

# Guide to implementing sustainability criteria in filming and film shoots



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# 1. Introduction

The Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (ICEC) put the climate crisis and sustainability on its agenda in 2017, discussing the issue with cultural professionals at a conference on "Sustainability and climate change: a new challenge for culture".

Arts professionals and cultural organisations around the world are transforming the way they manage their activities through the implementation of sustainable action plans. These involve practical and tangible measures to reduce energy consumption, use sustainable materials and, ultimately, reduce the environmental impact of their cultural activities. Such measures are not only good for the environment, but also have a positive economic and social impact. They have also become routine practice in the audiovisual sector. Against this background, the Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies, through the Catalunya Film Commission, has produced this guide to help contribute towards sustainable development.

In October 2020, the National Council for Culture and Arts (CoNCA) in partnership with the Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies prepared and presented a study entitled Environmental Leadership in the Catalan cultural and creative sector. The study reviewed how the cultural sector in Catalonia is responding to environmental challenges, based on the assumption that cultural policies are needed to support and guide the green transition process. Its recommendations include providing the cultural sector with the appropriate knowledge to act on environmental issues, involving the creation of specific tools and resources. This guide has also been produced for this purpose.

It is a tool that brings together some of the sustainability initiatives that are already being put into practice at film shoots, providing additional information and resources for implementing them. The proposed measures apply to the filming phase of productions. Activities related to companies' head office operations and other aspects not directly related to filming are not covered in this guide.

The guide is also available to any public authority wishing to build sustainability criteria into their handling of filming permits, so that they can adapt said criteria and make the necessary resources available to production companies so that they can also adopt them.

This guide has been prepared taking into account previous works, such as the guide developed by the Barcelona Film Commission, as well as the Green Film certification developed by the Italian autonomous province of Trento. This latter is taken as a European standard and its recommendations have been adapted in line with the specific nature of the filming activities that take place in Catalonia. This guide has been produced with support from organisations representing the audiovisual sector, specifically the Federation of Audiovisual Producers (PROA), the Association of Audiovisual Producers of Catalonia (PAC), PROFILM (Spanish companies in international audiovisual production), the Association of Advertising Film Producers (APCP) and the Audiovisual Industry Alliance (ALIA), and in partnership with the Protected Natural Areas Service of the Catalan Ministry for Climate Action, Food and the Rural Agenda and Barcelona Provincial Council's Natural Parks Technical Office.

## 2. Sustainability good practice

The following is a set of measures that, if applied to filming and shooting in Catalonia, will help to reduce the audiovisual sector's environmental impact and raise awareness within the industry.

It should be highlighted that these measures may be applied provided no health circumstances make them inadvisable. When this guide was being prepared, public health protocols affecting normal filming activities were adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Annex 1 contains recommendations to minimise the environmental impact of applying these protocols, principally with regard to the rational use of resources and ensuring waste is properly managed.

## 2.1. Saving energy and reducing atmospheric emissions

All filming activities involve consuming energy to a greater or lesser extent. Implementing energy saving and efficiency measures and committing to renewable energies will help reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and, consequently, contribute to mitigating climate change.

### — Connect to the mains power supply whenever possible

The use of mains power supplies should be prioritised to avoid using generators and the associated consumption of non-renewable raw materials, the emission of greenhouse effect substances and potentially nuisance-causing noise pollution.

### — Use petrol for sub-10 kilowatt generator sets

Generator sets of less than 10 kilowatts should run on petrol as it produces fewer greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than diesel and therefore has a lower environmental impact.

### — Generator sets must be at least Stage V compliant

Stage V is the European standard that regulates emissions from internal combustion engines. This standard introduced tougher restrictions on CO, HC, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate emissions, so less polluting motors must be used. Motors that run on natural gas should be prioritised where possible.

### — Efficient lighting systems: LED or A-rated bulbs

LED (light-emitting diode) lighting systems and class A bulbs consume less energy, have a longer life and produce less light pollution. They are also more efficient, resulting in lower CO<sub>2</sub> production.

### — Carbon footprint calculation

The carbon footprint is a measure that quantifies the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with any activity (product, service or organisation). The value of this footprint is given in tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. The calculation of atmospheric GHG emissions released into the atmosphere allows organisations to identify what aspects of their activities represent the greatest source of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents and take measures to reduce them.

The recommended tool for this is the Eureka (European Environmental Calculator) which has been developed as a standard instrument for the all types of audiovisual production in Europe.

