

Guidelines for sustainable filming

Foreword

The more we learn about global climate change and the more we feel its consequences, the more frequently and intensely filmmakers ask how the audiovisual sector should respond to this situation. The fact is, few people are aware how much waste is generated during an average filming process or how many energy resources are expended on it, often unnecessarily. A film shoot is very demanding in all respects – in terms of energy, time, and finances – and we don't always find time to consider its impact on the environment.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Slovak Film Commission has been working on the process of greening film production and the audiovisual industry, as well as creating a platform for film professionals to find information and support for preparing and creating audiovisual works ecologically and effectively.

Our goal for the coming period is to develop an effective ecological strategy.

We believe that a "Call for following principles of sustainable audiovisual production", as supported by these Guidelines, will create a fundamental tool for Slovak film professionals to help satisfy the principles of ecological audiovisual production.

The next steps in achieving the set goals entail training environmental consultants, the development of a carbon calculator for the audiovisual sector, and a financial bonus system for ecologically engaged productions.

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Introduction

Society's **economic growth** has long had a **negative impact** on the planet, and at the same time on human health. For ordinary people, these negatives are often too complex to understand, and until they are significantly affected by them, they remain invisible. This includes:

- Air, water, and soil pollution by toxic substances and microplastics
- Extinction of animal and plant species
- Climate change related to the warming of the planet and the subsequent melting of glaciers or the acidification of oceans

Climate change is considered one of the greatest threats to all mankind. Scientists around the world agree that it is caused by human activity, more precisely by the rapid accumulation of dangerous greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These gases are generated during activities related to, for example, transport, energy, industrial production, and agriculture. Another major problem is the rapid exploitation of mainly non-renewable resources, which logically cannot take place indefinitely. Due to these and other issues, the current functioning of society is considered environmentally and economically unsustainable.

The most visible evidence of a poorly set up system is waste.

Waste as such creates a lot of problems. Worse still are the **negative effects associated with previous stages of the life cycle** of products and materials, such as extraction of raw materials, transport, and production.

The biggest problem in these phases is the already mentioned emission of greenhouse gases, such as CO₂ and methane. By reducing the amount of waste and overall consumption, we can also reduce the negative impacts on the planet.

If we want to lead a more sustainable professional as well as personal life, we should follow the so-called 5R's:

Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle/Rot (Compost)

The audiovisual industry has great power in its hands. It can set trends, motivate, positively direct a large number of people, and show society that even the impossible is possible. And this is crucial in a time of climate crisis. We should therefore make full use of the potential of this sector.

The main goals of "Green Filming" are:

- To reduce greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change
- To use resources more efficiently
- To protect the environment and human health

These guidelines offer a set of advice and suggestions for improving the situation in line with the stated objectives. It was created to help all those who are committed to creating in a more sustainable way. If you are one of them, we wish you every success. We are on your side on this meaningful journey.

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1. Script, pre-production, and communication

Script

- From the very beginning of the screenwriting process, think about how best to incorporate themes and elements of sustainability into the work itself: whether directly through the choice of the theme and the message that the work communicates, or indirectly, by incorporating sustainable locations, green elements, and the conscious behaviour and mindset of characters. This way you can positively influence and direct the audience.
- Thoroughly verify environmental facts and examples of good practices introduced by the script. Don't hesitate to contact experts in specific areas. The issue of the environment and climate is complex. Many are abusing it to their advantage through "Greenwashing" – falsely posing as environmentally conscious. Not all solutions that present themselves as green, truly are.

Pre-production and communication

- If possible, hire a **green consultant** who understands production processes. They will plan and coordinate matters relating to sustainable filming. They can also personally oversee the implementation of schemes and plans directly during filming.
- The topic of sustainable filming is complex. Therefore, working with an expert will save you time, increase environmental awareness and motivation, and make it easier to make decisions when choosing products, services, or suppliers.
- Ideally, you should involve such an expert in the project from the beginning – in the preparatory work on the project.
- For more information and contact with local green consultants, please get in touch with the Slovak Film Commission.
- In the absence of a green consultant on your project team, you can divide individual tasks among team members who have a grasp of the topic of sustainability and are able to allocate time to these tasks.
- Before starting to film, create a comprehensive "green plan" for the entire production of the work, with or without the help of a green consultant. Include other team members in your planning.
- As part of this process, think about the 5R rules and the main objectives of green filming as mentioned in the introduction.
- Familiarise everyone involved in the production process with the green plan, divide the tasks, and communicate why following these principles is important.
- Together with your team, set priorities and other goals, such as eating more vegetarian foods, sorting waste for recycling, or traveling by public transport whenever possible.
- Present your green commitments publicly. This form of communication about your goals will motivate you to follow them.
- Motivate and inspire your team by using local and international good practice examples.

