members to shadow the crew?

Can we offer the crew the opportunity to stay there on holiday at the end of it?

It is important to celebrate our achievements and inspire others to work more efficiently. We will spread our story through instagram and acting as a case study in the industry.

This can all seem a little overwhelming. This is an area where we are all learning new things and adopting new habits daily. Each and every one of us can make a positive impact. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.”

Maya Angelou

### HANDY HINTS APPENDIX

I would like to have a few handy hints here to help people make simple, easy and free changes .... For eg. Switch to Ecosia search engine that plants trees for every search that it does.

[See ‘RESOURCES’ tab of ‘Sustainability timeline and resources spreadsheet’ -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nptVtuIZBKNw\\_zvViuTgVdDZzgO1Pslo2I2\\_0jwDrpo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nptVtuIZBKNw_zvViuTgVdDZzgO1Pslo2I2_0jwDrpo/edit?usp=sharing)