

SSIFF

Donostia Zinemaldia
Festival de San Sebastián
International Film Festival

Report on sustainability evaluation and carbon footprint measurement 2023

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Euzko Foru Aldundia
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01. Introduction

Reflecting its commitment to the environment, the San Sebastian Festival brings this environmental sustainability evaluation and carbon footprint measurement report for its 71st edition, held from 22-30 September 2023.

02. Objectives

The aim of this report is to measure the environmental impact of the activity surrounding the event in its scopes 1, 2 and 3.

The origin and cause of the emissions are analysed, drawing conclusions in order to persevere in lowering its environmental impact and design a medium-term plan to provide the institution with a defined strategy enabling it to continue its evolution in coming editions.

03. Methodology

The carbon footprint has been measured using the CREST technology, which follows the GHG-CO2-eq measuring method, using the official emission factors issued by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), together with the official emission factors of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to calculate those data for which the MITECO does not yet publish emission factors.

The carbon footprint calculation covers scopes 1 (direct emissions), 2 (indirect emissions coming from the electricity purchased and consumed by the Festival), and 3 (emissions that are either indirect or produced up and down its value chain and over which the Festival has no control).

The complete process complies with the measurement stipulations of European Standard UNE-EN ISO 14067:2019 'Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification'.

As required under this regulation, the evidences and traceability of all data are stored in the cloud, with maximum security criteria, solely and exclusively available for use by the institution, which can publish them when deemed appropriate.



04. Process

Calculating the carbon footprint of the Festival's 71st edition has been possible thanks to the collaboration of the Festival staff, its suppliers, collaborating bodies, sponsors, accredited guests and all venues to have shared the necessary information and documents with Creast.

Their help has enabled Creast to translate into carbon footprint the data classified into the 7 emissions categories making up its methodology, detailed in the section on measurement.

In cases where it has not been possible to access all real data, hypotheses have been established together with assumptions to complete the measurement, as detailed below.

In the case of **suppliers**, with the help of the organisation, forms are sent to the Festival suppliers to analyse the extent of their company activities. These interviews are completed with an exchange of information in which the suppliers deliver inventories of the materials used, schedules and other documents to enable a more precise measurement of the impact of their activity.

All of this information is used to draw up what is internally known as a suppliers map, whose analysis allows us to calculate the emissions generated due to contracts. This analysis takes account of overnight stays in a hotel or other establishment required by the supplier to proceed with their activity, the travel required to do their work, the food and drink they consume on their working days, the materials they use and the waste they generate, and the energy they consume to complete their task.

Regarding the **venues** used by the Festival over its nine days, the staff responsible for each one submits information on their energy and water consumption, as well as completing specific forms in each case. Reading the meters before and after the Festival gives the energy consumption for each one. In exceptional cases where it has been impossible to obtain part of the information, the data is calculated based on the figures for the previous year and a comparison drawn with institutions of similar characteristics and timescale.

As far as sponsors are concerned, an email interview was held with all of the Festival sponsors who agreed to collaborate and provide information enabling a measurement to be made of their sponsorship in terms of carbon footprint. An average calculation per category has been made of their global carbon footprint, while information on their environmental impact has been extrapolated from this information for sponsors who were unable to collaborate with information on their environmental impact.

Lastly, with respect to **graphic documents**, both the Festival organisation and the team at Creast (who spent 3 days at the Festival's 71st edition) have taken photographs providing evidence of the details contained in this report for the activities and premises corresponding to the edition. Said documents are stored in the cloud, where they are available as required.



05. Measurement

This section shows the final results of the work carried out to measure the carbon footprint emissions of the production activity involved in holding the event itself at the Festival's 71st edition.