This ERDF-funded initiative is part of the European Green Screen project. It has been designed in partnership with the audiovisual industry, which has participated in creating, improving and implementing the tool.

#### **The Eureka calculator**

<https://www.eurecafilm.eu/>

- Assesses and measures environmental impact and helps audiovisual companies to make the decisions during planning to make their filming more sustainable.
- Is uniform and consistent at European level, using reliable conversion factors based on a database developed by sustainability experts specifically for the audiovisual industry.
- Facilitates the consolidation of data from different productions at regional, national and European level.
- Is intuitive and easy to use.

### — Offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that cannot be minimised



Offsetting means neutralising emissions produced by an activity through investing in socially beneficial projects to reduce emissions and improve the environment.

Offsetting can be done via GHG credits generated under the Voluntary GHG Emission Offsetting Programme managed by the Catalan Office for Climate Change. The credits are generated by reducing the GHG emissions of projects carried out by social entities in Catalonia. If this option is not possible, it is advisable to opt for carbon credits acquired on the voluntary market recognised by the Catalan Office for Climate Change: Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Gold Standard.

You can find more information on the Voluntary GHG Emissions Offsetting Programme at [canvclimatic.gencat.cat](http://canvclimatic.gencat.cat).

#### **— Consume energy from 100% renewable sources**

The greenhouse gases associated with filming can be reduced by consuming energy from renewable sources, either by using generators that run on renewable energy or by purchasing energy that is certified as coming from renewable sources.

The renewable energy certificates issued by the National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC) guarantee that the electricity comes from renewable energy sources. It is worth noting that almost all market suppliers offer the option of contracting 100% renewable energy.

#### **— Portable toilets with automatic lighting and presence sensors**

If portable toilets are installed during filming, it is advisable to request that they have motion sensors to activate the lighting system.

## **2.2. Sustainable transport**

Transport is one of the main causes of climate change. Building sustainable transport measures into the filming process will reduce polluting emissions that are harmful to the environment and people's health.

#### **— Transport efficiency plan**

Before shooting begins, the person responsible for transport must be designated and a transport efficiency plan drawn up. The plan must cover at least the following:

- The number and type of vehicles used.
- An estimate of the number of journeys for each vehicle.
- An estimate of the number of occupants per vehicle and trip.

The aim is to use as few vehicles as possible. A review of all transport-related measures is recommended, choosing the most appropriate modes of transport according to the needs of the filming.

**— Take access to public transport into account when selecting locations**

Provided they meet the specific requirements of the shoot, it is recommended to select, wherever possible, locations within 300 to 500 metres of high-capacity public transport (train, metro or tram).

**— Use public or collective means of transport, preferably train, for medium- and long-distance journeys**

Trains should be used rather than flying for journeys of less than 7 hours and distances of less than 1,000 kilometres, giving priority to the high-speed and long-distance rail network.

**— Use public transport during journeys**

Encourage the use of public transport (e.g. provide information on how to get to the shooting location by public transport, provide public transport tickets, etc.) and car sharing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to making transport more sustainable and efficient.





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**— Use vehicles with an Eco or Zero emissions environmental badge issued by the Directorate-General for Traffic (DGT)**

It is recommended to use vehicles with the Zero Emissions or Eco badges issued by the Directorate-General for Traffic:

- **Zero Emissions Badge** The most efficient vehicles are issued this badge, i.e. battery electric vehicles (BEVs), range-extended electric vehicles (REEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) with a range of 40 kilometres and fuel cell vehicles.
- **Eco Label** This badge is issued for vehicles on the next efficiency rung. These are mostly hybrid vehicles, gas vehicles or both. This badge is awarded to plug-in electric vehicles with a range of less than 40 kilometres, non-plug-in hybrids (HEV), vehicles powered by compressed and liquified natural gas (CNG and LNG), and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

For further information:

- Vehicle database of the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving (IDAE): [coches.idae.es](https://coches.idae.es).
- Vehicle environmental badge: [sede.dgt.gob.es](https://sede.dgt.gob.es).

**— Encourage the use of non-motorised transport during shooting**

Priority should be given, as far as possible, to walking, cycling or other means of sustainable personal transport (e.g. electric scooters).

— **Choose accommodation near the shooting location**

If the filming requires accommodation for the people involved, choosing accommodation close to the filming location, preferably within a radius of 10 kilometres, will help to reduce the impact of transport.

