



# Sustainability Plan

## Harrogate Convention Centre

Prepared by David Humphreys, GCS

2025

# Executive Summary

Harrogate Convention Centre (HCC) Sustainability Plan creates the framework to:

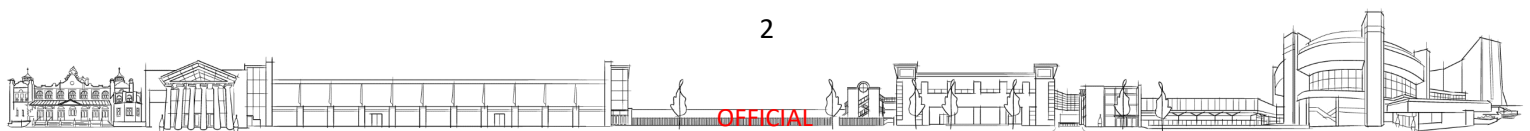
- Follow the North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy to address HCC's own scope 1 and 2 energy related carbon emissions and work with HCC supply chain to address scope 3 carbon emissions.
- Align with Net Zero Carbon Events. Follow its recommendations and implement its action items for venues, including pro-active collaboration with all stakeholders but especially with our customer event organisers.
- Align with the Theatre Green Book, including pro-active collaboration with theatre production companies to promote sustainability best practice.
- Better understand the impact of the events that take place at HCC to facilitate best sustainability practice and become a recognised positive influence in being a sustainable event venue.





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# Introduction

Welcome to the Harrogate Convention Centre (HCC) Sustainability Plan.

This plan is prepared in response to various ongoing and live initiatives within the North Yorkshire Council (NYC), and in the wider live events and meetings industry sectors.

We will not attempt to discuss the climate crisis herein, nor justify our reasons for taking actions towards creating a more sustainable event venue. The [North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy \(NYCCCS\)](#) sets all the context necessary in its Introduction and Foreword.

- NYC and HCC acknowledge there is a climate emergency.
- HCC acknowledges its actions, and the live events that take place at the HCC, have an impact that if left unchecked would continue to exacerbate the climate crisis.
- HCC understands that addressing the climate emergency is only part of the wider agenda to becoming a “Sustainable Venue”.

Given the above:

- HCC will review all our practices to **audit, measure**, and then **minimise**, the negative aspect of our activities.
- HCC understands that the venue plays a significant and highly visible role within the Harrogate and North Yorkshire area, and across the wider UK via the events that we host, and as such has a significant responsibility *and* opportunity for positive influence.
- HCC will pro-actively collaborate with the ongoing:
  - NYC sustainability initiatives
  - Visit North Yorkshire and Green Tourism initiatives
  - Other locally orientated sustainability initiatives as appropriate.

HCC has worked with external event sustainability consultants Green Circle Solutions (GCS) to support the development of this plan.

This sustainability plan creates a “where we are now” overview, provides context why HCC should develop and maintain its own sustainability plan, examines the impacts



of the venue, and starts to propose areas where changes and actions may be implemented. Cost and time implications are noted where possible. However, we also acknowledge that this plan is a current snapshot that will continually evolve over time. We will review and update as necessary on an annual basis.

For the benefit of stakeholders less familiar with the operation of a live events venue, we also introduce context of sustainability across the wider live events industry and primarily the initiatives outlined via Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE) and The Theatre Green Book. With so many, potentially contradictory, influences it could be difficult to decide what best practice and guidance to follow, hence the need for an independent Sustainability Plan for HCC to bring all these various influences together to carve out the best path for HCC.

We will firstly give some background to the various influencing guidance, and then work through the HCC plan: where are we now; what and how we will measure; setting context and targets for the future and how we will take steps to minimise our carbon footprint.



# HCC & NYC Climate Change Policy

The North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy (NYCCCS) sets 3 clear prioritised objectives:

1. **Mitigation:** Reducing our impact on the climate by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Adaptation:** Preparing for the changing climate.
3. **Supporting Nature:** Helping the natural world, on which we depend, to thrive.

This HCC Sustainability Plan will of itself directly support **Priority 1**. HCC's energy consumption is acknowledged as being the largest on the Council's building portfolio. This plan will set strategies for various areas of HCC's emissions reductions, including energy.

**Priority 2**, Adaptation, will be discussed in this plan, but understanding that any fundamental infrastructure adaptation or operational changes will be in the context of a medium to long term timeline.

The HCC venue itself is of course firmly rooted in the urban townscape of Harrogate. Notwithstanding collaboration with any urban wildlife and nature initiatives proposed by NYC, HCC identifies a strong potential to link its activities to a direct response to **Priority 3**, Supporting Nature.

In working towards the carbon-negative route map, NYC has endorsed a York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership. It makes perfect sense to directly link emissions from HCC events with nature or other related carbon mitigation projects, and diversity net gain projects, within the NYC area. Whether by "offsetting" vehicle emissions or event emissions via local projects, communication will be a key element, which in turn can also promote the Visit North Yorkshire and wider tourism initiatives.



# Sustainability context from the Live Events Industry

The Live Events industry includes a wide range of genres including conferences, exhibitions, and meetings, but also sporting and music events and even weddings. Many live event venues cater to mainly 1 or 2 of this list and HCC is quite unique in its cross-cultural capability to host live events across the whole remit of the sector, especially with the embedded historic Royal Hall Theatre, but fundamentally it's about exhibitions/conferences/meetings and entertainment.

Like most other industry sectors, Live Events are taking a sector wide approach to sustainability, understanding the need to carefully define the industry boundaries and its environmental impacts.

Given the broad nature of the full live events sector it is not surprising that there are many initiatives driving change, focusing on individual specialised areas such as:

- Outdoor festivals - <https://juliesbicycle.com/news-opinion/vision2025-uk-green-events-code-launches/>
- Sports (BASIS – British Association of Sustainability In Sport) <https://basis.org.uk/>
- Sustainable Wedding Alliance - <https://sustainableweddingalliance.com/>
- Sustainability in Theatre - <https://theatregreenbook.com/>
- Exhibitions - Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE). <https://www.netzerocarbonevents.org/>

This HCC Sustainability Plan will attempt to intermesh HCC's role within NYC with the realities of the live events that take place there and will focus on the two most relevant elements being Net Zero Carbon Events and the Theatre Green Book.