As said above, to improve the monitoring process, the Creast methodology divides these emissions into the following 7 categories:

Breakdown of the total carbon footprint into emissions categories:

Accommodation:

1,740,831.66 kg CO₂eq. (1,740.832 tonnes CO₂eq)

Mobility:

1,576,761.21 kg CO₂eq. (1,576.76 tonnes CO₂eq)

Materials:

123,718.92 kg CO₂eq. (123.72 tonnes CO₂eq)

Catering:

77,829.79 kg CO₂eq. (77.83 tonnes CO₂eq)

Energy:

29,865.59 kg CO₂eq. (29.87 tonnes CO₂eq)

Waste:

7,030.13 kg CO₂eq. (7.03 tonnes CO₂eq)

Water:

456.16 kg CO₂eq. (0.46 tonnes CO₂eq)

Total:

3,556,493.46 kg CO₂eq. (3,556.49 tonnes CO₂eq)

Breakdown by categories:

The Festival's main source of emissions is mobility and accommodation, i.e. the emissions involved in travelling outside one's place of residence, and travel within the city itself. These two categories correspond to 96.40% of the carbon footprint.



Accommodation

The accommodation carbon footprint is very high compared to the overall Festival footprint. Accommodation includes the emissions generated by the typical activities entailed by staying in a hotel (energy used for lighting in the room and common areas, energy required to operate the lifts and automatic doors and to clean the rooms, including room service and use of the amenities provided for the comfort of guests: beds and sheets, TV, soap and gel, etc.). The process of producing all these materials is also taken into account and divided by the estimated number of uses during their lifetime.

To collect information on accommodation, the Festival provides a list of hotel nights reserved for guests which serves to calculate their environmental impact.

It is estimated that 20% of non-accredited guests come to the Festival from other parts of the Iberian peninsula, requiring accommodation in the city. An average of 2 nights' accommodation is therefore assigned to these people (a total of 72,000 accommodation nights).

All of this is represented in emission factors which are updated every year.

Total:
1,740,83.66 kg CO2eq. (1,740.83 tonnes CO2eq)

Accommodation emissions by attendee profile:

SSIFF guests: 109,642.41 kg CO2eq.

Accredited press invited by the SSIFF: 14,490.54 kg CO2eq

Sponsors: 863.01 kg CO2eq

Accredited guests: 17,0795.7 kg CO2eq

Non-accredited members of the public: 1,445,040 kg CO2eq

Creast's proposal for improving the sustainability of this activity calls for the implementation of sustainability measures in the different kinds of accommodation to improve their environmental efficiency.

Given that the Festival is not directly responsible for their implementation, Creast recommends that an in-depth audit be made of the hotels on offer, raising awareness with these organisations and suggesting measures to help improve not only sustainability of the Festival, but also the city's environmental impact throughout the year.



Mobility

Mobility, together with accommodation, is the main source of emissions at the Festival. With respect to the official emission factors, mobility also includes all activities involving vehicle use, from fuel combustion to in-flight passenger service, maintenance activities, etc. These factors are updated and published yearly; they also vary depending on the type of vehicle used.

Mobility data can be divided into five areas: data on mobility contracted by the organisation; data on the general mobility of accredited guests; data on the mobility of suppliers and sponsors; data on the mobility of members of the organisation and data on the use of official Festival vehicles.

- **Guests invited by the Festival:** Information has been obtained on mobility contracted by the organisation, including flights and the contracting of other types of vehicles, by means of inventories provided by the event.
- **Accredited guests:** Information on the mobility of accredited guests is obtained from a voluntary survey conducted during the online accreditation process. The mobility casuistry taken from said survey has been extrapolated to the non-accredited public, excluding airplane travel, understanding this to be a minimum proportion of the public.
- **Sponsors and suppliers.** Sponsors provided data on their mobility through interviews carried out either directly or via emails with those who agreed to collaborate; this sample is extrapolated to the other sponsors. Suppliers, for their part, completed online forms giving details of their mobility.
- **Organisation:** The mobility of members of the organisation has been estimated based on the survey completed by all members of staff in 2022.
- **Official Festival vehicle:** Information on the use of official Festival vehicles was obtained from photographs of their mileage readings and lists describing the quantity and model of vehicles

Total:
1,576,761.21 kg CO2 eq. (1,576.76 tonnes CO2eq)

Mobility emissions by user profile:

Accredited guests: 451,346.29 kg CO2eq

Guests: 104,458.55 kg CO2eq

Suppliers: 14,841.73 kg CO2eq

Non-accredited public: 997,381.08 kg CO2eq

Sponsors: 4,395.78 kg CO2eq

Venues: 78.24 kg CO2eq

Organisation: 3,511.35 kg CO2eq

Zubeldia Rent: 748.20 kg CO2eq

Bicycles: 0 kg CO2eq



Mobility

Mobility enables a large number of people to attend the Festival. The proposal made by Creast for the improved environmental efficiency of transport involves the rental of efficient vehicles by the institution and auditing the other modes of transport over which the organisation has no control while raising awareness and spreading news of the means of transport that improve the Festival's sustainability. It is important to continue providing incentives for public attendance of the Festival, publishing information on the most environmentally friendly way to attend the event.

With respect to travel directly dependent upon the Festival (including both journeys purchased for guests and travel by members of the institution throughout the year), Creast recommends strengthening the strategy in the medium term, following an in-depth audit of the available travel options depending on the regions of origin and destination, and establishing a guest mobility policy to improve transport efficiency.

This mobility strategy will give priority to trains over planes wherever possible, choosing the most environmentally efficient airlines when rail travel is not a viable option. Today airlines are introducing widespread sustainability measures, such as the use of biofuel or offsetting the carbon footprint of their flights. The airline classification is updated yearly according to their environmental efficiency.

Regarding overland transport, the Festival continues to improve the environmental efficiency of its transport fleet with a view to reducing its carbon footprint, while raising awareness among the staff at the institution, encouraging them to walk, bike or take public transport.



Materials

The third source of emissions is the use made of materials. Materials emissions include factors such as the process of extracting raw material, the production and manufacturing process, their distribution to points of sale, etc.

As is the case at events of similar characteristics, a great quantity of materials are consumed at the Festival. This section includes the materials used for signposting, promotion and image, among others.

All of the above are drawn up as average emission factors which are updated and published yearly. The application of these factors is different for new or purchased materials and for materials that are reused or rented, given that their environmental impact is divided by an average number of estimated uses expected to be made of said material.

Total: 123,718.92 kg CO2 eq. (123.72 tonnes CO2eq)

Breakdown by origin:

Kursaal: 1,104.33 kg CO2eq

Sponsors: 4,955.12 kg CO2eq

Suppliers: 117,659.48 kg CO2eq

Breakdown by material type:

Textile: 33,227.40 kg CO2eq

Plastic: 8,443.93 kg CO2eq

Paper / Cardboard: 19,268.52 kg CO2eq

Wood: 4,699.54 kg CO2eq

Metal: 57,967.41 kg CO2eq

Glass: 112.12 kg CO2eq

In order to create a strategy to reduce the environmental impact of the materials we have to audit all materials used and find alternatives for either the materials themselves or their uses that help to reduce their carbon footprint.

The Festival has been working on this line for some time now and has continued to reduce the amount of printed paper at the 2023 edition by replacing the manual voting system with a digital alternative and reducing the number of publications.

In addition to the above, the Festival has donated much of the material produced for its reuse.



Catering

The carbon footprint generated by the consumption of food and drink served at events in and around the Festival is another of the categories undergoing work to improve its environmental impact.

Food emissions take account of myriad factors related with processes to produce and distribute products: from the water needed to grow a vegetable or hydrate animals, to transport the product to the point of sale, numerous factors influence their environmental impact. All this is translated into average emission factors, which vary depending on the type of food and drink, before being updated and published annually.

The organisation has provided a list of the catering products served at parties and events during the Festival, both at its hubs and at other venues. Knowing the menus for many of these catering events means that an average can be calculated, which, also knowing the number of attendees at each one, makes it possible to estimate the food and drink consumed.

An estimate has been made of the food and drink consumed by all suppliers during their working days to complete the activity for which the Festival hires their services. This estimate is obtained by means of forms and the submitting of documents, confirming the number of people working and for how many days. These consumption quantities are used to calculate the carbon footprint.

A calculation has also been made of the food and drink consumed by the workers responsible for conducting the sponsors' promotional work, based on the information shared by said sponsors. This average is extrapolated to the other sponsors who were unable to collaborate with the carbon footprint measurement.