— **Use services (courier and others) that are committed to sustainable transport**

Endeavour to contract local courier companies that are committed to using sustainable means of transport (bicycle, tricycle or other similar forms of sustainable transport) or whose vehicles fleet has the DGT Eco or Zero Emissions badge.

— **Provide training in efficient driving for film crew drivers**

Knowledge of efficient driving practices can lead to average fuel savings of more than 15%, reduce pollutant emissions and stress and, consequently, reduce accidents. You can find more information at [icaen.gencat.cat](http://icaen.gencat.cat).

— **Install secure parking for bicycles and other means of sustainable transport**

The installation of mobile bicycle parking systems is recommended, as well as lockers for scooters and folding bicycles.



## 2.3. Material consumption and waste generation

Many materials are used and different types of waste are generated during filming. Implementing good practices that encourage the responsible use of materials and ensure waste is properly managed help contribute to the development of a circular economy.

### — Reuse set materials

It is better to hire materials rather than buying them new, to favour the circular economy and avoid unnecessary production. As far as possible, hire equipment from companies close to the shooting location.

### — Install water fountains and provide reusable water bottles

Installing water fountains and providing reusable water bottles saves buying plastic bottles and cups. If this is not possible:

- Buy water in bottles of at least 5 litres.
- Endeavour to distribute reusable cups. If this option is not possible, cups made of compostable material that can be disposed of as organic waste should be used.

#### **— Differentiated collection of waste generated during filming**

During and after filming materials that cannot be donated to charitable entities or associations for them to reuse must be separated and collected for recycling. As a minimum, a system for the differentiated collection of the largest waste fractions (such as wood, metal, paper and cardboard, etc.) should be established.

#### **— Properly identified bins that are suitable for the quantity of each fraction generated**

Recycling bins must be of an appropriate size for the quantities of waste to be contained and must be clearly and unambiguously labelled (e.g. with labels, coloured bags or bins for each waste fraction).

#### **— Proper management of recyclable waste**

It should be ensured that all selectively collected waste fractions are managed in accordance with current regulations and delivered to authorised waste managers. The waste may be disposed of in municipal recycling bins unless the competent authority indicates otherwise.

#### **— Minimise printing**

Minimise the printing of documents during filming and distribute work instructions, schedules, etc., in digital format to reduce materials consumption and generate less waste. If documents must be printed, they should be in black and white and double-sided.

#### **— Use recycled paper**

All paper used during filming must be 100% recycled paper. Products made from recycled materials save CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to equivalent products made from virgin material.

#### **— Sustainable set materials**

If it is not possible to hire set materials, options that guarantee or facilitate the subsequent reuse of the materials and reduce their environmental impact (easily recyclable or reusable material, with environmental certifications, etc.) should be considered.

You can consult the catalogue of products and services that have the Environmental Quality Guarantee Seal awarded by the Government of Catalonia at [mediambient.gencat.cat](http://mediambient.gencat.cat).

**— Agreements with associations, entities, etc., to facilitate the reuse of the material at the end of filming**

To ensure materials can be reused once the filming is over, it is advisable to make agreements with entities or associations so that they can keep some of the materials from the shoot, committing to reuse items that would otherwise become waste.

**— Certified natural make-up and cosmetics**

It is recommended, where possible, to use make-up and cosmetics that are certified as containing mainly ingredients of plant origin, that do not contain hazardous substances and have not been tested on animals.

## 2.4. Catering

If catering services are provided during filming, adding sustainability criteria will help to reduce their environmental impact and have a positive impact on the local economy.

**— Locally sourced products**

Products should be sourced from producers or producer groups that are affiliated with local marketing programmes regulated by the Ministry for Climate Action, Food and the Rural Agenda. These may include products purchased via the "km 0. Fet al costat de casa" (km 0. Made close to home) initiative of the Spanish Young Farmers Association (ASAJA) to encourage the purchase and consumption of locally produced agricultural

and livestock products in Catalonia, certified products under a protected designation of origin (PDO) or a protected geographical indication (PGI).

— **Fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables**

The products consumed should be those listed in the calendar of seasonal products issued by the Ministry for Climate Action, Food and the Rural Agenda, which can be consulted at [agricultura.gencat.cat](http://agricultura.gencat.cat).

— **Avoid single-pack and single-dose products**

Wherever possible, products such as sugar, coffee, pastries, jams, etc., should not be supplied in individual packaging. If capsule coffee machines are used, the capsules should be compostable.