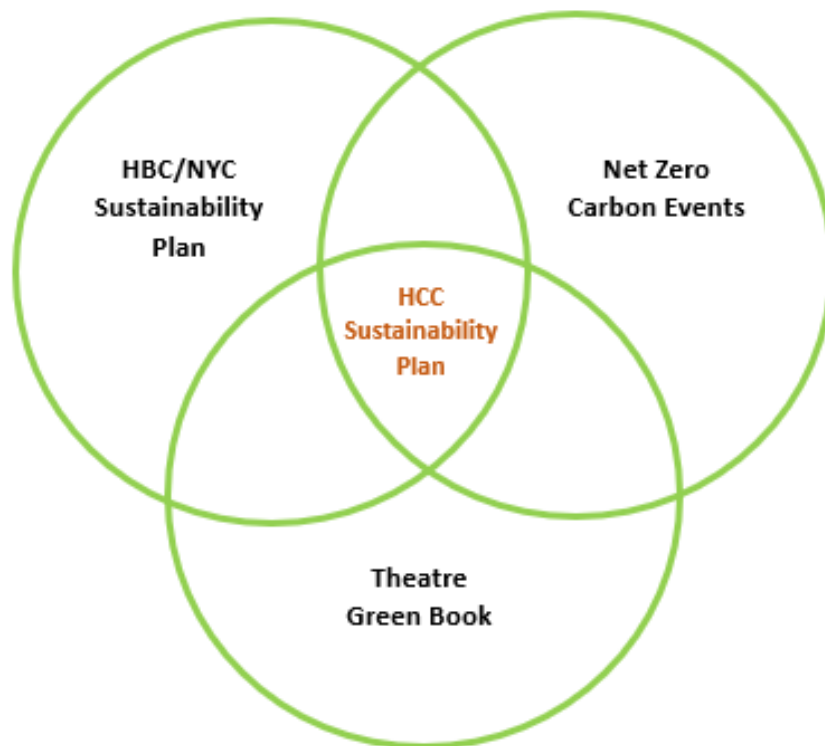




Extracts from the councils Carbon Reduction Strategy also identifies the following in relation to HCC:

- Seek opportunities for decarbonising heating in existing and new buildings.
- Continually review the HCC estate to ensure the HCC buildings and exhibitions are as energy efficient as possible.
- Ensure that sustainable energy and low carbon technology is embedded in future development plans.
- Work towards achieving the ISO:20121 Sustainable Events Standard.

HCC is aware that the ISO 20121 has recently concluded a major review and we will review its implications and decide if there is value from committing the resource to gaining certification.





# Net Zero Carbon Events (NZCE)

The Net Zero Carbon Events initiative aims to bring together a wide range of industry stakeholders to:

- Communicate jointly our industry's commitment to tackling climate change and driving towards Net Zero by 2050.
- Develop common methodologies for measuring the industry's direct, indirect and supply chain greenhouse gas emissions.
- Construct an industry-wide Roadmap towards Net Zero by 2050, and emissions reductions by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement and climate science, with support and guidance on key issues.
- Foster collaboration with suppliers and customers to ensure alignment and common approaches.
- Establish common mechanisms for reporting progress and sharing best practice.

The initiative identifies that systemic change is needed for Net Zero to be achieved. The events industry is made up of a complex network of stakeholders and a deep supply chain, all of whom will need to work to reduce their emissions for the industry to achieve Net Zero. For real change to happen collaboration will be needed. It will not be sufficient for a single organisation or group of organisations, or events, to take steps to decarbonise. Fundamentally we need a rethink in how events are planned, designed, and delivered across the whole system.



NZCE Identifies the following 5 Action Areas but also immediately relates those action areas to the various event related stakeholders: Venue, Organisers, Suppliers.

### Action Area 1: Energy

Power events efficiently, with clean, renewable energy

### Action Area 2: Materials and Waste

Redesign events to utilise sustainable materials and be waste free.

### Action Area 3: Food and Food Waste

Source food sustainably and eliminate food waste.

### Action Area 4: Logistics

Move goods and equipment efficiently and transition to zero emissions logistics.

### Action Area 5: Travel

Work with and influence partners in the travel sector to reduce and mitigate the emissions of travel to events.

See below graphic example from NZCE report regarding Energy.

### Pathway to 2050

Baseline activities	2025	2030	2035	2040	2050
Data collection and plans in place.	Measurement, monitoring and action underway.	Measurable progress made to reduce inefficiencies and renewables.	100% renewable where possible.	100% renewable for all markets.	<b>Net Zero.</b>
Energy usage data collected using a common metric and shared for all events. Baselines and targets for energy efficiency and renewables set. Venues have energy efficiency roadmap and carbon reduction plan in place.	Energy efficiency projects and transition to renewables underway with progress reported consistently. Universal system developed used by all venues to measure and track data.	50% reduction in energy consumption at venues shown from baseline, including gas. Renewable electricity is the norm for events, with 100% renewables used in 'immediate markets' and at least 50% in 'next markets' <sup>17</sup> . Plans in place for reducing residual emissions.	Continued reduction in energy consumption from baseline. 100% renewable electricity for immediate markets. 75% renewable electricity for next markets, including grid mix.	100% renewable electricity for all markets. Achieve an increase in % of total energy from renewables from 2035. Residual emissions from remaining non-renewable energy sources are quantified and offset as standard practice.	Net Zero is achieved, with all value chain emissions heavily decarbonised, residual emissions minimised, quantified, and offset where there is no viable alternative.
Continually show an increase in % of total energy from renewables from baseline with each checkpoint. Continually demonstrate reduction of at least 5%-10% from baseline through energy efficiency with each additional 5 year period.					



