



Sustainability Policy

Contents

Introduction	iii
Biodiversity	iii
What we're doing.....	iii
What we ask.....	iii
What we plan to do.....	iii
Community	iv
What we're doing.....	iv
What we ask.....	iv
What we plan to do.....	iv
Materials	v
Catering	v
What we ask.....	v
Construction, Set Design & Set Decoration	vi
What we're doing.....	vi
What we ask.....	vi
Power	vii
What we're doing.....	vii
What we ask.....	vii
What we plan to do.....	viii
Suppliers & Local Crew	viii
Transport	ix
What we're doing.....	ix
What we plan to do.....	ix
Waste & Donations	x
What we're doing.....	x
What we ask.....	x
What we plan to do.....	x
Monitoring and Reporting	xi
What we're doing.....	xi
What we plan to do.....	xi
What we ask.....	xii

Introduction

A home for filmmakers to tell their most ambitious stories, The Depot features two 20,000ft² units of purpose-built shoot space in Liverpool for use by high-end TV and film productions. Owned by Liverpool City Council (LCC), The Depot follows Liverpool's Net Zero Action plan which aims to create a thriving, fair and sustainable city by 2030, you can read more about the city's plans [here](#). These plans were created after Liverpool City Council declared a climate change emergency in 2019, with all political parties within the city working together to rise to the challenge of an impending ecological disaster. This will also contribute to the Liverpool City Region's aim of becoming a zero-carbon city region by 2035, you can read more [here](#).

We want to ensure that The Depot works for the planet just as well as it does for the productions that visit us; with Liverpool becoming the world's first 'Accelerator City' for climate action by UN Climate Change, and with us taking part in BAFTA albert's Studio Sustainability Standard for 2024/25, now is the time to ensure we are doing just that.

Biodiversity

What we're doing

- Providing and maintaining designated wildflower beds as per our sitemap's multiple areas of greenery on site, surrounding Unit Base & bordering parts of Depot 1 and Tech Parking. This is included as part of LCC's Pollinator Strategy which can be found [here](#).

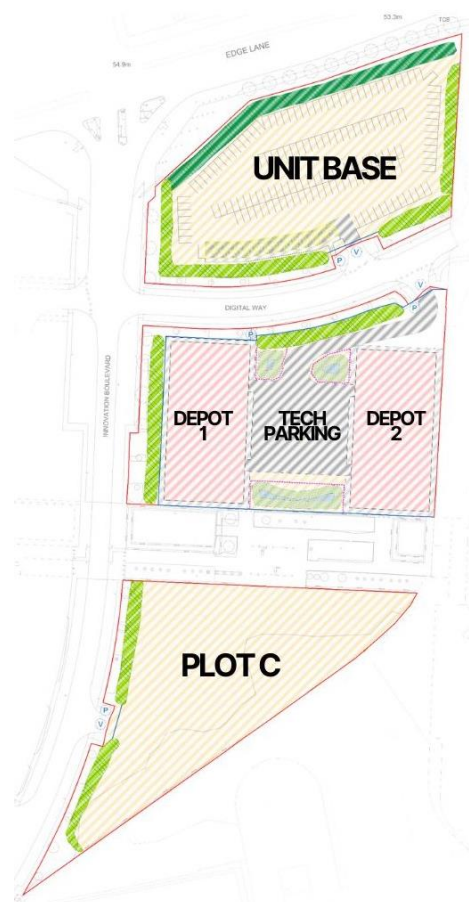
What we ask

We highly value biodiversity restoration and would request the following from those using our space:

- No littering.
- No idling (talk both from a biodiversity POV and a health POV).
- If bringing any greens onto site, ensure that they are removed or disposed of responsibly; alien species are responsible for 11% of biodiversity decline.

What we plan to do

- Plot C is currently unused grassland. When plans are made to build on this



space, sustainability & biodiversity will be taken into consideration.

