

# Environmental Policy and Action Plan 2025-2027





## Balancing Creative and Environmental Actions

Waterford Spraoi CLG acknowledges that companies in all sectors regardless of size or endeavour play a role in protecting and sustaining our environment for future generations. Waterford Spraoi CLG embraces its environmental role as an opportunity.

### Foreword:

Waterford Spraoi CLG has successfully traded since 1993. During its operational lifetime transformational societal change has occurred in terms of awareness of and responses to climate change. For some years Waterford Spraoi has been aware of potential environmental impacts arising from its artistic and cultural activities. Company board, management, staff, and contractors are fully committed to minimising such impacts. The company tasked itself with the creation and presentation of live performances through more environmentally friendly practices and methodologies. This process commenced about five years ago, 2019.

## **Background:**

For those unfamiliar with Waterford Spraoi (CLG) the company's work has multiple operational strands: 1. Presentation of an annual international street arts festival. 2. Performance of spectacle productions at other Irish festivals and events. 3. Creation and building spectacle attractions. 4. Operation of a major purpose-built street arts creation centre. 5. Mentoring, funding, and creating new works with other Irish artists.

The company's board and management recognise that each of these operational strands create distinct environmental outcomes, each requiring bespoke measures to minimise such impacts. Spraoi has initiated phased responses:

1. Minimise performance related CO2 emissions (2019 – 2024 & Beyond).
2. Waste reduction and creative recycling (2019 – 2024 & Beyond).
3. Address energy performance of Spraoi Studios (2025 – 2030).

## **Overview – Environmental Response Timescale:**

Early Steps: In 2019 Spraoi commenced informal evaluation, with staff and contractors, of operational areas resulting in CO2 emissions and waste creation. This led to some early-wins and actions addressing aspects of both areas of concern. During this phase Spraoi also availed of opportunities to influence design of public realm works by Waterford Council to ensure they incorporated mains electricity supplies which would make positive environmental impacts for festivals and events.

Consolidation Steps: From 2024 Spraoi will formulate a more structured approach to these and other related environmental impact areas. This consolidated approach has been informed and influenced by increased social awareness of these issues and increasing availability of external guidance.

Progression Steps: In common with many other arts buildings and facilities Spraoi Studios require significant capital investment to achieve desirable energy efficiency. As an additional measure Spraoi has identified potential to upgrade its grounds as a biodiversity hub. Work will commence in 2025 to progress both strands of studios' related environmental impacts and opportunities

# Waterford Spraoi (CLG) – Environmental Policy

Waterford Spraoi (CLG) acknowledges significant challenges facing the planet as a consequence of global warming and its causes. As an arts leader and influencer, the company embraces its responsibility to effect positive changes within its own activity and to harness its creative resources to encourage practical environmental actions in society. Waterford Spraoi is committed to meaningful and measurable actions within the timescale of this plan to reduce its carbon footprint and to influence by example.

Sustainability goals are incorporated within the company's current strategic plan *Seeding Potential*. Environmental commitments will be upgraded in subsequent plans to ensure integration with overall company activities, objectives, and goals.

Our vision is to locate environmental responsibility at the heart of what Spraoi does, in all aspects of its activities and operations. In respect of our performances, creative practices, and studios upgrades we will strive to embrace and introduce environmental best practice protocols between 2025 and 2028.

Spraoi will make active contributions to public discussion and awareness at local and national levels. We will embrace the creative sector's role in advocating positive public environmental awareness and change through artistic projects that educate.

Responsibility for delivering Waterford Spraoi (CLG)'s environmental policy and action plan will be a shared enterprise between the company's board, management, staff, volunteers, contractors, stakeholders, and audiences.

