

Environmental Statement

Glastonbury Festival recognises that running the event at Worthy Farm has a direct impact (both positive and negative) on the environment. The Festival is committed to enhancing the environment through our operations wherever possible, and minimising any negative impact.

The Festival also commits to maintaining the rich and diverse environment that has evolved through alternative land usage. Holding a festival once a year in the middle of the growing season prevents the use of environmentally damaging conventional farming practices which would have a more intrusive impact on the ecology.

This statement will focus on litter management, sewage management, management of the general ecology of the site and environmental messaging to festival goers. The Festival is committed to working with the grain of nature, not against it, and complying with all environmental legal requirements.

Litter Management

Any event with 150,000 attendees will generate significant levels of litter. The Festival is committed to minimising the amount of waste, and managing the on site collection of that waste efficiently. The Festival works to the key environmental management principals of "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". The Festival is equally committed to quickly and effectively clearing any litter caused by the Festival in the local community.

In 2003, 30% of litter was moved off site during the event – in itself a 100% increase from 2002. Over the next 5 years the Festival has set a target of increasing the amount of rubbish moved off site during the event to 50%. This will be addressed by increasing the numbers of litter bins, of tractor teams and of dustcarts, while sustaining existing levels of skip clearance and litter clearing staff.

The Festival commits to continuing its policy of reducing waste. Significant reductions have been recorded in the last three years by placing controls on what is brought on site by staff, contractors, sponsors and traders – and by emphasis on their responsibility to remove items brought on site.

The Festival is also committed to continuing the composting initiative developed in 2004, to minimise the amount of waste that goes to landfill. It is Festival policy that all disposables provided to food traders by Festival wholesalers will be biodegradable, and manufactured in environmental friendly fashion. This is closely monitored and enforced.

The Festival will actively promote recycling to festival goers and will research further recycling options. The Festival achieved twice the 2004 MDC target and commits to exceeding the MDC target of 24% of recycled waste in 2005. This is a demanding target for a one off event in a field, compared to domestic, industrial or commercial outlets with regular established collection practices. In 2004, in addition to the 110 tonnes of composted organic waste, the Festival recycled 150 tonnes of chipped wood, 26.8 tonnes of cans and plastic bottles, 10.3 tonnes of glass, 100 tonnes scrap metal and 13.3 tonnes of cardboard. The Festival commits to work with the statutory authorities on recycling and litter management issues.

Managing Sewage and Waste Water

The Festival commits to transporting sewage and waste water offsite, with the use of the lagoon as a temporary holding facility, in full consultation with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water.

The Festival undertakes to provide containers for waste water and direct all employees and traders that there must not be any discharge of any contaminated water to surface or ground waters. This will continue to be closely monitored. All foul drainage from the market areas and traders will be collected and transported to the lagoon for subsequent disposal. The levels of the effluent collection lagoon will be continually monitored, with effluent being transported to approved sewage treatment works during the event. The lagoon will be thoroughly cleansed before it is returned to agricultural use. The Festival undertakes to commit to the standards set by the Environment Agency with regards to sewage disposal and to an ongoing process of consultation with the Environment Agency and Mendip District Council with regards to minimising any environmental damage caused by the Festival.

The Festival will protect watercourses to minimise the potential of pollution during the event and undertakes to provide more urinals and toilets than recommended by the Event Safety Guide, siting the additional facilities at potential pollution hot spots. The Festival will also monitor the streams during the event.

The Festival also is committed to investigating further developments in technology, which may result in minimising the volume that needs to be transported off site, which in turn will reduce the impact from carbon emissions caused by the tankers. Any developments will only be progressed with the approval of the appropriate authorities.

Managing the Ecology of the Site

The Festival is committed to maintaining the high level of bio-diversity that was found on the festival site by the independent bio-diversity audit carried out by Liz Biron of Somerset Environmental Records Centre in 2003. The Festival aims to further increase this level by continuing its commitment to protecting vulnerable habitats, its new county wildlife sites, badger sets, ponds, streams, hedges and ditches, in nature reserves and non public zones or by fencing them off.

The Festival will continue to try to increase both the abundance and diversity of wildlife, by:

- actively enhancing habitats on site by tree planting, hedge planting, coppicing and hedge laying etc;
- continuing to allow the process of succession from inherited improved grassland to more diverse unimproved grassland;
- allowing a significant level of agricultural weed species (docks and nettles etc) to exist on its core site.

The Festival will continue to protect vulnerable species individuals by establishing, on a need basis, new temporary reserves. This was successfully achieved in 2003 and 2004 by creating a new reserve within the core site for three deer trapped within the site by the perimeter fence. This temporary reserve was so successful that the deer stayed in

this locality long after the fence was removed. Indeed in 2004 the deer moved into the nature reserve of their own accord. This is a good example of area managers/workers and central management working together to resolve serious issues.

The practical reality of this commitment is that the Festival, for the fifth year running, will be enhancing the environment of its core site by more trees and hedge planting at three locations on site. The planting to date has brought the total number of native tree and hedge plants planted to over four thousand since 2000.

Environmental Messaging

The unique environment of the Festival brings together many NGOs and environmental groups, and through participation in the Festival, the public are exposed to many positive influences highlighting environmental values – and hopefully influencing subsequent behaviour. Glastonbury Festival is committed to:

- having a “Green” message central to future marketing campaigns, to dissuade festival goers from urinating in streams, ditches and hedges.
- including environmental messages in festival publications such as the Fine Guide, the programme, the daily paper and on the Festival website, which has direct links to environmental and humanitarian organisations.
- using the screens at the main stages only to promote environmental and humanitarian messages.
- employing the services of environmental organisations in the running of the event, increasing the amounts these organisations can raise towards their objectives – and increasing their profile.
- maintaining the Greenfields, the largest area of its kind dedicated to environmental awareness. Many different environmental concerns that enhance the fabric of our society, from international organisations such as Greenpeace, to small woodland trusts, place a high value on this facility. The festival is the biggest single regular donor to Greenpeace and offers a fertile recruitment ground for members and for promoting environmental campaigns.
- continuing to give trading opportunities to green organisations, and making decisions on which traders to invite based on green credentials.

Additionally the Festival is committed to:

- creating awareness among its employees and subcontractors about the “Reduce Reuse Recycle” mantra and about the importance of minimising any negative impact on the environment.
- employing safe work practices, developing contingencies and implementing measures to prevent, eliminate or reduce pollution,
- encouraging festival-goers to use environmentally sound transport options, by promoting the use of public transport and liftshare.
- continuing to work with Future Forests to be carbon neutral. Future Forests have planted over 6,500 naturally occurring deciduous trees in the woods in the South West of England because of their involvement with the Festival. Since GF pioneered Future Forest’s involvement in 1997 many other events have followed this lead. (When the trees planted at Worthy over the last five years are taken into account as well, there is now a significant carbon sink.)
- improving energy efficiency, seeking green alternatives where possible.

The Festival will review the effectiveness of implementation of the above on a regular basis and, constantly seek to improve environmental performance according to the above criteria.