— **Reusable plates, cups and cutlery**

It is recommended to use reusable plates, glasses and cutlery. If this is not possible, products made of compostable materials should be used.

— **Installation of water fountains**

It is advisable to install water fountains at the shoot location. If this is not possible for justifiable reasons, water should be supplied in bottles of at least 5 litres.

— **Reusable tablecloths and napkins**

Prioritise the use of reusable tablecloths and napkins. If this is not possible, it is advisable to opt for tablecloths and napkins made from 100% recycled paper.

— **Differentiated collection of the various waste fractions generated by catering services**

The waste fractions generated by the catering service must be separated for differentiated collection: organic matter, packaging, glass and waste.

— **Clearly labelled differentiated collection containers**

Containers should be clearly and visibly labelled to identify the type of waste they contain (e.g. with labels or coloured bags or bins for each waste fraction).





— **Proper management of recyclable waste**

It should be ensured that all selectively collected waste fractions are managed in accordance with current regulations and delivered to authorised waste managers. In the case of small film shoots, the waste may be disposed of in municipal recycling bins unless the authority that issued the filming permit indicates otherwise.

— **Staff must be trained or given information on the handling of waste**

Catering staff must have been trained in or informed of the sustainability measures established for the production, in particular, waste prevention measures and how to carry out differentiated collection correctly.

— **Protocol for the prevention of food waste**

Mechanisms to prevent food from being thrown away or spoiled must be in place. These include adjusting servings in line with the number of diners and setting up a system for managing surplus food through a social entity. For more information, go to [residus.gencat.cat](https://residus.gencat.cat).

— **Food and beverages must cater for diverse needs**

The catering service must include options for people with food intolerances and allergies (such as lactose, nut or gluten) and for vegetarians and vegans.

— **Staff awareness of ingredients and options available to be able to inform diners**



Staff working in the catering service should be aware of the ingredients of the products offered in order to provide this information to diners, especially those who have allergies or intolerances to certain foods, as well as to people with specific needs.

— **Food and beverages sourced from organic farms or fair trade producers**

The food and drinks provided should be certified as having been produced according to organic farming standards, or sourced from fair trade suppliers, i.e., manufactured according to fair trade principles that guarantee workers' labour rights have been respected and they receive a fair wage.

— **Healthy eating**

The food provided should contribute to a healthy diet, avoiding excess animal protein, saturated fats and sugary or processed products.

## 2.5. Noise

The impact of the noise generated by large numbers of people and the operation of equipment must be managed.

— **Compliance with the limits established in municipal noise regulations or in the permit granted by the competent body**

The film shoot must comply with municipal regulations on noise pollution in each municipality and in areas subject to special protection with regard to noise whose unique characteristics mean special sound quality levels must be respected (protected areas, areas in the Natura 2000 Network, etc.).



## 2.6. Waste water management

The waste water generated during filming must be properly managed.

### — Portable toilets with low environmental impact

If portable toilets are to be installed, they must use biodegradable, antiseptic and formaldehyde-free chemicals, or be dry toilets.

## 2.7. Minimising the impact on the environment and agricultural landscapes

Any activity carried out in natural or agricultural environments is likely to generate a negative impact on certain aspects of this environment. The filming process is no exception.

To minimise this impact, some work can be done in advance, with effective planning, while there are other practices that can be implemented during filming.

### 2.7.1. Before the filming process

#### — Contact the landowners

Wherever we work, the property has an owner, whether public or private. This owner may carry out activities on the property (agriculture, livestock, leisure, forestry work, etc.) that may be affected by the filming process. The owner must, therefore, be contacted prior to the shoot to agree key aspects of the filming process: the areas affected, the activity to be carried out, the dates and times, etc. If changes need to be made later, the owner must be informed and a new agreement reached.

#### — Contact the management team of the protected natural area

Catalonia has a number of legally protected natural areas, with different statuses and degrees of protection to ensure key natural features are conserved, including the landscape and species of flora and fauna<sup>1</sup>.

Protected natural areas are often an ideal setting for filming, precisely because they include some of the most spectacular and best-preserved landscapes in Catalonia. It is necessary to ensure the filming process is compatible with the regulations protecting the area and the conservation of its natural heritage.

When the filming takes place inside a protected natural area, its management team must be contacted previously and the instructions provided by said team in its mandatory report must be followed.