Community

What we're doing

- We prioritise the mental health and well-being of our staff, with dedicated training policies and support in place. We promote the same approach to production, providing signposting and resources from the Film and TV Charity, which is available [here](#).
- Creating a supportive work environment that fosters open communication and access to mental health resources.
- Ensuring that all studio staff take part in EDI training.
- Undertaking the TV Access Project (TAP) self-assessment audit at The Depot to support full inclusion for disabled people working in the industry by 2030. Copies of the assessment are available on request.
- Facilitate educational outreach and placement opportunities for Liverpool Film Office's Action! trainees, more information can be found [here](#).

What we ask

- Productions demonstrate their commitment to sustainability to align with our aims.
- Request crew and services take part in industry-specific sustainability training (see what BAFTA albert has available [here](#)).
- Productions provide their crew, where feasible, a sustainability introduction or green rider at the start of a shoot.
- Productions take part in Screenskills EDI training which is available [here](#).
- Productions work with us to support and provide opportunities to crew from diverse backgrounds as part of Liverpool Film Office's Action! programme.
- A mental health first aider is available on site for production crew and facilities.

What we plan to do

- Create an Access & Inclusive Design Strategy.
- Continue to provide educational outreach and placement opportunities, along with opportunities for Liverpool Film Office's Action! trainees.
- Create an online sustainability induction for cast & crew, accessible via QR codes around the building.



Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Have any of the production staff or crew attended albert training or will they do so by the end of production?

Will everyone on the production (i.e. HOD's, crew) be sent a 'green memo' prior to filming, to make them aware of the production's environmental goals? (Minimum once annually for continuing programmes)

Will on-screen talent be informed of the production's environmental goals prior to filming? (e.g., By sending a green memo)

Will the production request and give feedback on sustainable production initiatives to cast, crew, suppliers and the production company? (For example, distributing a final green memo)

Materials

According to albert's 2023 annual review, materials equate to around 10% of a production's emissions, with the majority of this attributed to construction & catering. The Depot follows the LCC Procurement Strategy, which provides further information on sustainable procurement, this guidance can be provided on request. We want to ensure we're helping productions to actively reduce emissions and have the following policies for each production who uses our facilities.

For all materials, please note we have a no single-use plastic policy for productions coming to The Depot.

Catering

What we ask

As The Depot does not provide catering, we would expect caterers brought in by productions to adhere to the following:

- Provide food and beverages in bulk and eliminate plastic packaging to further reduce waste.
- Provide only reusable cutlery and crockery, or biodegradable where reusable isn't possible.
- Prioritise locally sourced / low carbon options, such as providing a beef free menu or a meat-free day to productions.

We'd highly recommend you use catering companies found on our production guide (see the "Suppliers & Local Crew" section) to hit these criteria, as well



as to achieve a higher albert Carbon Action Plan rating, please feel free to contact studio staff for further information on suppliers.

We'd also expect excess food to be donated or disposed of responsibly. Please contact Liverpool Film Office for list of local foodbanks. For more information on this, please see our Waste & Donations Section.

Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Is food chosen with consideration for its environmental impact? (i.e. low carbon footprint and/or Fairtrade, locally sourced, meat-free days, etc)?

Optional catering albert questions to increase your certification score:

Has the catering eliminated the use of plastic/polystyrene disposable products (e.g. cutlery, plates, cups) and are they using biodegradable materials that are composted or recycled?

Construction, Set Design & Set Decoration

What we're doing

- We promote prop reuse to local art organisations, local prop companies and incoming productions to reduce waste and promote sustainability.
- Encouraging the creative repurposing of sets and props within future productions to minimise material waste, where possible liaising with our local arts and community groups.

What we ask

- Productions to inform us of any props and sets that need to be redistributed prior to wrap.
- As much recycled timber should be used by productions as possible. Where this cannot be done, it is mandatory timber used in productions is 100% FSC/PEFC certified.
- Only low VOC (<50g/litre) and water-based paint to be used by productions.

What we plan to do

- Introduce a prop reuse initiative that catalogues remaining props for future use.

Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Has the construction company and art department primarily used low VOC (volatile organic compound) or water-based paint?

Will the set (or remaining set) be recycled at the end of production?

Are props (or the remaining props) recycled at the end of production?