**The company is committed to enhancing its environmental performance by:**

- **Reducing its carbon footprint.**
- **Progressing waste reduction and recycling.**
- **Enhancing energy performance at Spraoi Studios.**
- **Utilising its art to raise environmental awareness and actions.**
- **Promoting biodiversity awareness and societal actions.**

<b>Environmental Action Plan 2025</b>					
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Calculate energy use Spraoi Studios.	Energy Audit	Management + External Consultant	June 2025	€3,500 approx.	Deliver baseline energy data.
Assess and enhance Spraoi Studios site biodiversity options.	Consult Local Authority Biodiversity Officer.	Management	October 2025	€1,500 approx.	Deliver preliminary biodiversity plan.
Initiate preparation Spraoi Studios energy re-fit plan.	Quantify desirable actions, prioritise, and seek quotations & project funding.	Management, Board and External Consultant.	September – November 2025.	TBC	Create practical and measurable re-fit action plan.
Increase audience awareness of festival public transport options.	Introduce detailed festival public transport options to pre-event promo.	Online content contractors.	June – July 2025	€600	Provide specific online public transport links.
Decrease single use plastic.	Provide water re-fill points at festival.	Production team.	August 2025	€1,000	Decreased plastic waste disposal.
Decrease airport transfers carbon footprint.	Prioritise and encourage use of existing bus links by artists.	Artist Contracts Team.	August 2025	€0	Decrease and minimise bespoke airport transfers.
Artistically raise environmental public awareness.	Create and present biodiversity themed arts projects.	Artistic and management teams.	January – August 2025	€32,000	Deliver projects in Dungarvan and Waterford City.

<b>Environmental Action Plan 2026</b>					
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Improve Spraoi Studios energy efficiency	Initiate phased re-fit by seeking tenders and financing.	Board, management and potential contractors.	January- June 2026	TBC	Commencement of Phase 1 re-fit schedule.
Enhance Spraoi Studios site biodiversity profile.	Commence planting programme.	Management.	January – June 2026	€2,500	Visible bio site enhancement by summer/autumn.
Improve festival energy use & waste management.	In-house seminar.	Board, staff, and production team.	April 2026	€1,600	Proactive change in festival energy and waste planning.
Present festival public awareness raising attraction.	Partner with environmentally orientated private sector company.	Management.	April 2026	€4,000	Deliver audience attraction with environmental theme.
Preview Phase 2 Studios re-fit actions.	Management and board agree scope for next phase of studios investment.	Management and board.	September 2026	€0	Creation of key sub-actions associated with this project.
Prepare pathway to initiate Phase 2 of studios energy plan.	Prepare work schedule, seek tenders & finance.	Board, management and potential contractors.	October – November 2026	TBC	Deliver winning contractors and project finance.
Update environmental action plan.	Review two-year plan actions and achievements, re-set year-three goals.	Management and Board.	November 2026	€0	Create adjusted 2027 action plan.

<b>Environmental Action Plan 2027</b>					
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>KPI</b>
Enhance Spraoi Studios energy use.	Commence Phase 2 energy re-fit.	Management and board.	March – June 2027	TBC	Further enhanced energy savings.
Progress Spraoi Studios biodiversity actions/provision.	Consult with Local Authority to agree progress pathway.	Management and Waterford City & County Council.	January 2027	TBC	Additional biodiversity features at Spraoi Studios.
Improve festival 2027 environmental performance.	In-house seminar.	Board, staff, and production team.	April 2027	€1,800	Deliver pragmatic changes in festival eco-operations.
Evaluate Spraoi Studios energy rating improvement.	Energy Audit	Management and Consultant.	August 2027	€3,500	Provision of benchmarks to inform next actions.
Complete studios energy re-fit.	Informed by audit commence planning Phase 3 of energy re-fit.	Management, board and external support.	September 2027	€3,000	Create project action plan for energy re-fit Phase 3
Prepare new Spraoi environmental policy and action plan.	Review 2025-2027 environmental actions and re-set future goals.	Management and board.	November 2027	€0	Create Spraoi Environmental Policy and Action Plan 2028-2030.
Advance 2028 energy efficiency actions.	Potentially seek tenders for Phase 3 studios re-fit.	Management and board.	November 2027	€0	Secure contractors and finance to commence work in 2028.