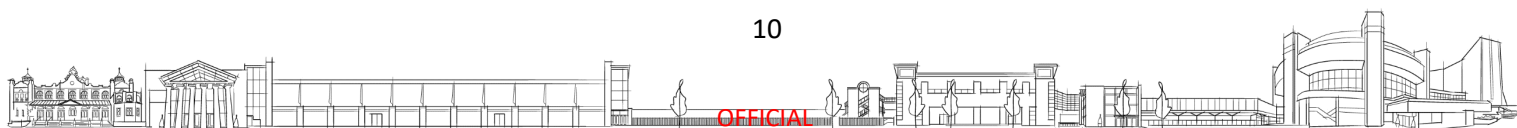
NZCE also clearly identifies the need for a system wide approach, so that no one stakeholder, for example the venue, should work in isolation. As we look to create specific strategies for audit, measure and minimise we will use the 5 priority areas above to help shape the HCC strategy and action areas.

## A System-wide Approach

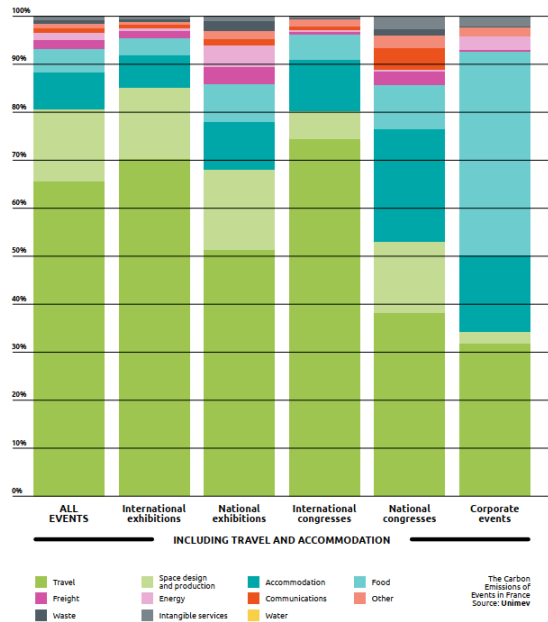
	Short term (by 2025)	Medium term (2025-2035)
<b>Venues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide energy consumption data to organisers as standard.</li> <li>• Establish energy baseline and set reduction targets.</li> <li>• Put in place efficiency measures such as LEDs.</li> <li>• Put a plan in place for procurement of renewable energy from other sources if on-site is not possible.</li> <li>• Work with organisers to implement temperature guidelines which reduce energy consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submetering in place for better attribution of emissions to different events, to support more accurate consumption data.</li> <li>• Show measurable progress in terms of energy efficiency and moving to renewables.</li> <li>• Procurement of renewable energy from other sources if on-site not possible. PPAs and VPPAs are preferred<sup>19</sup>.</li> <li>• Development of on-site renewables where feasible.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on embedding sustainability and carbon reduction into events.</li> <li>• Request energy consumption data from venues as standard.</li> <li>• Prioritise working with venues which have energy reduction targets in place.</li> <li>• Ensure that all lighting contracted by the organiser is LED.</li> <li>• Work with venues to implement temperature guidelines which reduce energy consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to working with venues who have shown a measurable improvement in energy efficiency and use a high % of renewables.</li> <li>• Require venues and service providers to align with the industry RE targets above. Where that is not possible, organisers should work with venues to budget to offset the remaining emissions on an event by event basis.</li> <li>• Share any cost increases as a result of renewables being purchased.</li> </ul>
<b>Service Providers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site energy efficiency plans in place.</li> <li>• Ensure that all lighting used is LED.</li> <li>• Ensure any new equipment procured is of high energy efficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required energy efficiency plans in place for overall business operations.</li> <li>• Ongoing work with exhibitors to reduce energy consumption on site.</li> </ul>

Carbon measurement is a fundamental objective of the NZCE initiative which has established a carbon measurement working group and is creating a benchmark methodology document to establish common ground and a consistent approach across the sector. Green Circle Solutions (GCS) undertakes carbon footprint calculations as part of its overall services and is keen to establish and follow best practices, an area that is widely acknowledged as subject to a variety of approaches and factors. To that end GCS is a member of the NZCE measurement workstream and will be conducting carbon measurement in line with NZCE methodology.

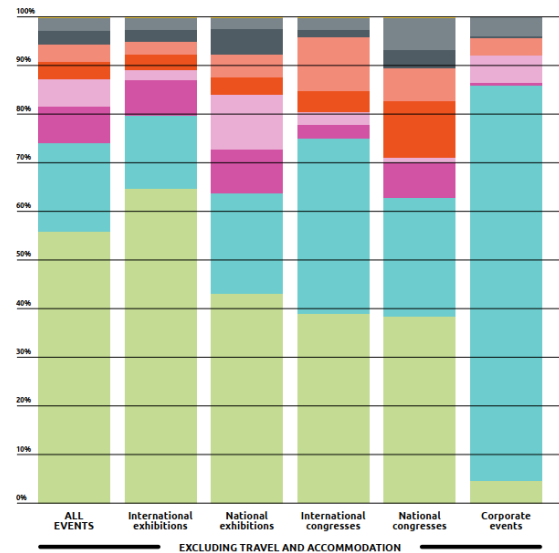
Research data from the French Exhibition industry gives an overview split of carbon emissions across the events sector, and it is of no surprise that venue energy and food and beverage both play significant parts in the footprint of an overall event. Both elements are in the direct control of HCC.



**There are significant emissions sources over which the event industry has great control, and other sources which can be reduced by working collaboratively with allied industries.**



**A close-up look at event emissions excluding travel and accommodation.**



However, as can be seen, the standout contributor is visitor travel, and whilst HCC would not be expected to take responsibility for the travel habits of individuals it is an area where HCC can have a huge positive impact in trying to influence behaviour, and this of course directly plays into the NYC and NYC sustainable tourism initiatives too.

We will refer to the NZCE roadmap, measurement methodology and recommendations later in our sustainability plan and in ongoing initiatives arising from this plan.