- Create a communication channel where team members involved can ask questions on this topic, and together look for answers and solutions.
- Prioritise online calls over face-to-face meetings. This will avoid emissions related to travel.
- Contact potential suppliers of suitable products and services in advance. If you don't find the solutions you need, create the demand for them yourself. Take an interest in other sustainable measures that individual companies take in the course of their operation, and give preference to those that are the most environmentally conscious.
- Measure (either you or the green consultant) the carbon footprint of your film using a carbon calculator for film and TV production. Based on the data obtained, you will know which areas have the greatest climate impact. The disadvantage is that foreign calculators contain some data, mainly in the field of energy, which apply only to the country concerned. For a more accurate evaluation, it's necessary to enter the input values for Slovakia.
- At the end of the project, prepare (either you or the green consultant) a report containing both quantifiable and non-quantifiable outcomes. Present these to your team, superiors, and people in your field. This action will make you a trendsetter and inspiration for others, while also promoting your company and film project. Examples of quantifiable results include the amount of waste sorted for recycling, and savings on greenhouse gases, finances, or individual natural resources. Non-measurable indicators can include team members' increased environmental awareness, the incorporation of sustainability principles into your private life, and a positive impact on the film's audience.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/745-en/script-preproduction-and-communication/>

2. The Office

Lighting

- Use energy-saving lighting such as LED sources and compact fluorescent lamps, or so-called eco halogen light bulbs if needed.
- When buying new lighting, choose a design with changeable light source, instead of those that are built-in and non-replaceable.
- Always turn off the light before leaving a room.
- Always turn off any unnecessary lights.
- Use motion sensors and daylight sensors.
- Work by daylight when possible.

Heating and air ventilation

- Regulate heating, and lower thermostat temperatures when leaving work.
- Reduce thermostat temperature on weekends and turn off the heating during longer periods of absence.
- Do not use a fan heater or outdoor heater unless strictly necessary.
- Install a programmable thermostat that automatically reduces the temperature or intensity of air conditioning at night.
- Use fans instead of air conditioning.
- In case of extreme heat, leave doors and windows closed to keep outdoor air from heating the room.
- When the temperature allows, turn off fans and open windows.
- Only turn on the AC when the room temperature goes above 26° C.
- Keep windows and doors shut when heating or AC is turned on.

Electronics

- If you only use equipment occasionally, rent instead of buying.
- Try to utilise refurbished devices (computers, monitors, etc).
- Prioritise products from companies that offer good repair service, sell easily repairable devices (such as FAIRPHONE smartphones), guarantee production of spare parts in coming years, and/or offer an extended warranty.
- Give preference to models that minimise toxic substances such as heavy metals or halogens, and that are produced as much as possible from recycled materials, ideally manufactured ethically and in Europe.
- Refer to the global eco-electronics register EPEAT to find environmentally friendly products.
- Choose the most energy-efficient model with the Energy Star logo.
- If possible, use laptops instead of desktop computers. They're more energy efficient.
- Connect everyday appliances such as computers, printers, monitors, and copiers to power

bars and turn them all off with one button when not in use.

- Instead of screen savers on computers, use a sleeping mode set-up after 10 minutes of non-use.
- Share the performance of your personal computer – for example, connect to the World Community Grid, and let the unused power of your computer work on calculations for international scientific research.

Print

- If possible, prioritise digital over printed communications and archiving (scripts, business cards, invoices, letters...). Store documents through online clouds. To send electronic invoices, obtain an electronic signature (KEP) and follow the procedure as set up by law.
- Print documents in paper-saving format. Eliminate “white” spaces as much as possible, printing more words per page (e.g. using the narrowest line spacing and narrower margins).
- Choose a thinner font, such as Calibri Light, Century Gothic, Corbel Light, or Candara Light, which can save up to 30% on ink when printing compared to thicker or bold versions of fonts.
- Make double sided printing the default setting.
- Do not print in colour unless necessary, and set black and white printing as the default option.
- Visit the Ecofont website for more solutions to reduce toner consumption.
- Ship used printing cartridges to be recycled and remanufactured. Collection of cartridges from printers is often free, and some companies collect them when delivering new cartridges.
- Buy higher quality refurbished cartridges, which are cheaper than new ones.
- For short-term use, give preference to renting printers with convenient additional cartridge refill delivery and pickup services.
- When renting or buying a new printer, make sure that it allows you to print on both sides at the same time, and choose environmentally friendly models.