Protected natural areas are supervised by a management team. There are two management structures:

- The protected natural area has its own management team located within it. The Natural Parks in the region are jointly managed by the Government of [Catalonia's Network of Natural Parks](#) and Barcelona Provincial Council's [Technical Office for Natural Parks](#). To enquire about specific filming conditions, contact details for each of the parks they manage can be found on their websites.
- The natural area does not have its own management team and is managed centrally by the Government of Catalonia's Directorate-General for Environmental Policies and the Natural Environment.<sup>2</sup>

Three natural parks in Catalonia contain nature reserves (Cap de Creus Natural Park, Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park and Montgrí, the Medes Islands and Baix Ter Natural Park), where the only filming or photography that is allowed must be of scientific interest or directly aimed at raising awareness of the Park's natural heritage.

### **2.7.2. During the filming process**

#### **— Minimise the impact of traffic and parking during filming**

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<sup>1</sup>See [sig.gencat.cat](http://sig.gencat.cat) for details of the network of protected natural areas in Catalonia

<sup>2</sup>Barcelona Provincial Council's Technical Office for Natural Parks: 934 022 428, [xarxaparcs@diba.cat](mailto:xarxaparcs@diba.cat).  
The Directorate-General for Environmental Policies and the Natural Environment: 934 958 000.

The movement of people and materials associated with the filming process can have an impact on the natural and agricultural environment, including the trampling of vegetation, disturbing wildlife, animals being run over, etc. To minimise this impact, follow these guidelines:

- Always drive on roads and tracks that have been authorised and agreed with the owner or manager.
- Traffic speed should be moderated to avoid running over wildlife and to keep noise down.
- Avoid driving off-road. If this is necessary for filming, the affected area must be agreed with the property owner or manager, the area must be properly delimited and signposted using materials that will be removed later, and the time spent in the area must be kept to the necessary minimum.
- Vehicles must be parked in suitable, marked zones agreed with the property owner or the manager to ensure that vegetation and crops will not be damaged.
- If filming takes place near a wetland, parking and equipment stores should be located well away from the water, taking care not to damage wetland vegetation.
- Avoid filming on steep slopes (over 20%) to minimise the risk of erosion. If it is necessary to work on sloping terrain, the time spent filming should be kept to the necessary minimum.
- Gates and livestock enclosures must be replaced as they were found.

Consult the management team of the natural area and the State Aviation Safety Agency if you plan to use drones: [drones.enaire.es](https://drones.enaire.es)

#### **— Minimise impact on wildlife**

Flora and fauna in natural and agricultural environments are extremely fragile and susceptible to direct and immediate negative impacts from activities such as filming. The impact of the filming activity on the fauna and flora in the area must be kept to a minimum.

- No leftover food should be left in the area that could be eaten by wildlife.
- No natural material may be removed from the area (flowers, plants, wood, animals, etc.).
- No animal or plant species may be released or left in the area: non-native species are currently one of the greatest threats to local flora and fauna. There

are sensitive protected species that cannot be filmed without specific authorisation from the Wildlife Service.

#### — Minimise disturbance to wildlife caused by noise

Noise can have a significant impact on wildlife in the area, especially if filming takes place at critical times, such as during the breeding season, which can range from January to July, depending on the species (adult birds may abandon nests, eggs or chicks), or in winter (when food is scarce and difficult to find). Birds of prey are particularly sensitive to noise.

Specific measures to minimise noise that could disturb wildlife must, therefore, be taken:

- Avoid the use of public address systems for communication between film crew members and replace them with mechanisms with low acoustic impact (mobile phones, walkie-talkies, etc.).
- If electric generators must be used, they should be soundproofed, so that the noise emitted does not exceed 70 decibels.

#### — Minimise disturbance to wildlife due to lighting

The impact of light pollution on the natural or agricultural environment must be considered, especially for nocturnal fauna, whose habits may be affected. It is not, therefore, advisable to film at night in protected natural areas and the area's management team must always be consulted to determine whether the plan is viable.

In Catalonia, Law 6/2001 regulates the environmental management of lighting to protect the night-time environment. It uses four categories to classify land according to how vulnerable the area is to harm from light pollution<sup>3</sup>. Almost all the natural and agricultural areas of Catalonia are classified as zones E1 and E2 (maximum or high protection).

- **Zone E1, maximum protection:** land in protected natural areas, in the Plan for Areas of Natural Interest or in areas subject to special protection due to their natural features or special value for astronomy.