# The Theatre Green Book

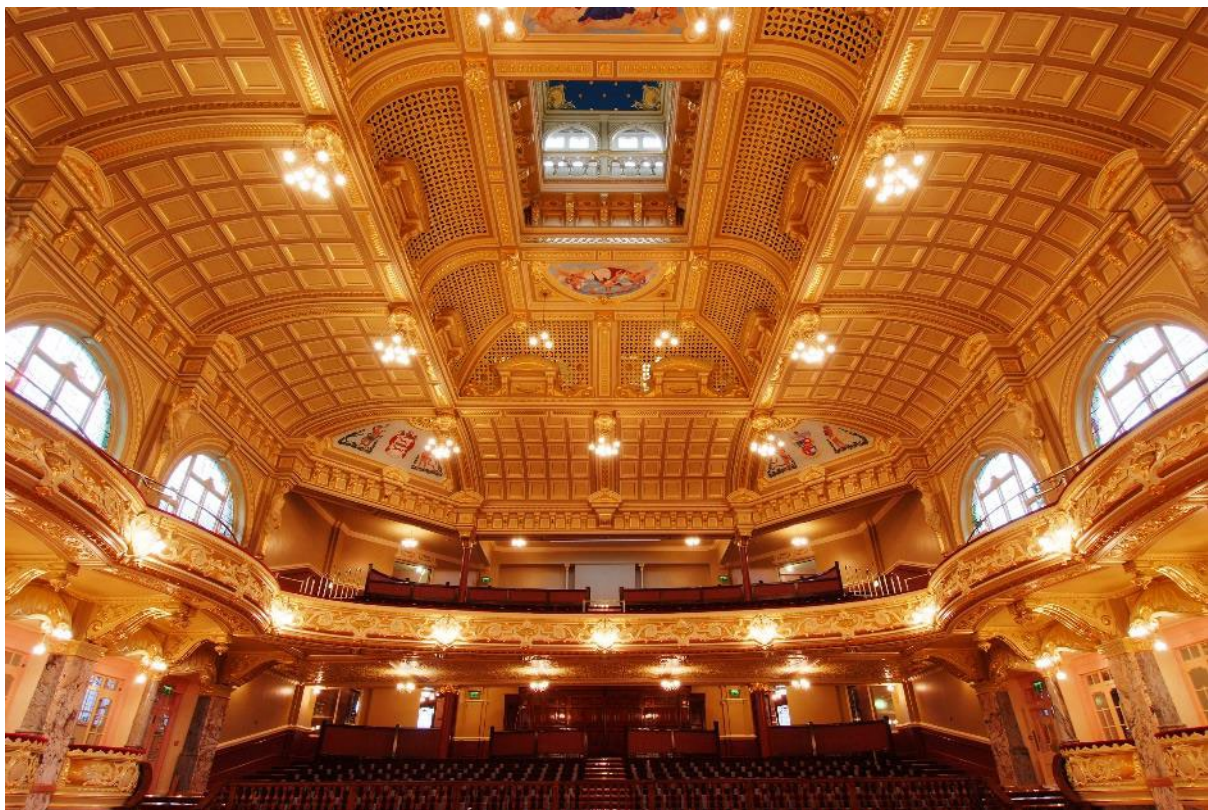
[Link To Theatre Green Book](#)

## Extract:

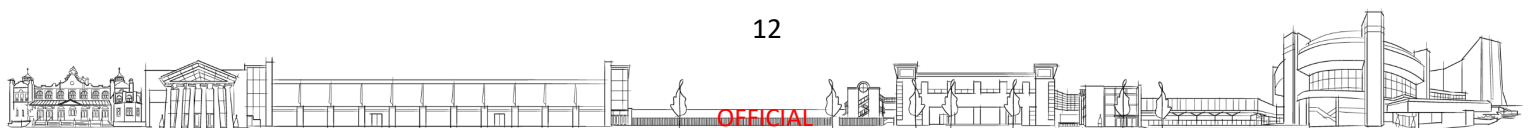
*“If theatre is to be part of the most vital conversation humanity faces, then it must change its practice.*

*The Green Book provides clear standards for that change. Across the two volumes it will show how to improve the sustainability of theatre productions, buildings, and theatre operations.*

*Working together, theatre-makers of all kinds, freelancers, venues, companies, and producers have collaborated on the Theatre Green Book. Based on widely agreed values and strategies, the result is a shared standard for making work, as a community, in the reality of the climate crisis.”*



*The Royal Hall is a stunning Edwardian theatre built in 1903 by Frank Matcham and is truly the jewel in Harrogate’s crown.*



The HCC venue campus includes two significant “theatre and show” venues, being the 1,000 capacity Royal Hall and the 2,000 capacity HCC Auditorium. These two show venues are also closely aligned with the separate and independent 500 capacity Harrogate Theatre, with theatre bookings at HCC being managed by the “Harrogate Theatre” management organisation. As a tourist destination, and boasting two iconic theatres, Harrogate has a clear alignment with the performing arts sector and as such should be a champion of theatre production sustainable best practice. It therefore makes perfect sense to align with the Theatre Green Book.

### **The Green Book has 3 Volumes**

1. Productions
2. Buildings/Venues
3. Operations

It may be tempting for HCC to focus solely on Volume 2, being a Building/Venues. However, HCC generally hosts single night or short run productions, therefore by default it has a huge role to play in the production and operation of each event, with touring events having little or no influence on the infrastructure they must work with, as opposed to long run theatre shows where infrastructure is inherently designed into the production and operation from day one.

It is also clear that for many events “Harrogate Theatre” are the production company, the operation company and of course the venue, again highlighting the need to use all three volumes for guidance.