Optional construction albert questions to increase your certification score:

Has the production used timber from a verified sustainable source? (e.g. FSC)

Is (or was) the original set constructed using recycled or pre-used materials?

Power

What we're doing

- Providing 100% renewable energy through EDF's REGO backed tariff, making the use of our mains power a great sustainable option for all productions who use our space.
- 100% of our house & street lighting is LED.
- Incentivising productions to use facilities with solar-powered trailers and LED lighting rentals to reduce energy consumption and lower carbon emissions during productions.
- We have created a Climate Change Risk Assessment and a Climate Risk Impact Plan for The Depot.
- Liverpool Film Office have a sustainability partnership with Sunbelt Rentals, please contact the office for more details.

What we ask

- No diesel & petrol generators on-site, with house power suggested. Where not possible, certified HVO / electric / battery hybrid generators are required.
- Turn off lights & equipment when not in use.
- LED lighting only hired, where reasonably practical.



What we plan to do

- Meter stage energy separate to other site energy uses.
- Electrify the Unit Base to allow better use of sustainable power.

Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Are you using low energy lighting to reduce the amount of energy needed?

Is the production using rechargeable batteries, including the sound department?

Optional albert power questions to increase your certification score:

Are you using mains power (no generators) as a primary power source in studio?

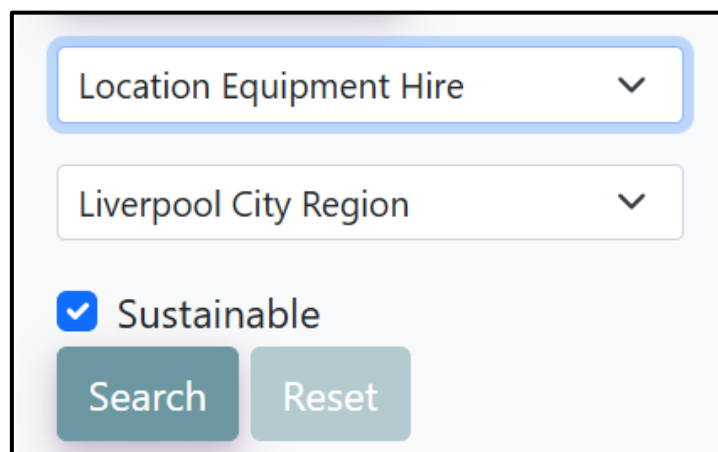
Is mains power used in studio from a 100% renewable sourced energy tariff?

Have zero or low carbon generators been used? (e.g. fuel cells, solar, electric, biofuel from waste or renewable fuel)

Suppliers & Local Crew

At The Depot we will always prioritise suppliers who demonstrate sustainable practices, such as using recycled or renewable materials and minimizing waste.

We have multiple suppliers who prioritise sustainability listed on our production guide, which can be found [here](#). Once you've created an account, click "Search Facilities", tick the box "Sustainable" and any other filters you may like, and then "Search":



The screenshot shows a search filter interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu with the text 'Location Equipment Hire' and a downward arrow. Below this is another dropdown menu with the text 'Liverpool City Region' and a downward arrow. Underneath the second dropdown is a checkbox that is checked, with the label 'Sustainable'. At the bottom of the filter section are two buttons: 'Search' and 'Reset'.

If you aren't using any of our partner suppliers, we'd request that you use suppliers who have a sustainability policy that aligns with our values laid out in each departmental section. You can also contact us directly for a list of suppliers that have demonstrated positive practices or view them [here](#).

Additionally, our database will allow you to search for **local crew** through clicking “Search Crew”. This will allow you to find those local to your filming location, which can help you to reduce emissions from transport & accommodation and to support the local industry.

All crew and facilities registered on our database are based within the Liverpool City Region.

Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Is the production asking all suppliers to contribute to the production's carbon reduction?

Optional local crew albert questions to increase your certification score:

Is all your crew within 50 miles (80 kilometres) of your filming location? (exception for senior roles)

Has the production used significant local crew if shooting away from the main production base or city in order to reduce travel and accommodation costs?