Paper

- Keep paper usage to a minimum.
- Use computer apps like Sticky Notes instead of self-adhesive post-it notes.
- Store and reuse papers that have been printed only on one side, or collect them and donate them to children to draw on.
- Buy paper products in bulk, manufactured as close as possible to your location.
- Chose paper that is:
 - recycled (at least 30% recycled material)
 - chlorine-free (e.g. TCF, ECF)
 - certified (e.g. FSC)

- unbleached and uncoloured (if coloured paper is necessary, try to choose pastel colours).

- Do not use glossy, coated paper.
- Buy office paper with the lowest possible weight.

Office equipment

- When purchasing office furniture, first look for used furniture and online second-hand sites.
- Consider renting furniture if this is more efficient for you.
- Use shared office supplies such as scissors, rulers, punches, staplers...
- Don't keep buying new pens or markers, just buy new refills.
- When ordering office supplies, ask for the minimum necessary packaging.
- Purchase products manufactured as close as possible to your location, reusable, and ideally recyclable and made from recycled materials.

Kitchen

- Prioritise buying regional, ideally organic food, and seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- Buy Fair Trade/UTZ/Rainforest Alliance certified products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts, and bananas. For more information about individual certifications, see Chapter 12.
- Shop in larger quantities to reduce packaging waste, while also being mindful not to create food waste.
- Use reusable dishes and cutlery.
- If necessary, use certified compostable or recyclable dishes and cutlery. Avoid composite materials, as these cannot be recycled (or not effectively). For plastic materials choose varieties such as PET, HDPE, or PP.
- Use reusable mesh and other shopping bags instead of disposable ones you have to pay for.
- Drink tap water instead of bottled water.
- When preparing tea, choose teas that are loose leaf and ideally local. Use reusable sieves and containers for filtration.
- If you don't yet have a coffee machine, try to buy a French Press or Moka Pot.
- Avoid disposable capsule coffee machines. If you already have one, try to find compatible reusable or compostable capsules.
- Unplug the coffee maker when not in use.
- Regularly defrost the refrigerator and freezer, and check their internal temperature. Refrigerators should not have an internal temperature above 5° C, and freezers no higher than -18° C.



Sypané čaje

“Loose teas”



French press

Cleaning

- First, try mechanical cleaning instead of using detergent.
- Replace conventional cleaning products with those high in natural biodegradable raw materials, ideally certified (e.g. EU Ecolabel, ESV – eco-friendly product, and others).
- Dispense detergent carefully.
- Buy in large quantities to reduce packaging waste.
- Use reusable brushes and sponges, washable rags and towels, or paper towels made of recycled paper.
- Choose products in concentrated form and refillable packaging to reduce the amount of waste produced.
- Use eco-labelled products.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/759-en/office/>

3. Locations and studios

- Compare the environmental consequences of filming in real locations and in a studio (amount of waste generated, electricity consumed, and total greenhouse gas emissions).
- When choosing a studio, give preference to those with at least some green measures in place (energy efficiency, recycling waste, renewable energy sources, green roof, etc). If you don't find such studios, create a demand for green solutions, or try introducing them yourself as part of your production.
- Search and select locations with the shortest possible distances between them.
- When choosing locations, compare environmental aspects (electricity sources, parking, drinking water sources, restaurants in the vicinity, etc).
- Try to combine multiple scenes in one location to minimise the number of locations.
- Work with the site owner or location manager to ensure the best possible site protection and prevention of site damage.
- Before leaving, carefully inspect the location so nothing is left behind.