### **Extracts from Volume 1:**

To become more sustainable a theatre building must:

- BE LEAN (improve walls, roofs etc to lose less energy)
- BE CLEAN (improve services systems to use less energy)
- BE GREEN (draw energy from renewable sources)
- Support biodiversity and reduce waste

To make that happen, theatre owners and managers must:

- Survey their building to identify what needs to be done
- Make a sustainability plan
- Start with the easy wins
- Focus maintenance works on sustainability
- Start planning for capital projects






The Green Book takes due account for historic theatre buildings as can be seen in the info graphic below, and understands the challenges of infrastructure improvements, but there are certainly areas that should be systematically reviewed and explored.

In consideration of Volume 2, aligns with NYC priority of Adaptation. That said, any infrastructure works will inevitably need medium-term and longer-term context, along with costed implications.

In consideration of Volumes 1 and 3, Production and Operation of shows, HCC may first start by engaging the incoming events and production companies in a collaborative conversation about sustainability. These volumes place a clear priority on flexibility and collaboration, so if not already happening it is inevitable that HCC's theatre customers will soon be making demands of HCC in relation to facilitating more sustainable shows.

Acknowledging the NZCE 5 action areas, with regards to the HCC Sustainability Plan, we propose to create a 6<sup>th</sup> Action Area for the HCC stage venues being the Royal Hall Theatre and HCC Auditorium, and will expand this further as we review Audit, Measure and Reduce.

	 <b>Historic</b>	 <b>Mid-century</b>	 <b>Recent</b>
<b>Description</b>	Likely to be Victorian or Edwardian. Likely to be listed under Historic England's register.	Theatres built in the post-war boom of the 1960's and 1970's, as modernism first arrived.	Theatres built during or after the 1990's.
<b>Likely Fabric</b>	Likely to have limited/no insulation, single glazing, draughty. Limited glazing. Limited scope for improvement given the visual aesthetic.	Limited insulation. Large amounts of single glazing.	Modest levels of insulation. Double glazed.
<b>Likely Systems</b>	Extensive "layering" of systems and patchwork fixes. No documentation.	A degree of layering and patchwork.	Relatively modern but coming to end of life. Likely to have some documentation.
<b>Likely potential for improvement</b>	Medium given the likely systems conditions and historic constraints.	High given the fabric potential and state of systems.	Medium given the recent standards of design.
<b>Most likely green interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glazing improvements</li> <li>• Roof insulation</li> <li>• Systems upgrades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facade upgrades</li> <li>• Lighting improvements</li> <li>• Renewable energy opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting improvements</li> <li>• Ventilation enhancements</li> <li>• Renewable energy opportunities</li> </ul>



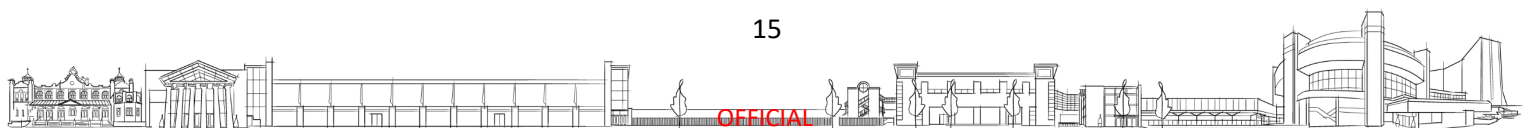


# HCC position in NYC and the wider Events Sector

What we know:

- HCC is largest energy consumer on the NYC building portfolio
- In a typical year, HCC hosts 150 events attracting over 150,000 visitors from all over the UK.
- HCC is known as one of the UK's leading purpose-built exhibition and conference venues and features a 1,977 capacity Auditorium, eight multi-purpose spaces (14,000 gross sqm in total) and additional event spaces, including the Edwardian Royal Hall which has a capacity of 988 delegate's theatre style.

As such it has a huge role to play in not only its own sustainability but also that of the wider town and across North Yorkshire.





## NYC Priority 1 – Mitigation

To address this priority we will audit, measure then reduce and minimise.

GCS has undertaken snapshot sustainability audits during two live exhibitions at the HCC, namely the Home & Gift show in July and The Flooring Show in September.

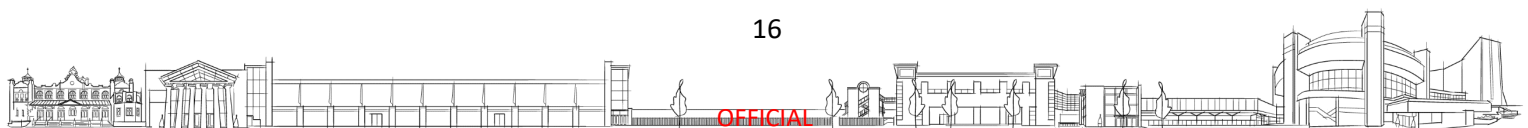
These reports in full are included as appendices 1 and 2.

The primary conclusions drawn from these audits and other empirical evidence collated by GCS are as follows:

- Exhibition organisers' attitude to sustainability seems variable. Some are including sustainability guidance through show manuals to their own exhibitor and stand build stakeholders, but there is very little consistency and no mandatory sustainability requirements. Others are paying lip service only, and devolving all responsibility to the venue, organisers and stand builders.
- Exhibitors are very open to driving more sustainable solutions into their event activations, however exhibitors approach varies widely from fully engaged to floundering and looking for advice.
- Stand builders are extremely open to driving more sustainable solutions into their business practices. Many are well engaged and driving solutions for their clients, whilst others are open to guidance.

Some immediate and obvious HCC responsibilities *and* opportunities come from these audits, all of which facilitate measurement and reductions:

- Have a robust and well communicated energy management strategy in place.
- Have a robust and well communicated waste management strategy in place.
- Have a robust and well communicated food and beverage policy and distinct menu options available.
- To provide organisers with post show energy, waste, and Food & Beverage data.
- Mandating elements of sustainability into exhibition guidance will be supportive in producing best practice frameworks and productive in accelerating impact mitigation and reduction.