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<sup>3</sup>Catalonia's light pollution protection map can be consulted at [sig.gencat.cat](http://sig.gencat.cat)

- **Zone E2, high protection:** areas where only lighting of reduced brightness is allowed: undeveloped land that is not classified as E1.
- **Zone E3, moderate protection:** areas where lighting of a medium-level brightness is permitted: land that is classified as urban or building land by the planning authorities.
- **Zone E4, minimum protection:** land that is intensively used at night for commercial, industrial or service activities, as well as urban main roads.

According to article 12.8 of Law 6/2001 of May 31 regulating the environmental management of lighting to protect the night-time environment, implemented via Decree 190/2015, of 25 August, these rules do not apply to temporary activities (provided that they operate less than 50 hours a year). Nevertheless, it can be used as a reference for determining good practice on lighting that respects the environment.

The criteria established in this law for zones E1 or E2 are therefore used to formulate the following recommendations:

- The amount of artificial light should be restricted to the needs of the shoot, in order to use the right amount of lighting for the activity and to ensure energy efficiency.
- Keep lighting systems switched off when filming is not taking place, in order to avoid the associated impact, except when strictly necessary for the task being carried out and for safety reasons.
- During the filming process, direct the light only on the areas that need to be illuminated and avoid unnecessary illumination of peripheral areas.
- Wherever technically possible, floodlights for illumination should be positioned higher than the objects to be illuminated, so that the light projects downward. The installed luminous flux to the upper hemisphere of lights must not exceed 51% in E1 zones and 52% in E2 zones.
- The lighting intensity must be in line with the technical requirements established in annex 2 of Decree 190/2015,<sup>4</sup> which sets the maximum luminance levels for ornamental outdoor lighting for each protection zone.
- Wherever technically possible, bulbs with a high luminous efficacy that mainly emit light on the long wavelength visible spectrum should be used.

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<sup>4</sup>Decree 190/2015, of 25 August, implementing Law 6/2001 of May 31 regulating the environmental management of lighting to protect the night environment, can be consulted at [portaljuridic.gencat.cat](http://portaljuridic.gencat.cat).



- The use of sodium vapour lamps or other technologies with similar spectral characteristics is recommended where possible (e.g. for safety or peripheral activities).

## 2.8. Engaging with communities and boosting local economies

The measures detailed below can help the filming process to have a positive impact on the local area where it takes place.

### — Use local extras

Priority should be given to employing extras who live in the vicinity of the location(s), provided they meet the image or equivalent requirements of the production.

### — Purchasing and contracting from local companies

As far as possible, the companies contracted to provide services or products should be based in the area of the film location(s).

### — Meetings with potentially affected communities

It is recommended to hold meetings with the local community to explain how the filming will work and to agree, as far as possible, any measures needed to minimise the possible effects on residents.

### — Measures to compensate the community for temporary restrictions

In the case of extended filming periods or shoots that significantly affect the daily activities of local people, it is advisable to offer some compensatory measure, such as tickets for shows, discounts in local shops, etc.

### — Agreements with specialised training centres

It is recommended to establish agreements with training centres to provide learning opportunities for students.

### — Information on the socio-economic impact of filming



Data on the economic impact of the production should be provided: jobs generated and the amount of money invested in the area.



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## 2.9. Managing sustainability

This final section includes measures that, although not related to a specific environmental or social aspect, help to make the filming more sustainable.

### — Sustainability project manager or eco-assistant

A person should be appointed to ensure that sustainability measures are implemented during filming.

### — Provision of information to site personnel

The people involved in the filming should be given information on the sustainability measures in place, indicating what they can do to help make the process more sustainable. This information must include at least the waste management measures implemented and differentiated collection procedures in place.

— **External communication on the sustainability measures implemented during filming**

Mechanisms need to be put in place to inform stakeholders of the sustainability measures implemented during filming (e.g. a press release or a news item on the website).

— **Adherence to voluntary sustainability initiatives**

Audiovisual companies that want to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability can join voluntary initiatives that are designed to reduce the environmental impact of the organisation not only during filming:

- Environmental management system certificate in accordance with the international standard UNE-EN ISO 14001 or the European EMAS Regulation. See [mediambient.gencat.cat](http://mediambient.gencat.cat) for further information.
- Citizen Commitment to Sustainability 2012-2022. When an organisation subscribes to the 10 objectives established by the [Citizen Commitment to Sustainability](#), sponsored by Barcelona City Council, it joins the Barcelona + Sostenible programme, which encourages participation and the exchange of information and resources, publicises the initiatives of member organisations and generates opportunities for collaboration. See [barcelona.cat](http://barcelona.cat) for further information.
- Voluntary Agreement Programme of the Catalan Office for Climate Change. This programme offers tools, support and recognition to organisations that have facilities or operations in Catalonia and that voluntarily commit to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The organisations that adhere to the agreement commit to monitoring their GHG emissions and to establish measures to reduce them every year. See [canviclimatic.gencat.cat](http://canviclimatic.gencat.cat) for further information.