Catering:
77,829.79 kg CO₂eq. (77.83 tonnes CO₂eq)

Breakdown by catering owners:

Catering events programmed by the SSIFF:
62,204.45 kg CO₂eq

Suppliers: 10,980.92 kg CO₂eq

Sponsors: 4,644.42 kg CO₂eq

Creast maintains its proposal of making a detailed audit of the menus and origin of the ingredients used, aiming to create a medium-term strategy of using locally sourced foods. This means that all of the ingredients would be sourced locally, requiring no travel and boosting the local economy. It suggests that all food be seasonal and sourced from fair traders whose production processes are based on good sustainability practices.

It is also important that the food served be balanced and healthy, carefully choosing the type of products used with a view to limiting emissions related with food production processes. Keeping the amount of meat used to a minimum, ensuring proportional and reasonable nutritional value is, for example, one of the measures that can help to keep food-related emissions in check, without guests at the events noticing a drastic change in the food served.



Energy

Emissions stemming from energy used for the San Sebastian Festival in 2023 has two main sources: electrical energy (supplier with no guarantee of origin) for its venues and the energy data drawn from consumption of the genset hired for the event.

The fuel used to run the genset is calculated from the estimate according to its power and number of hours used, always based on the same fuel proportions.

In the case of energy, CREST has obtained the required information from the following sources:

- **Venues.** Consumption data has been obtained by taking meter readings before and after the Festival. Forms too have been filled in, enabling calculation of the part of their activity attributable to the Festival. In exceptions where a venue has been unable to provide part of the information, the figure has been estimated, taking account of the figure for the previous edition and drawing a comparison with institutions of similar characteristics and schedule, as is the case of the cinemas.
- **Suppliers.** Here consumption has been estimated based on the suppliers' use of devices, machinery and tools, as indicated on forms and in documents provided by the suppliers themselves, where they explain the work required to prepare, carry out and dismantle their activity at the Festival.
- **Catering.** The energy consumption of catering services and events organised at the Bataplán, Dabadaba, Bruinoise, Ixo Restauración, Restaurante Sukaldean Aitor, Sharma Ausolan S.L.U., Terzi Café and Zazpi Gastrobar S.L. has been calculated, among others, by applying Creast's Big Data, which provides the average between hundreds of events according to the size of each activity, measuring the extent of these events by the number of guests and dimensions of the venue in which they took place.

Lastly, a measurement has been made of the environmental impact of other venues in which an event or party was held. This measurement has been made based on the size of the event (number of guests) and Creast's Big Data, which contains information on hundreds of events and can estimate the carbon footprint without knowing the energy and power consumption figures.

Energy: 29,865.59 kg CO2eq. (29.87 tonnes CO2eq)

Breakdown by venues and emissions owners:

Kursaal: 3,121.86 kg CO2eq

Tabakalera: 3,466.15 kg CO2eq

San Telmo: 5,246.75 kg CO2eq

Victoria Eugenia: 7,602.25 kg CO2eq

Velodrome: 262.25 kg CO2eq

Sade cinemas: 3,513.00 kg CO2eq

Donostia Kultura – Victoria Eugenia Theatre: 22.25 kg CO2eq

Ergobia warehouse and Martutene warehouse: 64.00 kg CO2eq

Sponsorships: 6,427.08 kg CO2eq

Catering: 85.96 kg CO2eq

Suppliers: 54.04 kg CO2eq

Energy consumption partially falls within the institution's scope of action, given that some venues are only rented for the actual Festival dates. In all those where the scope of action is total, the aim is to plan a medium-term strategy to reduce energy consumption and ensure that the energy consumed comes from 100% renewable sources.



Waste

While the environmental impact of waste does not generate a great deal of emissions, it does have a very high environmental impact in the medium and long terms. The Festival organisation has delivered an inventory indicating the weight of the waste generated at all venues.