Protected areas

- Make sure that any filming activities are carefully coordinated to prevent damage to protected areas. For example, cooperate with the National Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic or conservationists.
- Try to minimise car traffic and pedestrian movement through protected areas. Cars are completely banned from some areas.
- Use tape to restrict access to areas with particularly high levels of protection.
- Always return the ecosystem to the state it was in before filming.
- Use only elastic bands or strings to place signs on trees to prevent damage.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/760-en/location-and-studio/>

4. Transport and accommodation

Transport

- Create an effective transport layout plan. Prioritise journeys with the highest possible number of passengers, while reducing the number of trips as much as possible.
- Use trains, buses, or even carpooling for longer distances.
- Use (new or rented) electric cars, hybrid cars, or cars powered by alternative fuels (especially CNG). Enquire about fleet energy efficiency in car rental companies.
- Hierarchy of use of different types of engines in terms of sustainability:
 1. Electric: excellent, if you have these vehicles at your disposal. However, for now, their range and charging can be problematic.
 2. Hybrid: a great alternative in cities; with stop and go technology, there is a possibility of great cost savings.
 3. CNG: Suitable for medium to long distances. Bio-CNG would be the best alternative, because its circular principle of production means it generates almost no CO₂.
 4. If none of these alternatives is available, the Euro 6 emission standard should be mandatory for diesel and petrol engines.
- Keep vehicles in the best possible driving condition.
- Monitor consumption of individual cars, and guide your team towards sustainable driving.
- Do not leave cars idling when stationary for more than 10 seconds.
- Motivate crew members to use public transport or bicycles. Provide them with information about available options in each place.
- Consider renting a minibus for transport between accommodations and shooting locations.
- If necessary, use electric or solar golf carts.
- Secure bikes for actors and crew on location.
- Use bike delivery services.
- Prioritise online video calls over traveling.
- Use stairs instead of elevators whenever possible.
- Count your CO₂ emissions, and compare emissions for different means of transport in advance.
- Compensate for your CO₂ emissions from transport by supporting green projects chosen by you or an intermediary. Projects are usually published on carbon calculator websites.

Accommodations

- If contracts allow, choose luxury accommodations as little as possible. The more luxury amenities provided, the greater the environmental impact.
- Give preference to landlords who subscribe to various green measures. These include: sorting recycling waste and/or reducing its quantity; cleaning and changing sheets and towels only on request; options for ordering vegetarian and seasonal dishes, ideally from

locally produced ingredients; use of renewable energy sources, building insulation, green roofs, rental of bikes and other sports equipment, electric car chargers, etc.

- Try to be cautious with energy and food consumption, even if they are included in the price of accommodation.
- For longer stays, prioritise private accommodations, which have a smaller carbon footprint than hotels.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/761-en/transport-and-accommodation/>

5. Technical equipment and energy

- When using technical equipment for a short time, consider renting it.
- Choose local technical equipment rentals to avoid long-distance transportation.
- Prioritise energy-efficient technology. If it's not available, create demand for it.
- Ask rental staff for tips on energy-efficient use of technical equipment.
- Unplug all unused devices that use standby mode to avoid wasting energy.
- Minimise the use of consumables (bulbs, adhesive tape, gaffing) and reuse where possible.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- At the end of their service life, dispose of batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, and electronic and other hazardous waste in accordance with regulations. Don't dispose of them in mixed waste, but instead hand them in at a collection yard or place them in dedicated containers.

Lights

- Use LEDs, fluorescent lights, or any other energy-saving lights.
- Use light dimmers to reduce power consumption in between shots.
- Turn off all lights not currently in use.
- Use reflectors and natural light as much as possible outdoors.

Energy

- Connect to the mains instead of using generators whenever possible. Make sure the connection is set up with the provider well in advance.
- If possible, use a low-carbon generator powered by LPG or natural gas. Such apparatus is not yet available on the Slovak market, so it's necessary to create demand here as well.
- Don't rent unnecessarily powerful generators.
- Minimise generator use: switch it on as late as possible and turn it off as soon as possible.
- Reduce emissions by using a particles filter.
- If possible, turn off generators not currently in use.
- Look for alternatives to conventional power sources on the market, such as batteries.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/752-en/technical-equipment-and-energy/>