— **Use accommodation that is committed to sustainability**

For filming where overnight stays are required, select accommodation that meets one of the following requirements:

- It has a Guarantee of Environmental Quality Seal, an EU Ecolabel, or a certified environmental management system (ISO 14001 or EMAS).
- It is a member of the [Biosphere Commitment to Sustainable Tourism](#) or the [European Charter for Sustainable Tourism](#).

- It has a certification recognised by the [Global Sustainable Tourism Council](#) (Green Key, Earthcheck, Green Globe, etc.).

The official guide to tourist establishments of the Directorate-General for Tourism of the Ministry of Business and Employment allows you to select tourist accommodation that has the Environmental Quality Guarantee Seal, the EMAS certificate or the Ecolabel: [establimentsturistics.gencat.cat](http://establimentsturistics.gencat.cat)

### — Defining sustainability indicators

It is necessary to define key indicators or parameters that will be used to assess where improvements can be made, for example:

- Quantity of waste collected selectively.
- Consumption of natural resources.
- Carbon footprint of the shoot.

### — Extending the sustainability commitment to suppliers

Subcontracted companies should be encouraged to implement sustainability measures, either by establishing the sustainability criteria that the contracted products or services must meet, or by prioritising the contracting of companies that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability.



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### 3. The role of municipalities

Municipalities that host film shoots can contribute to making the audiovisual sector more sustainable. This section details some, if not all, of the measures that local authorities can develop and adapt to facilitate the implementation of the measures recommended in this guide:

— Information should be provided on the municipal waste collection system and on other environmental services from which film producers can benefit.

— Identify options for using mains power connections and draw up protocols setting out the rules for doing so.

— Prepare catalogues containing information on the resources available in the municipality and in the surrounding area to help boost the local economy, including:

- Companies committed to sustainability or offering services related to sustainability: companies that have an environmental management system (ISO 14001 and/or EMAS), the Environmental Quality



Assurance Seal or other sustainability certifications.

- Transport services and courier companies that are committed to sustainable transport.
- Suppliers offering sustainable food services.
- Schools, amateur theatre groups or similar organisations that facilitate the hiring of extras.
- Companies that provide work for excluded minorities, special work centres or social cooperatives in the area, which offer services of interest to the producers.
- Material hire companies.

## 4. Annexes

### 4.1. Annex I. Environmental protection measures when applying COVID-19 protocols

The application of COVID-19 protocols may involve the generation of additional waste or modifications to the usual activities. Below are some recommendations to minimise the environmental impact derived from applying these protocols, basically to ensure the rational use of resources and proper waste management.

#### **RATIONAL USE OF RESOURCES**

— Minimise the consumption of disposable items if reusable alternatives are available that do not compromise health and hygiene priorities: reusable face masks should be prioritised and alcohol solutions or sanitiser gels should be used rather than disposable gloves.

- The use of disinfectant products (hydro-alcoholic gels and similar) in disposable containers should be avoided, priority should be given to buying in bulk and refilling the containers available to staff. All containers must be correctly labelled indicating the product they contain and the safety measures to be taken into account.
- Avoid using disinfectant wipes and opt for paper made from 100% recycled cellulose fibres.

## **CORRECT WASTE MANAGEMENT**

It is important to continue to focus on selective waste collection (paper and cardboard, packaging, glass, organic matter, etc.), but the following must be taken into account:

- Used disposable face masks and latex or nitrile gloves should be disposed of in the general waste container. The rubber bands should be cut off used face masks.
- Containers of hydro-alcoholic gel or similar should be deposited in the plastics container.


## 4.1. Annex II. List of recommended sustainability measures with cross references to the Green Film certification criteria

The sustainability actions presented in each section of the guide are summarised in the table below so that it can be used as a tool for assessing compliance. The measures that are the same as those used in the Green Film certification, developed by the autonomous province of Trento, are indicated.




### LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Saving energy and reducing atmospheric emissions	Use mains power supplies whenever possible	A1			
	Use petrol for sub-10 kilowatt generator sets				
	Generator sets must be at least Stage V compliant	A3			
	Efficient lighting systems: LED or A-rated bulbs	A3			
	Carbon footprint calculation				
	Offset CO <sub>2</sub> emissions that cannot be minimised.				
	Consume energy from 100% renewable sources	A2			
	Portable toilets with automatic lighting and presence sensors.				


## LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure	 GREEN FILM	Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Sustainable transport	Transport efficiency plan	PR2			
	Take access to public transport into account when selecting locations				
	Medium- and long-distance journeys by public or collective means of transport, preferably train				
	Use of public transport during journeys				
	Use of vehicles with an Eco or Zero emissions environmental badge issued by the Directorate-General for Traffic (DGT)	B2			
	Encourage the use of non-motorised transport during shooting				
	Choose accommodation near the shooting location.	B3			
	Use services (courier and others) that are committed to sustainable transport				


## LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Sustainable transport	Provide training in efficient driving for film crew drivers				
	Install secure parking for bicycles and other means of sustainable transport				
Material consumption and waste generation	Reuse set materials	D2			
	Install water fountains and provide reusable water bottles	C1			
	Differentiated collection of waste generated during filming	E1			
	Properly identified bins that are suitable for the quantity of each fraction generated	E1			
	Proper management of recyclable waste	E1			
	Minimise printing	D4			


### LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Material consumption and waste generation	Use recycled paper				
	Sustainable set materials	D1			
	Agreements with associations, entities, etc., to facilitate the reuse of the material at the end of the filming process	D3			
	Certified natural make-up and cosmetics				
Catering	Locally sourced products				
	Fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables				
	Avoid single-pack and single-dose products	C3/C4			
	Reusable plates, cups and cutlery	C3			


### LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Catering	Installation of water fountains	C1			
	Reusable tablecloths and napkins				
	Differentiated collection of the various waste fractions generated by catering services	E1			
	Clearly labelled differentiated collection containers	E1			
	Proper management of recyclable waste	E1			
	Staff must be trained or given information on the handling of waste				
	Protocol for the prevention of food waste				
	Food and beverages must cater for diverse needs				


### LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Catering	Staff awareness of ingredients and options available to be able to inform diners				
	Food and beverages sourced from organic farms or fair trade producers				
	Healthy eating				
Noise	Compliance with the limits established in municipal noise regulations or in the permit granted by the competent body				
Waste water management	Portable toilets with low environmental impact				
Natural environment	Contact the landowners				
	Contact the management team of the protected natural area				

## LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES


The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Natural environment	Minimising the impact of traffic and parking during filming				
	Minimising impact on wildlife				
	Minimising disturbance to fauna caused by noise				
	Minimising disturbance to wildlife due to lighting				
Engaging with communities and boosting local economies	Employing local extras				
	Purchasing and contracting from local companies				
	Meetings with potentially affected communities				
	Measures to compensate the community for temporary restrictions				



## LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES

The measures in green are the same as those used in the Green Film certification scheme developed by the autonomous province of Trento.

Area	Recommended sustainability measure		Has the measure been implemented?	Description of the measure implemented	Comments and Observations
Engaging with communities and boosting	Agreements with specialised training centres				
	Information on the socio-economic impact of filming				
Managing sustainability	Sustainability project manager or green assistant	PR1			
	Provision of information to site personnel	PR1			
	External communication on the sustainability measures implemented during filming	F1			
	Adherence to voluntary sustainability initiatives				
	Use accommodation that is committed to sustainability	B4			
	Defining sustainability indicators				
	Extending the sustainability commitment to suppliers				



**The Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (ICEC)** advises and guides companies and professionals in the cultural industry, including the audiovisual sector, and provides financial aid and tools, as well as services for internationalisation, business training and audience development. It contributes to the construction of a competitive and quality cultural fabric, encouraging consumption habits and helping to generate audiences. The ICEC has included the climate crisis and sustainability on its agenda since 2017.

**Catalunya Film Commission**

The **Catalunya Film Commission** is part of the ICEC and is the first point of contact for all those interested in filming or shooting in Catalonia. It works to facilitate understanding between audiovisual professionals and local authorities and extra-municipal bodies. It advises on location scouting, provides information on filming conditions and permit procedures and on the needs that may arise when preparing an audiovisual production in Catalonia.

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