An average figure for waste is therefore calculated per diner based on Creast's Big Data for events organised at the Bataplán, Dabadaba, Bruinoise, Ixo Restauración, Restaurante Sukaldean Aitor, Sharma Ausolan S.L.U., Terzi Café and Zazpi Gastrobar S.L., based on the inventory detailing the number of diners attending each one. On the other hand, in cases where no specific details have been provided, the average figure for waste generated per person and day is applied together with Creast's Big Data to calculate the waste generated by workers involved in the activity of suppliers and sponsors, given that the forms tell us the number of people involved and the time it takes for them to do their work.

Waste: 7,030.13 kg CO2 eq. (7,03 tonnes CO2eq)

Breakdown by venues and emissions owners:

Kursaal: 1,572.58 kg CO2eq

Tabakalera: 5.50 kg CO2eq

San Telmo: 68.23 kg CO2eq

Victoria Eugenia: 1,066.65 kg CO2eq

Velodrome: 87.62 kg CO2eq

Suppliers: 374.3 kg CO2eq

Sponsors: 6.47 kg CO2eq

Miramar: 486.28 kg CO2eq

Donostia Kultura – Principal Theatre: 66.11 kg CO2eq

Theatre: 486.28 kg CO2eq

2deo topagunea (meeting place): 0.3 kg CO2eq

Other party venues: 2,809.83

Waste emissions by type:

Plastic: 13.23 kg CO2eq

Paper: 3,206.50 kg CO2eq

Glass: 9.43 kg CO2eq

Organic: 3,801.03 kg CO2eq

Glass: 9.43 kg CO2eq

Note that the Festival has a waste management team who have installed correctly signposted recycling stations in each venue. The team uses bicycles to move around and has weighed all waste generated at the venues daily, separating it for correct recycling.

Work continues on a medium-term strategy to reduce the waste generated in relation to the materials used. Correct recycling will also continue to improve, above all regarding awareness of the correct use of containers and the observance of good practices to reduce the waste generated.



Water

Water consumption is barely reflected in the carbon footprint indicator, given that its value chain generates almost no emissions. However, the management of such a precious asset is of enormous importance for the Festival organisation, given its positive influence on environmental impact.

The amounts of water consumed include its use for cleaning and sanitation, as well as for personal consumption.

It is estimated that each person involved in the activity of suppliers and sponsors consumes two litres of water/day while preparing, conducting and dismantling their activities during the Festival. The total amount of water consumed is translated into carbon footprint, as well as including the consumption of water at the venues after reading the meters. The carbon footprint calculation is made based on the number of litres consumed. Based on the consumption of venues which provide this figure, an average consumption is calculated for the other venues, taking account of their activity and characteristics. An estimate is also made of an average of two litres per diner at all events and parties organised, enabling an estimation of the total amount of water consumed and its translation into carbon footprint.

Water: 456.16 kg CO2eq. (0.46 tonnes CO2eq)

Breakdown by venues:

Kursaal: 84.28 kg CO2eq

Tabakalera: 1.72 kg CO2eq

San Telmo: 3.78 kg CoO2eq

Victoria Eugenia: 43.00 kg CO2eq

Velodrome: 31.99 kg CO2eq

Sade cinemas: 284.83 kg CO2eq

Donostia Kultura – Victoria Eugenia Theatre: 0.96 kg CO2eq

Sponsorships: 2.59 kg CO2eq

Suppliers: 1.14 kg CO2eq

Press: 0.25 kg CO2eq

Aquam: 1.61 kg CO2eq

Total water consumed: 1,326 m3

Para seguir mejorando en la eficiencia en el consumo de agua, Creast insiste en la importancia de elaborar una estrategia fomentando la concienciación, ya que está directamente relacionado con los hábitos de cada persona y el Festival requiere de la colaboración de toda la gente que participa y asiste al Festival para mejorar en esta área.



06. Comparison between the 70th and 71st editions

The Festival has been working to improve the management of its environmental sustainability for some time now. In 2022 and 2023 measures have been introduced which have had a positive effect on the reduction of its carbon footprint and lay the foundations for continuing to improve in the future.

