



theBottleYardSTUDIOS



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Designated  
UNESCO Creative City  
in 2017

## Sustainability statement

### The Bottle Yard Studios & Bristol Film Office

The Bottle Yard Studios (TBYS) occupies a seven acre site in South Bristol that was previously used as a winery. The buildings range between 7,000 – 200,000 square feet and were built between 1950 – 1960. Business brought in by TBYS has created a continued use for the buildings, which became vacant in 2010. We are essentially one enormous re-purposing project and we are very proud of that!

To further our re-purposing model, TBYS has recently received confirmation of £12m investment by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to progress a large expansion plan which involves conversion of a second site located half a mile from the main TBYS site. Sustainability is being embedded within all design stages of this exciting expansion and will continue to be a key consideration as plans progress.

Bristol Film Office (BFO) permits and facilitates location filming activity across Bristol City Council-managed property and land, leading liaison with internal Council departments and private property owners to ensure the smooth operations of this activity. Established in 2003, BFO supports on average 1,000 filming days per year; assisting with complex logistical arrangements to enable productions of all sizes to source locations and successfully complete their shoots in Bristol.

TBYS and BFO are committed to reducing the carbon output generated by activities on site at TBYS and filming on location around the city, to align the production sector's activities with Bristol's ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2030; [one-city-climate-strategy.pdf](https://www.bristolonecity.com/one-city-climate-strategy.pdf) ([bristolonecity.com](https://www.bristolonecity.com)).

Together, we established our Green Team in 2020 and developed a five year Environmental Action Plan which seeks to implement a number of de-carbonisation projects to our buildings and systems, as well as to assist clients to become more sustainable whilst working at TBYS and/or on location.

As a UNESCO City of Film (designated in 2017), Bristol is committed to fully integrating culture and creativity into local strategies and plans for sustainable city development. Bristol UNESCO City of Film represents the many organisations and businesses that make up Bristol's diverse film, TV and moving image sector. The Bristol UNESCO City of Film Action Plan 2021-25 commits Bristol's film, TV and moving image sector to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on SDG 13 (Climate Action). Through BFO, Bristol City Council oversees the successful delivery of the Bristol UNESCO City of Film Action Plan, leading collaborative sector action to tackle climate change.

TBYS is a member of the [Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#) and attends the monthly 'Green Mingle' to interact with like-minded local organisations that share the commitment to deliver on the One City Climate Strategy.

Bristol City Council's Energy Team is fully engaged with the TBYS and BFO Green Team. We are currently collaborating on a number of de-carbonisation projects that are planned for implementation at TBYS during 2021/2022. These include:

- Insulation to walls and ceilings and low carbon heating solutions in two studios resulting in carbon emission reductions of approx. 70%
- Increased insulation to two re-roofing projects in progress
- Continued replacement of existing lighting with LED
- Heat source pump and photovoltaic array solutions survey to entire site to develop options
- Ambition to move over to a 100% renewable energy provider
- Feasibility study into wider energy saving strategies that could be adopted in the future, ie connection to district heating systems

In addition to the above building de-carbonisation schemes, TBYS and BFO are working hard to make small yet significant changes that will encourage sustainable practices onsite. These include:

- Creation of an ALBERT toolkit providing key information to clients which will assist them to complete ALBERT successfully. The toolkit will cover sustainable practices for both studio and location filming, including a sustainable supplier list and green alternatives to standard filming practices.
- In collaboration with Bristol Waste, improve recycling facilities available to productions working at the studio and on location, including implementation of food waste recycling and bin parks. Studio trial currently underway.
- Replacement of cleaning consumables with sustainable products designed to reduce usage levels – rolled out in 2020.
- Installation of EV points onsite.
- Improved cycling facilities onsite.
- Installation of communal water coolers to promote bottle re-filling around the site.
- Improve on the existing re-use and re-cycle culture amongst TBYS permanent Tenants and visiting dramas by creating a dedicated WhatsApp group to disseminate comms and encourage engagement with set re-purposing business ReScene Ltd.
- Continued updates to #Wearebottleyardgreen noticeboards around the site, providing eco-tips and environmental updates to visiting productions.
- Embed sustainability in all procurement, ensuring that specifications are designed with low carbon priorities and appropriate weighting and scoring is allocated when considering bids.
- Work with BAFTA and ALBERT to become ALBERT studio accredited (accreditation in development).
- Produce annual report on carbon savings and environmental impact, to be shared with industry.
- When able to safely do so, host sustainable events such as the ALBERT Carbon Literacy course, Dr Bike, Travel West roadshows and more.

- Incorporate recommended sustainable filming practices into BFO's Code of Practice for filming on location.

The main interventions TBYS has achieved to date are as follows:

**Lighting:**

- Replacement of existing fluorescent and sodium lighting with new LED.
- Ensuring movement sensors for lighting are installed whenever new lighting is installed.
- Ensuring energy saving, daylight bulbs are used as much as possible across site when replacing existing bulbs.
- Approx 80% of lighting site-wide will have been replaced by the end of 2021.

**Power:**

- Local power supplies from the four sub-stations on-site have been re-distributed to all eight stages, thus enabling visiting productions to use local power during filming rather than running off generators.
- We are working with BCC Energy Team to survey the feasibility and benefits of generating solar powered energy. We hope to roll out additional PV cells across areas of the site during 2021/22.
- TBYS is investigating 100% renewable energy options, although due to contractual reasons, we may not be able to progress this matter until 2022 at the main site.
- Progress is already being made to move TBYS's second site over to 100% renewable energy in May 2021.

**Heating & air-conditioning:**

- Heating and cooling is provided in most offices via small heat source pumps that have been recently been upgraded to modern, energy saving units.
- Where heating is provided via wall mounted electric heaters, these are timed and restricted to 1000-watt output.
- A feasibility study will be undertaken during 2021 with BCC Energy Team to survey low carbon heating and cooling solutions to the studios, which are currently unheated. TBYS acknowledge that temporary heating/cooling systems brought in by clients to heat studios are carbon heavy and expensive. We are actively progressing installation of low carbon heating solutions into studios as a matter of priority, with two projects already in flight.

**Waste management:**

- Removal of under-desk bins from all offices; replacement with recycling stations.
- Trialling smaller localised bin parks to encourage greater separation of recyclables, food waste collection and re-purposing of electrical and IT items to community groups via Bristol Waste's schemes; [REUSE - Bristol Waste Company](#).
- Provision of battery and printer cartridge recycling.
- Re-purposing of furniture around the site, re-using where possible and recycling if not.
- Forging strong links with local company Collect-Eco who re-purpose furniture and provide TBYS with any goods that may be required.

- Working collaboratively with ReScene Ltd to re-use props and set left over from productions where these can be used around the site.

**Suppliers/ contracts:**

- Imbedding sustainability within all procured TBYS contracts as a priority.
- Using local suppliers and supply chains as much as possible. A local suppliers directory has been developed and is issued to all TBYS clients.
- Procuring an environmentally conscious contractor, who only uses eco-friendly products, as TBYS's cleaning company.