6. Set construction and props

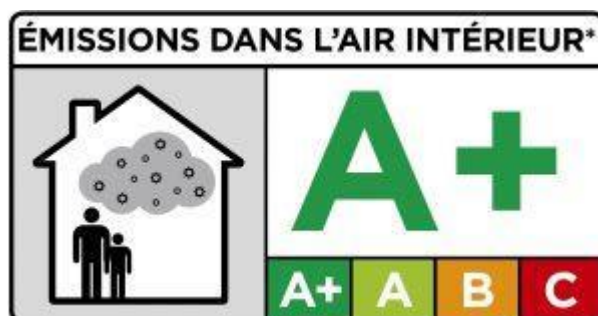
- Choose locations that require minimal adjustments to buildings and scenery.
- Before starting production, design a filming plan with regards to the efficient use of scenery.
- Design and construct scenery with respect to the repeated and future use of their individual components or construction materials. Also think of simple dismantling that will allow materials to be sorted more efficiently and then recycled (for example by using screws instead of nails and adhesives).
- Before starting production, design a waste management plan. Separate materials and products for reuse, donation, recycling, and composting from mixed and unusable waste.
- Borrow or rent furniture, props and building materials instead of purchasing them (from the RTVS stock, theatre stock, private warehouses, or libraries – see examples below).
- If certain things have to be purchased, first try online adverts and second-hand exchanges, flea markets, antique shops, and collection yards. In the future, so-called reuse centres will also be created in Slovakia.
- Select suitable materials, ideally a combination that maximizes the following properties: produced from renewable sources, produced from recycled material, recyclable, and of local origin.
- Also consider the optimal durability of the necessary materials.
- Avoid the following materials: composites in general, epoxy resins, formaldehyde, PVC, chromium, brominated flame retardant, and CCA (chromated copper arsenate).

Wood

- Use recycled wood, certified (e.g. FSC) and/or local wood sources; avoid tropical wood and wood from endangered species.
- Avoid plywood and chipboard containing formaldehyde, from which pollutants may evaporate at room temperature. Choose versions without formaldehyde.

Paints, varnishes, adhesives

- Use paints, varnishes, sealants, and adhesives with zero or low volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



Example of product marking of VOC content in indoor air

- Prioritise certified products (e.g. EU Ecolabel)
- Minimise the use of chemical solvents: use environmentally friendly, non-toxic water-based paints with a minimum solvent content.

- Avoid spray paints.
- Use water-based adhesives.
- Use natural-based paint strippers.
- Never pour out leftover paints or other chemicals into sewers or outdoors.
- Store leftover paints for later productions (for example as a primer coat) or donate them – several Facebook donations groups and online portals exist.
- Think of painting equipment (brushes, rags, and containers) as reusable objects. If they are no longer usable, consider them hazardous waste.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/753-en/set-construction-and-props/>

7. Costumes and make-up

Costumes

- Reuse costumes, and borrow and rent where possible.
- Arrange to borrow clothes from big fashion brands in exchange for crediting them.
- If shopping is necessary, shop in second-hand shops, vintage shops, or flea markets.
- Clothes can be obtained and passed on at SWAP exchange events, regularly organised in various cities around Slovakia.
- If possible, use certified materials such as organic cotton, recycled material including synthetic textiles, or materials and products from manufacturers that transparently list their entire supply chain.
- Give preference to local products made from local materials.
- Repair damaged clothes or modify them as needed, instead of purchasing replacements.
- Avoid clothes requiring dry cleaning as much as possible.
- Reuse hangers, laundry bags, packaging, and clothing bags.
- Return used costumes, leave them for further productions, or sell or donate them.

Washing and drying

- Avoid drying laundry in the dryer, instead air drying.
- Use energy-efficient washing machines and dryers.
- Wash in ecological washing cycles set to lower temperatures or shorter washing times.
- Use certified detergents containing as many biodegradable components as possible and no phosphates or artificial fragrances.
- Prioritise concentrates, such as powdered detergents instead of liquid, as these contain a high proportion of water unnecessarily transported over long distances.
- If dry cleaning is necessary, look for providers who do not use tetrachloroethylene (PERC), a carcinogenic substance that can remain on clothing.
- If you are using a dry cleaner where perchloroethylene is used (as in most cases), remove the plastic wrap from the garment after pickup at the dry cleaner's and allow it to air out before storing it in the closet.
- Search for wet cleaning services that provide a greener alternative to chemical cleaning.