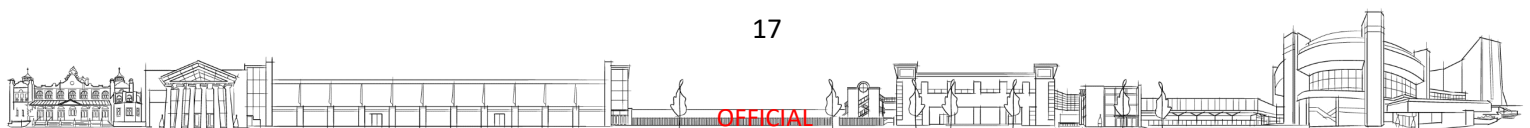


# Audit, Measure, Reduce, Timescale:

In this section we look to the NZCE 5 priority areas and our own HCC action area 6 and apply audit, measure, reduce and where possible include some indication of timescale to set context for HCC next steps. This section starts to set the agenda and action items beyond this sustainability plan.

Audit, Measure, Reduce, Timescale:

- Action Area 1: Energy
- Action Area 2: Materials and Waste
- Action Area 3: Food and Food Waste
- Action Area 4: Logistics
- Action Area 5: Travel
- Action Area 6: Theatre and Productions



## **ACTION AREA 1: ENERGY**

Power events efficiently, with clean, renewable energy

### **Audit**

HCC's energy previously came from the Harrogate Combined Heat and Power system. However, this has recently been decommissioned and all energy now comes from the mains gas and electricity grid. HCC is acknowledged to be the largest power consuming building in the NYC portfolio. Given the variable energy sources of recent years some HCC energy data exists with some individual areas able to be metered independently. However, a key target of NZCE is to be able to meter the energy consumption of individual events and eventually to be able to meter individual exhibition stands. Only when we get to that level of data can the actual consumers be incentivised to minimise their own energy consumption.

Ongoing Audit Needed:

- Gather existing and previous years' energy readings to review any existing trends.
- Thorough inventory of metering capability.
- Thorough inventory of energy leakage affected by the HCC infrastructure.
- Understand boundaries to differentiate HCC baseload and event related consumption.

### **Measure**

- Develop regular meter reading inventory – not just for bill measurement.
- Separate HCC baseload from events and provide post event energy reports.
- Undertake event, and eventually individual stand, surveys of actual consumption.

### **Reduce & Minimise - Timescale**

- Ongoing audit as above starting 2025.
- Ongoing starting 2025 and into medium term to 2030:
- Create strategies to reduce baseload.
- Create costed timeline for building efficiencies.
- Create costed timeline renewable energy sources.
- Charge event energy by consumption to incentivise kwh reduction.



## **ACTION AREA 2: MATERIALS & WASTE**

Redesign events to utilise sustainable materials and be waste free.

### **Audit**

HCC commissioned “Don’t Waste Group” to analyze the HCC waste management and waste streams. The report just published is attached here as appendix 3. This initial report is extended to a commercial proposal for waste management brokered by Don’t Waste and this proposal is with HCC for consideration.

The fundamental conclusion of the report is the need for better measurement and tracking of waste data, before and after it leaves site.

Ongoing Audit Needed:

- Review whether existing waste data can be collected internally or with Don’t Waste.
- Review potential waste contractors, including internal NYC options. Audit and grade waste contractors.
- Specific review of food waste in relation to Action Area 3.

### **Measure**

- Awaiting HCC review of Don’t Waste report and proposal.
- Develop a robust waste data inventory.
- Procurement data to be made available and template created for easy ongoing reporting.

### **Reduce & Minimise - Timescale**

- Recommend list of official suppliers to organisers.
- Research potential alternative waste disposal streams to create better outcomes.

Using above mentioned data as it becomes available, develop a more robust waste management and waste cost model to apply to all events and event organisers, exhibitors and stand builders. This will incentivise waste reduction handled at the event, but more importantly reduced waste overall.

It is important that the HCCs policies do not force unnecessary waste road miles encouraging stand builders to take waste back to their own facilities.

- Short term strategy into 2025 to facilitate better waste data management whether using Don’t Waste Group or other means and to facilitate better recycling streams.





- Medium term strategy 2026 to 2030 to increase waste on site with better outcomes.
- Long term strategy to reduce overall waste from events.

Whilst the following further items may be considered a lower priority in affecting HCC's own carbon emissions, we will explore all with urgency understanding the potential positive influence this will have on the overall events held at HCC and demonstrates leadership to the potential future events.

### **Timescale – NOW**

- HCC to research and promote local materials suppliers and suppliers for events and include within event sales material.
- HCC to research and promote lesser impact materials and facilitate sustainability advice to customer organisers.
- Consider specifying certain materials that will or won't be accepted.
- Consider local coordination of multiple use items such as floor platforms, event signage options, suspended banners. Reduce material miles, reduce material wastage, and create potential revenue streams for HCC.



## **ACTION AREA 3: FOOD & FOOD WASTE**

Source food sustainably and eliminate food waste.

### **Audit**

HCC Food & Beverage services were until recently contracted through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company called Matcham's. HCC recently took the F&B provision in-house, but all previous staff and existing contracts have been TUPE'd across to NYC. Although little F&B data has been recorded to date and may not be available given the new contractual arrangements, there is consistency of staff and knowledge such that some historic data may be attainable.

Ongoing Audit Needed:

- Can we gather any historic data on F&B for example:
- Meals sold? Kg food and beverage etc.
- Consider the findings and recommendations of the Don't Waste report and proposal in relation to food waste.

### **Measure**

Ongoing meetings are now in progress with HCC F&B being held during Autumn 24 and data can be made available from the start of this current financial year starting 1 April 2025.

- Consider the application of F&B carbon emissions measurement tools such as Klimato or Food Steps.

### **Reduce & Minimise - Timescale**

Depending on above, and alignment with food related carbon calculators, set targets and menu strategies for reduction into 2025/26.



## **ACTION AREA 4: LOGISTICS**

Move goods and equipment efficiently and transition to zero emissions logistics.