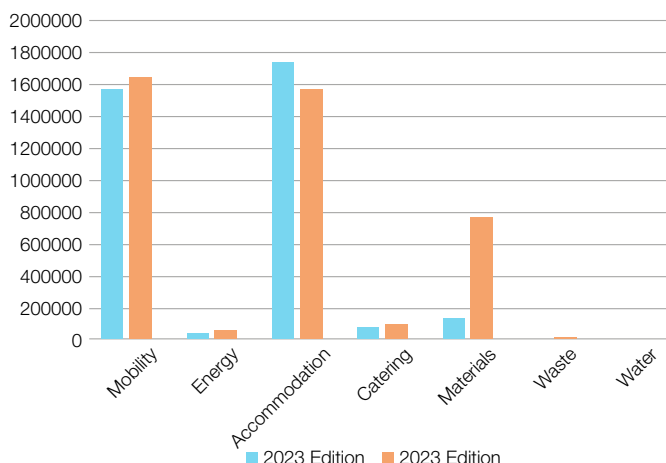
Below are details of the main measures introduced in 2023. These measures have produced results that demonstrate their effectiveness and show where work must continue in the future, such as the following:

- **Printed paper.** Thanks to a reduction in paper use, an estimated reduction of 1.67 kg of CO₂eq has been achieved. This measure included replacing the Festival catalogue in paper format for its digital version.
- **Recycled and recyclable red carpet.** For the third year running, the Sustainability Department of Gipuzkoa Provincial Council provided the Festival with 1,840 m² of 100% recycled and recyclable carpeting for the red carpets rolled out in front of the Kursaal Centre and the Victoria Eugenia Theatre. Thanks to this initiative, it is estimated that a reduction of 2,334.74 kg of CO₂eq has been achieved.
- **Kursaal illumination.** The building is now lit up for fewer hours. This is estimated to have achieved an approximate reduction of 30.23 tonnes of CO₂eq.
- **Genset.** The Festival used biofuel to run the genset at the closing party of its 71st edition.
- **LED lighting.** Work continues on the transition to LED lighting started in 2021.
- **Recycling stations.** Clearly signposted recycling stations were up and running at the Festival venues for the second year. The installation of a sufficient number of correctly signposted recycling stations is estimated to reduce the carbon footprint of waste by half.
- **Official vehicle fleet.** Audi, the official Festival vehicle, provides a mixed vehicle fleet including 1/3 hybrid vehicles and 1/3 electric vehicles. It is estimated that the use of this type of vehicles prevented 33 tonnes of CO₂eq (33,368.4 kg CO₂eq). In addition, at the 71st edition transfer services covered 96,500 kilometres, compared to the approximately 120,000 kilometres of the previous edition.

- **Compensation.** The Festival compensates for 84% of its carbon footprint by means of the Gipuzkoa Voluntary Carbon Fund managed by Naturklima, the Gipuzkoa Climate Change Foundation, under the auspices of the Directorate General of the Environment at the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa.

Below is a comparison between the 70th and 71st editions (both provided by Creast) showing the evolution of measures applied under the Sustainability Plan. These measures include short, medium and long-term targets, meaning that this is an ongoing task in which the best scenarios for the Festival and sustainability are assessed:

Graph 1. Footprint reduction measures applied at the Festival



Graph 1: Footprint reduction measures applied during the San Sebastian Festival shows that the most important difference in CO₂eq emissions is found in **accommodation**. Here, 2023 shows a higher figure than in 2022 due to the increase in overnight stays.



06. Comparison between the 70th and 71st editions

In the **materials** category there has been an estimated reduction of 84%, making this the category to show the highest reduction. This is an important percentage and is due to the second-hand purchase and rental of a significant part of the materials used at the Festival.

This category is followed by **energy**. Here we can see a drop of 38% in emissions for this year. This is due to the fact that the Kursaal has changed the way it pays for and informs on the data source, making the move from a rising fixed rate in 2022 to more specific detail in 2023.

The categories following energy are **waste** with a reduction of 25% and **catering** with a reduction of 10%. In the case of **mobility**, the reduction is estimated at 5%.

All of the above represents an overall reduction in emissions of 14% at the Festival's 71st edition compared to its 70th edition in 2022.