Make-up

- Buy reusable products instead of disposable ones.
- Limit the consumption of disposable products (wipes, cotton products...)
- Buy refillable products in recyclable or compostable packaging.
- Buy certified and natural products, ideally made by local manufacturers and from local ingredients.
- Avoid cosmetics tested on animals.
- Shop in larger quantities to minimise packaging and transport.
- For paper products, give priority to those made of recycled paper (handkerchiefs, toilet paper...).
- Avoid aerosols.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/754-en/costumes-and-make-up/>

8. Catering

Food and water

- Procure local, seasonal, and organically-produced food and drinks.
- Search for Fairtrade and/or Rainforest alliance certified imported products such as coffee, chocolate, and bananas.
- Introduce as many vegan and vegetarian days per week as possible, and limit the consumption of meat and other animal products. Plant-based diets are preferable from an environmental and climate perspective. There are different ways to achieve this, including recommendations or an oral or written agreement. Raising awareness in this area will certainly help.
- Look for new, healthy plant alternatives, balanced for nutrition and calories. Make sure they're also among the snacks served during filming.
- Choose suppliers who offer meat and dairy products from humanely farmed animals.
- Avoid procuring endangered fish species (e.g. shark, bluefin tuna)
- Try to keep food waste to a minimum.

Packaging, dishes, cutlery, and water

- Whenever possible, choose unpackaged fruits and vegetables, or those without excess packaging.
- Buy food in bulk, but only as much as you are certain to consume.
- Give preference to eating in restaurants or canteens. This will avoid additional packaging and transfer of food.
- If possible, ask the catering company to ensure that waste generated by its activities is sorted for recycling. It's important to sort biowaste, or ensure its electrical composting, directly on-site.
- When procuring catering, take care to reduce packaging waste. Try to ensure as little disposable packaging as possible, and not only on tables where food is distributed – communicate with the supplier to minimise packaging waste in the kitchen or during transport.
- If packaging is necessary, choose reusable options (e.g. returnable bottles). If the market does not offer such alternatives, prioritise recyclable or certified compostable packaging. Also avoid composite materials, which cannot be recycled at all or not effectively. Choose materials such as PET, HDPE, or PP from plastics. If you choose glass, try to reuse it. Give preference to packaging and products made from recycled materials.
- Offer snacks that can be served without utensils.
- Avoid individually packaged foods and snacks.
- Avoid disposable take-away containers, such as polystyrene. If possible, ask food be provided in your own reusable containers.
- Use reusable plates, cups, straws, containers, and textile towels instead of disposable dishes and napkins.

- If you're buying ready-made coffee and tea, ask to have them served in your own reusable cups. Conventional disposable "paper" cups are non-recyclable because they're coated with plastic film. Certified compostable disposable paper cups coated with bioplastic are a better option if you are able to sort them into organic waste.
- If disposable utensils and cutlery are necessary, use certified compostable versions: OK Home Compost, Ok Compost or Seedling (see Chapter 12.).
- Give preference to dishes and cutlery made of wood and cellulose (paper).
- Use thermo-boxes instead of electric heating and cooling devices.
- Guide office employees, actors, staff, and extras to drink tap water. Emphasise the positives, such as saving money, the good quality of water in Slovakia, and environmental protection in the form of saving on packaging materials and fuels needed for the transport of bottled water.
- Ask everyone to carry their own reusable bottles.
- Consider renting a cooler and water filter connected directly to water mains to remove various impurities.
- If in doubt about the safety of local tap water, obtain the largest BPA-free water jugs possible.
- Distribute reusable bottles and glasses that are durable and practical. Select BPA-free models.
- Make your own soda water.
- If bottled water is necessary, consider procuring water in returnable bottles or returnable containers of at least 10 litres.
- For dishwashers and washing machines, select programmes with the lowest necessary temperatures, and make sure they are fully loaded.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/755-en/catering/>

9. Waste management



“Good Market” – “a good example of setting up waste sorting”

- Implement recycling waste sorting at all locations where you are filming. Ensure that bins or racks with bags for all relevant types of waste are together in at least one visible place (depending on the size of the area used and its zoning).
- Ensure sorting in accordance with the local waste management system. Each municipality has a different waste sorting and collection system.
- Emphasise to everyone that cigarette butts should not be thrown on the ground, but extinguished and placed in mixed waste or in specially designed collection containers located in several places on site or in personal pocket ashtrays.