### **Audit**

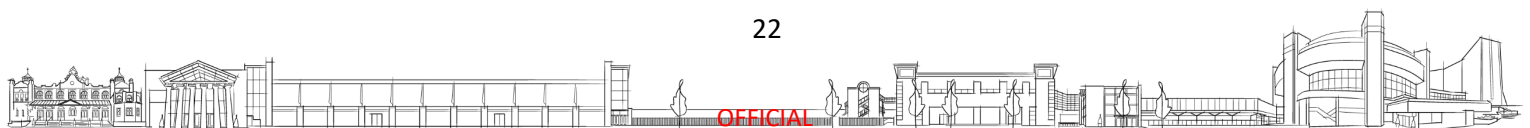
- HCC have very little direct logistics.
- No information is currently available on event related logistics. HCC currently does not know how many truck and vehicle miles are made within the NYC area due to the events that it facilitates.

### **Measure**

- Insist on exhibitor and stand build logistics data from shows. This is of material interest to HCC/NYC so we can reduce the amount of truck miles without compromising the number and quality of events.

### **Reduce and Minimise – Timescale**

- Data gathering via event organisers starting 2025.
- Once some level of data is gathered set targets for reduced miles.
- HCC may research and promote local solutions that can demonstrate reduced mileage.
- Research and promote potential local suppliers.
- Offer carbon offset solutions for 3<sup>rd</sup> party truck miles directly aligned with NYC projects.



## **ACTION AREA 5: TRAVEL**

Work with and influence partners in the travel sector to reduce and mitigate the emissions of travel to events.

### **Audit**

- Currently no data available for staff travel.
- An arrangement has been set up with LNER trains to promote access to HCC and Harrogate area by train. Originally targeted at travelers from London, this has now been extended to Scotland which is to be commended. No data is currently available as to how effective this has been to date.
- No information is currently available on event related visitor travel.
- HCC currently does not know how many vehicle miles are made within the NYC area due to the events that it facilitates.
- HCC currently does not know how many hotel nights are booked in the local area because of the events that it facilitates.

### **Measure**

- Conduct a staff travel survey (completed 2024).
- Obtain data on how many times the LNER train travel code has been used over the last 12 months.
- Insist on visitor travel data from organisers, exhibitors and stand builders.
- This is of material interest to HCC/NYC so we can reduce the number of visitor miles without compromising Harrogate as a tourist destination – this directly links to Destination Harrogate.
- Gather hotel lists and audit sustainability credentials. Include travel distances and likely mode of travel to HCC.

### **Reduce & Minimise – Timescale**

- Make carbon data measurement tools available to organisers starting 2026.
- Recommend Hotels based on geography and sustainability credentials. Timescale short to medium term, into 2026.
- Aim to reduce visitor travel footprint related to HCC events without compromising the quality of events or the number of attendees. Reduce the travel footprint per visitor. Timescale longer term, into 2026 and beyond as meaningful data starts to identify trends.





## **Action Area 6: Theatre and Productions**

Work with and influence partners of incoming theatre productions and align with the Theatre Green Book

### **Audit**

We currently have little sustainability data relating to the HCC theatre productions held in the Royal Hall and Auditorium. Productions are largely booked and managed by Harrogate Theatre and HCC has a reasonably hands-off approach to said productions.

### **Measure**

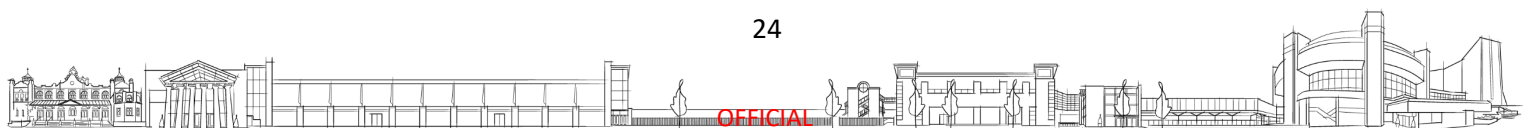
In the short-term HCC/GCS will engage with Harrogate Theatre hoping to assess sustainability engagement of incoming production companies via survey questionnaires.

Although many of the fundamentals of shows are like the action areas outlined in NZCE there are some clear differences which are best to explored following the guidance from the Theatre Green Book.

### **Reduce & Minimise – Timescale**

The medium-term during goal, 2025 and beyond, will be to develop a specific Royal Hall and Auditorium “sustainability pack” for engagement with incoming productions:

- To align with ongoing best practice and demands of those productions that are pushing ahead with the sustainability agenda.
- To promote and facilitate best practice to influence those production companies that may need support and encouragement.



# HCC's Role as a Positive Influence for Sustainability

The engagement of a robust HCC specific Sustainability Plan creates more than a simple framework for HCC to meet its own obligations. This clear and evolving plan also facilitates HCC to be a positive influence for sustainability across multiple levels of external stakeholders:

## Harrogate & North Yorkshire

- Use events to promote NYC sustainability initiatives.

### Event organisers

- Provide a template Sustainability Plan for organisers to implement at their event.
- Request/mandate emissions data.
- Provide emissions data via post show reports.

### Attending exhibitors and their various stand builders and suppliers

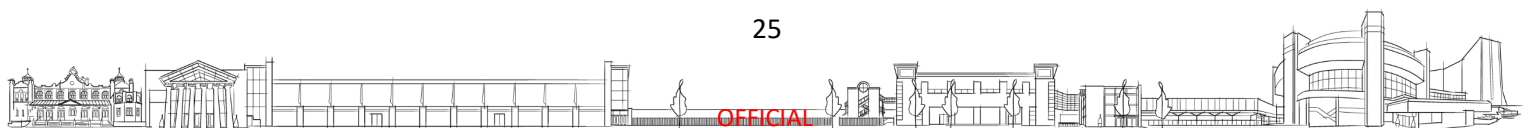
- As above provide information and solutions via event sustainability plan.
- Facilitate better waste management.
- Facilitate logistics solutions to the benefit of NYC.

### Attending visitors

- Use events to promote NYC sustainability initiatives.
- Promote alternative travel options.
- Use events to promote Visit North Yorkshire/destination management plan.

