



Inspiration for your Rider!

Swedish Performing Artists for Sustainability (“AfM” in Swedish) has put together a set of sample paragraphs about sustainability-related requests and conditions that can be added to your existing rider, depending on the type of event. These can be used to set relevant conditions that can lead to greater sustainability for your specific performance, for your branch in the arts (music, theater, dance, etc.), and for a better future.

It is important to remember that you have influence as a trend-setter. With all the (deserved) attention and popularity comes the possibility to have a positive effect on society. With many small daily actions like these, working together, we can create a big impact!

We at AfM have seen demands for sustainability increasing in other related economic sectors. For example, meetings and events now have their own national and international standards for sustainability to which they can refer (ISO 20121, APEX, Miljömärkt Event in Sweden, and others), and on which performing artists and promoters can draw for knowledge and information about how to make events more sustainable. AfM itself works constantly to train the performing artists of Sweden on the principles and practice of sustainability.

AfM organizes regular trainings for performing artists in Sweden and can also be engaged to support training events in other languages (English, French) and in other countries.

Please contact us: www.artisterformiljon.se

Why should your gig be sustainable?

Global civilization consumes more and more resources and produces more and more waste. Human actions are increasingly contributing to irreversible changes in our planet's huge (and hugely complicated) ecosystems, such as the Earth's climate. We are spreading uncontrolled chemicals that affect not only our own hormonal systems, but those of animals and plants too. In effect, we are happily conducting experiments on nature, and over-exploiting our food reserves, while at the same time diminishing the planet's biological diversity. We are remarkably wasteful with things that seem cheap, but that are quite expensive to produce, especially in environmental terms: for example, we throw away something close to half of all the food that is produced in the world!

Much of the economic development in the “North” (or rich parts of our world) is very short-sighted, and we are often increasing our welfare at the cost of other people's quality of life in the poorer parts of our world (the so-called “Global South”). People's confidence in their societies is also eroding all over the planet, and overall social development is threatened by selfishness and increasing gaps between rich and poor. In this scenario, everyone loses.



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The simple conclusion is that we cannot continue in this way. This insight is spreading quickly through every part of our society, combined with a sense of worry that many of us carry as a gut feeling, which is slowly working its way toward our brain. Business as usual is no longer an option!

But we are easily paralyzed by the feeling that our actions make no difference because we are such a small part of the system. Nothing could be further from the truth. Only we, as individuals, can decide to act together to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

Here comes that unique opportunity that every citizen shares with politicians and business leaders: not only to insure one's enterprise for the future but also to create a head start for Sweden, and for our brand in the world, by moving at the right speed toward more sustainable operations. Simply to ensure a better quality of life now, and in the future.

You are welcome to use the following text either in full or to cut and paste sections of it into your own rider, as you prefer. (Please credit Swedish Performing Artists for Sustainability, *Artister för Miljön.*)

Informing the Public

We recommend that you as a promoter inform the public about your sustainability efforts through different communications channels. A good way to communicate your work and engagement is by using a system like ISO 20121 or third-party labels like the Nordic Swan or Miljömärkt Event.

Booking and Travel

At points of sale for tickets, travel options using public transport should be highlighted. Package deals with travel should always have trains as the first choice. Recommended hotels should be accredited with an approved environmental label or certification (such as the Nordic Swan). Information on accessibility for persons of disability should be clearly offered. Booking information should be available in English and [list relevant languages]. E-ticketing systems are preferred. Cooperation with taxi companies shall prioritize vehicles with the best environmental performance available.

Safety

There shall be functioning systems for comprehensive fire safety. All emergency exits shall be clearly marked, unobstructed, and easy to open. Emergency gathering points shall be clearly identified. Tested and approved fire extinguishers shall be placed at easy to reach stations and be clearly visible. First aid kits shall be available. Emergency equipment for cardiac resuscitation is a plus. Zero tolerance rules for illegal drugs shall apply.

Crew and Volunteers

Contracts for paid services and good working conditions should be in place. Diversity is valued and volunteers can be recruited from training programs in the creative arts or among persons needed rehabilitation, or who are seeking employment. Security guards shall be from authorized and approved services. At least one person on the crew should be trained in applying first aid. Persons serving alcohol shall be familiar with the laws and regulations surrounding the sale of alcoholic beverages. All employees and crew shall be well informed about fire safety and emergency exit procedures. All should have some level of knowledge about sustainability and this free resource can form the basis of an introduction:

<http://youtu.be/B5NiTN0chj0>





Food and Drink

The food served should be of good quality, with a large portion of it being vegetarian. The catering services should strive to offer locally produced food, in season, with a good selection of organic / ecological and Fairtrade certified products. The food should be served with a minimum of single-use items (such as plastic forks), and should in any case not be plastic. A return system for glass and plastic bottles should be in place. Draft beer and sodas should be prioritized. Bottled water should not be served [if good quality tap water is available]. There should be water bottle refill stations available. A system for recycling of organic waste (composting) should be available. All serving areas, indoors and out, should be smoke-free.

Lodging, Travel, and Accommodations

We prefer to travel by train and with local transport, or by environmentally-marked taxis, and to be housed in eco-labelled (e.g. Nordic Swan) hotels. There should be free wifi available where we are staying, but no single-use items, and bottled water should be replaced with tap water in a carafe.

The Stage and Performance Hall

A hearing loop system shall be available. Places for persons of disability shall be “VIP” and easy to get to. There shall be handicapped-accessible toilet facilities. Visually impaired persons shall be offered assistance at the entrance. Flowers or other possible expressions of appreciation to the performers should be replaced with contributions to [FILL IN THE NAME OF AN APPROPRIATE CHARITY], which we will announce from the stage. If you do want to present flowers, these should preferably be Fairtrade certified and without any plastic or cellophane wrappers.

A Clean and Healthy Environment

Please use environmentally certified cleaning services. If there are camping options offered for rental, a deposit system should be used to avoid “single use tents” (to avoid tents being destroyed and the materials wasted). Please offer free Wifi. There should be a system for continuous monitoring of the toilets and their state of cleanliness. Smoking should be prohibited in the whole area, inside and out. Appropriate smoking areas with ash trays can be offered.

Recycling

Recycling receptacles shall be offered for at least [3, 4 or 5] different types of waste, such as paper, plastic, and returnable bottles [YOU CAN ADJUST THIS ACCORDING TO WHAT IS APPROPRIATE AND POSSIBLE IN YOUR REGION]. It is a good idea to gather statistics on the use of such receptacles.

Energy

LED lighting should be prioritized in purchasing and rentals. Diesel generators may not be used and environmentally certified sources of electricity are preferred. Anti-idling policy for suppliers and other visiting vehicles and cars shall be in place.

Sales of Products

Promotional products shall be approved by us or be of obvious local origin and of good quality.

You are welcome to add your own additional terms. Please share your suggestions with us by visiting our Facebook page (Swedish and English), <http://facebook.com/ArtisterForMiljon>

