

Sustainable productions

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film commission.

Green productions



When talking about sustainability three basic elements are always mentioned: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. In 2015 the world leaders adopted a set of 17 sustainable development global goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity. Tenerife Film Commission suggests this ten-point good practice guide to achieve sustainable film productions.

1 Responsible location scouting



When it comes to choosing locations, we should at least take into account the following sustainable criteria:

- a. Choose the lowest number of locations and aim for them to be within a short distance.
- b. Find out about the environmental characteristics and rules of locations.
- c. Consider the environmental effects the production might have on the chosen areas.

2 Green communications

Communication is an essential tool when implementing sustainability measures in film productions, therefore:

- a. Give information and details to every department about the goals and measures to be implemented regarding sustainability.
- b. Define communication measures that show this new production model: information signs, environmental memoranda, notices in call sheets and check lists of sustainable actions.
- c. Give publicity to the experience and the results obtained.



3 Protect locations and their socio-environmental surroundings

Depending on the type of production, its effect can be more or less significant. To minimize the possible impact, carry out the following measures:

- a. Mark out and signpost the areas to be occupied and protect plants, trees, sites and any other heritage or natural resource nearby.
- b. Minimize noise and avoid light pollution, especially when on exterior locations.
- c. Foresee the possible nuisance to neighbours by establishing communication channels with town councils, neighbour associations, etc.
- d. Encourage local employment including disadvantaged groups.



4 Move around sustainably

Mobility in a production must be efficient but if we also want to make it more sustainable:

- a. Find accommodation near the location.
- b. Avoid using cars individually and plan to use vehicles collectively.
- c. Optimize travelling by fully loading vehicles.
- d. Encourage using vehicles that are less polluting and/or electrical.



5 Implement a more sustainable catering



There are many ways of making catering more sustainable. A few suggestions below:

- a. If possible, hire a food service company that is close to the location.
- b. If the location is in the countryside, encourage hiring a catering service that buys local and seasonal products, cuts down meat dishes and uses plates and cutlery which are either biodegradable or reusable, avoiding disposable resources.
- c. Encourage using fair-trade coffee.

6 Cut-down on the use of materials

- a. Whenever possible, avoid buying materials or elements for the shoot, by hiring them instead.
- b. If you must buy materials, tell suppliers about your sustainability goals and choose products that have an eco-responsibility certificate.
- c. Cut down on paper and printing. If it is essential to use them, try to use eco-certified or recycled paper and vegetable printing ink.



7 Reduce, reuse & recycle



Implementing measures to reduce, reuse, sort out and recycle waste is getting easier and easier:

- a. Avoid buying disposable products.
- b. Encourage reusing materials and composting organic waste.
- c. Plan the size, type and number of containers and their layout on the location to encourage waste separation.
- d. Design a waste management system by reaching agreements with local authorities or arrange to have them collected by waste management companies.

8 Use energy efficiently

Reducing the use of energy can be achieved through implementing energy efficiency measures:

- a. Train in and communicate energy efficiency habits: turn lights off when not needed, avoid the stand-by mode of appliances, unplug chargers after use, etc.
- b. Use efficient generators and class A appliances.
- c. Use low energy light bulbs.



9 Implement good practice in the use of water.

Water is a costly scarce commodity. Reducing its use and being more efficient is possible:

- a. Avoid using individual disposable bottles and provide reusable ones and refilling points.
- b. Avoid using polluting elements in waste water by encouraging the use of ecological or biodegradable cleaning products.
- c. Cut down water consumption by reducing water volume in toilet flushes and washbasins.



10 Environmental monitoring



Evaluating the measures implemented in a production based on a sustainable model is basic for its certification, both in society in general and in the film industry. To do it:

- a. Establish functions regarding sustainability in your crew or hire a Green Runner or an Eco Advisor to carry out the environmental monitoring of the production.
- b. Design an environmental monitoring plan that includes checklists, a system to indicate assessment or to calculate the carbon footprint. If you are in a protected natural area, coordinate these activities with the appropriate authorities.
- c. Compensate the emissions directly or through associations, foundations or local companies.

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