### HCC stakeholders

- Use all stakeholders of HCC to facilitate offset, carbon credit and biodiversity credit solutions, supporting nature projects directly relevant to NYC.



# Social elements

Whilst decarbonization is a key priority for NYC and HCC, it is widely acknowledged that any hope of a sustainable future must include multiple levels of social improvements in all we do.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals give high focus on gender equality, health and well-being, reduced inequalities, quality education. NYC has multiple initiatives in place covering all these areas and the HCC sustainability plan acknowledges collaboration and alignment with all such initiatives.



Extracts below from the Theatre Green Book also show clear alignment with social elements of sustainability.



## **SUSTAINABLE WORKING**

**Inclusivity and access** - producing more sustainable theatre can strongly align with initiatives to make culture more inclusive and accessible.

**Diversity** - Creatively rethinking theatre needs the talent and insight of more diverse theatre-makers.

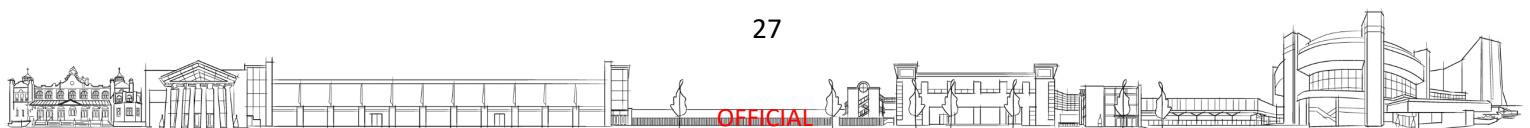
**Communication** - Communication, sharing, collaboration and transparency are needed to make theatre more sustainable. They also make it more accessible to new theatre-makers, and help diversity.

**Communities** - Links to communities and local spaces in efforts to source materials sustainably will reaffirm the role of theatre in local areas, working with groups who might otherwise have few connections with it.

**People** - Sustainability means a shift from things to people. Valuing theatre-makers' work is essential.

Some initial insight into the nature of productions hosted at HCC already identifies the key role that the HCC production venues can play. The larger auditorium typically hosts larger productions, music groups and bands, but the smaller capacity of the Royal Hall coupled with its flat ballroom floor area, makes this a more suitable location for local community orientated productions and small events. Whilst the Royal Hall must clearly operate commercially at some level, the conserved Edwardian interior and exterior architecture also create an inextricable link to the historic town itself enhancing community and sense of place. All these elements clearly aligning nicely with the Theatre Green Book highlighted above.

The social elements of the HCC sustainability plan will continue to evolve as we identify more clear links to NYC wider initiatives.





# Adapting to Climate Change

As noted above, HCC building and infrastructure improvement projects will be part of the longer-term objectives towards 2030 and beyond. Partly due to assessment and feasibility timescales, and of course partly due to the need for financial budgeting.

Action from this plan must be to clearly define whether HCC or NYC will take responsibility for assessing infrastructure improvements, and of course costing and justifying the potential sustainability benefits, however the HBC Carbon Reduction Strategy document identifies funding allocation for infrastructure adaptation improvements.

Items for consideration include:

- Heating and cooling. Ability to cope with generally higher outside temperatures.
- Potential increased energy demand.
- Event diary programming to cope with changing seasonal patterns.
- Potential increased demand for public transport access.
- Other fuels – hydrogen, HVO.
- Visitor experience.

The HCC adaptation strategies will evolve as we engage this plan through the NYC sustainability team.



# Carbon Offsetting Strategy and Supporting Nature

NYC aims to achieve Net Zero internal emissions by 2030 and endorsed the plan for the county to be Net Zero by 2034. Both targets are extremely challenging but can create opportunities for HCC as it draws a huge audience into the town and region. It should be perfectly credible to coordinate event related carbon emissions to be immediately offset into local carbon offset and nature schemes. Such a pro-active approach could provide a significant investment boost for any such projects.

Potential projects and offset partner links identified include:

<https://www.yppartnership.org.uk/>

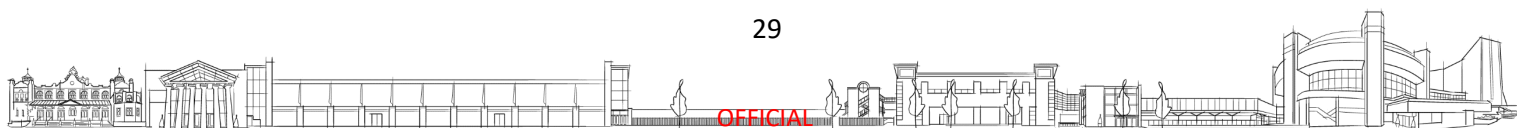
<https://carbonneutralbritain.org/pages/yorkshire-woodland-management-england>  
Future Forest – Swarthgill Peatland Restoration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDqR7OQORuo>

<https://environmentbank.com/>



However, any HCC offset strategy must be aligned with NYC general policy and wider offset strategies so we will engage with NYC to establish protocols for moving this element forward.



# Glossary

HCC – Harrogate Convention Centre

NYC - North Yorkshire Council

NYCCCS - The North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy

NZCE - Net Zero Carbon Events

DMP - Destination Management Plan

# References

North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy – 1.4.23

Harrogate Borough Council Carbon Reduction Strategy – 11.4.22

Harrogate District Climate Change Strategy Appendix A

Harrogate Borough Council Carbon Footprint Report

Draft Report – Responsible Tourism – April 2023

Net Zero Carbon Events Roadmap to Net Zero – November 2022

Net Zero Carbon Events Carbon Measurement Methodology – (draft November 2023)

The Theatre Green Book Volumes 1,2 3

GCS Sustainability Audit Report, Food & Drink Show – 20.7.23

GCS Sustainability Audit Report, Flooring Show – 19.9.23

Don't Waste Group - Trial WRAP Report

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

# Appendices

GCS Sustainability Audit – Food & Drink Show

GCS Sustainability Audit – The Flooring Show

Don't Waste Group - Trial WRAP Report

Prepared By:

