Sustainability Guidelines for Filming in Hertsmere

We, at Hertsmere Borough Council, understand our role in promoting and encouraging environmental sustainability and responsibility.

We recognise our collective responsibility – both as an organisation and as individuals employed by the council – to work towards achieving our target of net zero carbon emissions no later than 2050.

By supporting the film and TV sector in further adopting sustainable practices, we aim to ensure that the borough remains a thriving, environmentally responsible destination for productions.

The council is committed to working collaboratively with Filming in England and other stakeholders to promote sustainable solutions to support productions in reducing their carbon footprints. We aim to have a positive environmental and social impact on our communities.

Commitments:

We encourage those productions filming in Hertsmere to adopt sustainable best practices and to take steps to minimise their environmental impact. These include, but are not limited to:

Sustainable travel: Encourage cast, crew, and suppliers to choose active, public and sustainable travel options, wherever possible, by incentivising carpooling, use of public transport, and other eco-friendly travel choices. Productions should try to encourage the use of trucks, vans and minibuses which use low-carbon and sustainable fuel such as electricity and biofuel.

Sustainable production policies: We ask productions to develop, share and regularly update their green and sustainability policies.

Waste reduction: Implement the principles of reduce, reuse, recover and recycle across all departments. Eliminate single-use plastics. Seek to ensure responsible waste management, and if possible, ALBERT certification. Please note that, from 31 March 2025, businesses in England are required by law to segregate waste into different streams - dry recyclables, food waste and residual.

Reduce paper use: Adopt a digital-first approach, printing materials only when absolutely necessary.

Recycled/pre-used materials: Prioritise purchasing pre-used costumes, props and appliances to reduce demand of new resources. Please look to donate unwanted items, costumes and archives to local schools and community groups.

Raising awareness: Use 'green memos' to keep crews informed about sustainability practices. Provide opportunities for key crew members to undertake sustainability training.

Energy efficiency and power planning: Commit to using low-energy equipment, renewable power sources and green fuel options on set and devise a long-term power production plan, prioritising grid electricity over generators, wherever possible. If the use of mobile power is needed, commit to using low-energy equipment such as batteries or hybrid generators.

Local crew: Use the Filming in England National Crew Directory to source local crew to minimise the carbon impact of travel.

Sustainable suppliers: Encourage shopping locally and use the Filming in England National Supplier Directory to source local suppliers with sustainability credentials.

Sustainable accommodation: Where possible, opt for local accommodation close to base or those using renewable energy, and consider hiring available spaces instead of using trailers.

Community recycling: Partner with local schools, charities and community organisations to recycle materials from the production, including donating leftover catering to food banks, redistribution charities and local shelters.

Hertsmere Borough Council filming requests are coordinated by the Creative Sector Officer in the Economic Development team, who can be contacted by email on filming@hertsmere.gov.uk

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