Lastly, referring to **noise**¹ and **light pollution**², note in the case of the former that the San Sebastian Festival represents neither a risk at environmental level due to taking place in an urban environment, nor at social level, given that the events take place in suitably designed indoor spaces. With respect to light pollution, most of the events take place in indoor spaces and do not disturb the environment. On the other hand, given that a similar agenda was implemented this edition, said pollution remains unchanged, with the exception of the restricted hours of illumination of the Kursaal, which must be seen as an improvement.

¹ Noise pollution is understood to be the environmental presence of noise or vibrations, no matter what their origin, which represent a nuisance, threat or harm for people, for the conducting of their activities or for property of any kind, or which have significant effects on the environment. (Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge).

² Light pollution is increased brightness of the natural night sky caused by the dispersion and reflection of light produced by a source of artificial lighting. This increase in artificial lighting disturbs and alters the properties of the otherwise dark conditions. Light pollution is also considered to be any kind of artificial lighting that affects an area for which such lighting is not intended. (GenCat, Environment and Sustainability).



07. Conclusions

The San Sebastian Festival is an event that mobilises a great many people, including organisation staff, workers, suppliers, sponsors, guests and the accredited and non-accredited public. The organisation puts many resources into ensuring that all those who attend the event enjoy a unique experience, with a programme including some 200 full-length, mid-length and short films. This programme is rounded off with a wide variety of complementary activities.

All of this translates into high environmental impact, making it necessary to work on more efficient execution of the event, year after year, without giving up on the very nature of holding an international film festival attended in person by scores of people.

As repeated throughout the report, mobility and accommodation are the categories representing the highest environmental impact given that all these people must take some mode of transport to come to San Sebastian and require accommodation for the days spent at the event.

Despite the fact that both aspects fall within the emissions categories over which the Festival has relative influence and that both will naturally improve due to no effort by the Festival (regulation and social debate), Creast recommends that work in the coming editions focus on these categories where the opportunity to improve is high. Actions should concentrate on raising awareness among guests with respect to using more efficient vehicles, informing them of the existing alternatives and monitoring the result of these actions on impact in future editions.

On the other hand, it is important to mention that the transition towards renewable energies is one of the priorities at the Festival. Illumination times at the different venues have been reduced, electrical appliances will be replaced when required with more efficient models, all lighting in the venues and offices are being replaced by low-energy LED lighting, and all of the Festival venues now comply with the new decree-law on energy efficiency.

The use of materials at the San Sebastian Festival remains high; however, work is under way to progressively reduce printing on paper, aiming to achieve a paper and plastic-free event. Work will continue to improve the efficient use of material waste, always putting priority on reuse rather than purchasing new materials.

Regarding the consumption of food and drink, the fact that a large number of events take place during the nine days of the Festival logically translates into high environmental impact. The Festival works year after year to adapt its activity to optimum environmental standards, measuring quantities to prevent unnecessary excess and waste, among other steps.

Waste management is tackled by an internal team, who travel by bike, installing perfectly signposted recycling stations in the different venues and separating waste. Given the experience of the previous edition, when the Festival found it difficult to raise awareness among the public on how to correctly use the containers and improve the recycling of different types of waste, this year the communication strategy has been improved.

Like last year, Creast recommends working to reduce water consumption in future editions, seeking actions to enhance the efficiency of managing this precious asset and improving social awareness in this respect.



08. Next steps

To strengthen its commitment to the environment, the San Sebastian Festival understands the need to take actions to enable and improve the process of measuring its carbon footprint, progressively reducing its environmental impact and using its communication capacity to mobilise and encourage society to embrace the fight against climate change.

For all of the above, Creast maintains its proposed 'Medium-term Sustainability Plan' setting out the strategy for coming years.

To lower the environmental impact, it establishes milestones to be met year after year by the event in order to progressively reduce its emissions. To tackle said milestones, specific actions are planned, which the Festival organisation will implement year after year, in each of the emissions categories into which the environmental impact is divided. Thus, in 2024 the Festival will turn the focus on mobility in and around the event. It will therefore work on an awareness campaign to encourage accredited and non-accredited guests to use more sustainable modes of transport, as well as working on a series of internal measures to directly reduce the carbon footprint of this category.