- Create clear markings for trash bins with information about what belongs in each.
- If you don't have sorting bins on-site, arrange for a one-time waste collection and contractually ensure that the sorted waste is sent for recycling.
- If you are filming in or near a city where an incinerator is located (i.e. Bratislava and Košice), make sure that the mixed waste ends up there rather than in a nearby landfill. In the waste hierarchy, incineration is preferred to landfills.
- Waste can also be brought to collection yards and other collection points. Please get information in advance on the conditions for handing over the given types and quantities of waste at the nearest relevant location.
- Dispose of hazardous waste (batteries, electrical waste, printing cartridges...) according to regulations.
- Donate used materials to local schools, community centres, or charities.
- Donate unspoilt fresh food to staff members or others involved in the project.
- Compost whenever possible.
- Use waste bags made of recycled materials. If you sort organic waste, select certified compostable bags. In the case of garden composting, choose OK Home Compost certified bags, which should guarantee their safe decomposing in this type of compost. However, you can also sort bio-waste into classic plastic bags and then dump the organic content into an organic waste container or composter.
- Create informative signs to alert everyone to waste reduction measures.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/756-en/waste-management/>

10. Post-production

- When choosing post-production studios and service providers, inquire about any green measures they have put in place.
- Insulate machines that radiate heat in air-conditioned rooms.
- Turn off all electrical equipment at the end of the day and avoid standby modes.
- Ensure proper management of electronic and other waste.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/804-en/postproduction/>

11. Promotion

- Publicize your green objectives and the measures you have in place.
- Send invitations, press releases, and other promotional materials electronically. If you must print them, select appropriate printing and paper (see Chapter 2).
- When distributing materials to cinemas, try to minimise paper posters and billboards.
- If possible, ensure the delivery of materials and DCP (Digital Cinema Package) via bicycle delivery or a delivery service using electric cars and offering carbon-neutral delivery ensured by CO₂ emissions compensation.
- Also apply sustainable measures during your film events (film premiere, etc). When preparing banquets, refer to Chapter 8 – Catering for inspiration.

Tips and links to suppliers and services can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/758-sk/promotion/>

12. Summary of certification schemes

A list of the world's best-known eco-labels and certificates can be found here:

ecolabelindex.com/ecolabels

EKOznačky – Do we understand logos and symbols? Published by the Slovak Environmental Agency, also serves as a source of information for this area.

(In Slovak:)

<https://www.sazp.sk/app/cmsFile.php?disposition=i&ID=391>

The most common certificates identifying products (or companies) on the Slovak market are:



EU Ecolabel – Voluntary certification scheme in the EU for environmentally responsible products (you can find the list of certificates awarded here: ec.europa.eu/ecat).



Environmentally friendly product – Voluntary certification scheme in Slovakia for environmentally responsible products.



Eco-friendly product (ESV) – This designation is used in the national eco-labelling programme in the Czech Republic. This label gives consumers the option to voluntarily choose products with consideration for environmental protection and sustainable development requirements.



FSC – Certification of responsible forest management.



PEFC – Certification of responsible forest management.



Global organic textile standards (GOTS) – Certification guaranteeing compliance with standards for organic textiles.



Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – International test certification scheme for textile properties. For example, the content of hazardous substances in clothing is considered.



Bio-Siegel – All products produced under EU organic production regulations can obtain this certificate. At least 95% of the ingredients must be of organic origin.



EU Organic product label – This label is awarded to EU products that were produced sustainably and contain at least 95% organic ingredients.



Blauer Engel – Certification initiated by the German Government, awarded to products on the market that are more environmentally friendly than others in their category.



BREEAM – (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) – Global environmental assessment scheme for buildings.



Seedling – This logo indicates that the product is compostable in an industrial composting plant.



OK Home Compost – This logo is found on products that, under appropriate conditions, are compostable in home garden compost.



OK Compost – This logo is found on products compostable in an industrial composting plant.



EMAS – This certificate is obtained by companies that, in the course of their operation, do things beyond the scope of environmental law.



Energy Star – This label helps consumers find products with the best energy efficiency in a given category.



Fairtrade – Labelling for products that are ethical from the point of view of the people responsible for their production or cultivation. Obtaining this certificate ensures farmers and workers in developing countries have better working conditions. You can find it on chocolate and coffee, for example.



Rainforest Alliance Certified – This certificate ensures that products originating from a farm or forest meet comprehensive standards of environmental protection and human rights for workers, their families, and communities. It is most often found on tea, coffee, bananas, and other fruits, but also on paper products.



UTZ Certified – Companies which have obtained this label guarantee that they grow crops such as coffee, tea, nuts, or cocoa beans sustainably. This programme is part of the Rainforest Alliance scheme mentioned above.

More information about certification schemes can be found here:

- <https://www.filmcommission.sk/794-en/summary-of-certification-schemes/>

Contact

If you would like to share your examples of good practice, tips, or advice leading to more sustainable filming, please contact the Slovak Film Commission:

You can find contacts here: <https://www.filmcommission.sk/en/>

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