Transport

What we're doing

- Incentivising productions to use zero emission / low emission vehicles via third party providers.
- Provide production with a list of local and national transport hubs that include Liverpool's main train station, Liverpool Lime Street which now has a new service fleet of Avanti West Coast Class 807 Evero electric trains to London, substantially cutting carbon emissions.
- Provide secure, on-site bike sheds which are situated within The Depot's unit base.
- The Depot is located closer to its city centre than any other major UK studio site meaning public transport links as well as walking from the city centre are all possible and more sustainable ways of reaching our studio.

What we plan to do

- Provide EV Charging Provisions at 5% of car parking spaces



Waste & Donations

What we're doing

- Committing to a zero waste to landfill policy, striving to divert all waste from landfills through 3 bin segregated waste streams including recycling and composting.
- Running regular waste audits to assess waste generation and identify areas for reduction.
- Running recycling and composting programmes implemented to maximise resource recovery and minimise landfill waste, aiming for zero waste to landfill.
- Collaborating with local arts organisations to recycle and repurpose set materials, reducing waste and promoting sustainability in the arts community.
- Actively participating in local sustainability initiatives and collaborate with organizations to promote environmental awareness and support food security efforts.
- Maintaining a list of local charities and organisations for redistributing sets, props and office equipment, for more information please contact the office.
- Ensuring surplus food generated during productions is donated to local charities, food banks, and shelters to minimise food waste. All donations must adhere to local health and safety regulations, and clear documentation of donations is maintained for transparency.

What we ask

- For any waste disposal the production is responsible for, we expect to see a zero waste to landfill policy.
- Productions to share waste / disposal data with The Depot for waste reporting purposes (as per BAFTA albert's Studio Standard data requirements).

What we plan to do

- Create service level agreements with all local charities & organisations we redistribute assets to.



Considerations for productions going for albert accreditation:

Will the set (or remaining set) be recycled at the end of production?

Are props (or the remaining props) recycled at the end of production?

Are costumes (or the remaining costumes) recycled at the end of production?

Are you using reusable water bottles and/or cups for all cast and crew? (including dailies)

Optional albert waste questions to increase your certification score:

Is there a zero-waste to landfill policy when in the studio?

Will the majority of the set build be donated or reused after the end of the production?

Are the majority of props reused or donated at the end of the production?

Are the majority of costumes reused, returned or donated at the end of production?

Is catering composting and recycling all food waste?

Has the catering eliminated the use of plastic/polystyrene disposable products (e.g. cutlery, plates, cups) and are they using biodegradable materials that are composted or recycled?

Monitoring and Reporting

As part of our commitment to improving sustainability practice at The Depot, we will regularly review and monitor the actions outlined within this policy and implement key milestones which will be viewable in the table below. This policy document will be regularly updated and reviewed every 12 months.

What we're doing

- Conducting regular assessments to evaluate the effectiveness of our sustainability initiatives and track progress.
- Preparing annual reports to share progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

What we plan to do

- Review and annually update this policy to incorporate new and improved best practices, technologies and insights that further support our commitment to sustainability.



What we ask

- Productions support us by sharing data collected from The Depot and highlight where they have seen best practice take place.

Monitoring the outcomes:

Monitoring	Estimated date of completion
Biodiversity: Sustainability and biodiversity to be taken into consideration when plans are made to build on Plot C	2026
Community: Create an Access & Inclusive Design Strategy	2025
Community: Provide educational outreach and placement opportunities	Ongoing
Community: Create an online sustainability induction for cast & crew, accessible via QR codes around the building	2025
Materials: Introduce a prop reuse initiative that catalogues remaining props for future use	2026
Power: Meter stage energy separate to other site energy uses	2025
Power: Electrify Unit Base to allow better use of sustainable power	2025
Transport: Provide EV Charging Provisions at 5% of car parking spaces	2026
Waste & Donations: Create service level agreements with all local charities and organisations we redistribute assets to	2025
Monitoring & Reporting: Review and annually update this policy to incorporate best practices, technologies and insights	2025

CONTACT:

The Depot

0151 233 0178

thedepot@liverpool.gov.uk

