



Place
des
Arts

GUIDE TO ECO-FRIENDLY BEST PRACTICES

FOR PRODUCERS AT PLACE DES ARTS

THINK ABOUT IT!

Your first good eco-friendly practice
would be to avoid printing this document.



CREDITS :
THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CONSEIL QUÉBÉCOIS
DES ÉVÉNEMENTS ÉCORESPONSABLE (CQEER) AND ÉCOSCÉNO | NOVEMBER 2024.

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INTRODUCTION

The Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal is a key venue for the arts in Quebec. It has been producing, co-producing, and hosting artistic works from home and abroad for decades. Since 2010, Place des Arts has been implementing strategies to improve its environmental track record. Place des Arts is seeking to help reduce environmental impacts in the arts and entertainment sector. The development of this guide is in keeping with this approach.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE?

To provide adequate support for concerned parties using the various stage and backstage areas at Place des Arts to reduce the environmental impact of their time on the premises.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

THIS GUIDE LISTS SEVERAL ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES AND RELATED INFORMATION:

- A glossary to facilitate your understanding of the various concepts presented throughout the guide.
- Concrete actions to take when planning your event.
- The facilities and resources available to you in various spaces at Place des Arts.
- Tips and tools to facilitate the adoption of eco-friendly actions
- Relevant information to help you understand the scope of your actions.

THE KEY TO SUCCESS:

TEAM COMMITMENT AND MOBILIZATION

Beyond the eco-friendly efforts you'll be able to make when visiting Place des Arts, your ability to mobilize your team members is what makes the difference. Your commitment is truly the only essential tool you need to adopt eco-friendly best practices!

TO FUEL THIS COMMITMENT, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU:

- Communicate your intentions and share this guide with your team members.
- Ask your team members for ideas to encourage their involvement in the process.
- Set a realistic number of objectives.
- Consider implementing certain actions before your visit.

GLOSSARY

ECO-RESPONSIBILITY

"The characteristic of a natural or legal person, a behaviour, or an activity that takes into account principles of long-term respect for the physical, social, and economic environment." ([Office québécois de la langue française, 2010](#))

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

"A system of production, exchange, and consumption aimed at optimizing the use of resources at all stages of the life cycle of a good or service, using circular logic, while reducing the environmental footprint and contributing to the well-being of individuals and communities." ([Quebec Centre for Consultation on the Circular Economy, 2019](#))

GREENHOUSE GASES

Greenhouse gases, or GHGs, are gases that absorb part of the sun's rays and redistribute them in the form of radiation within the Earth's atmosphere, a phenomenon called the greenhouse effect. These gases include, among others, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), ozone (O₃), nitrous oxide (N₂O), fluorinated gases, and water vapor. (Actu-Environnement, 2019)

ECO-DESIGN

Eco-design involves integrating the concept of environmental protection in a show's design from its earliest stages. The goal is to reduce the environmental impacts of designs throughout their life cycle: extraction of raw materials, production, distribution, use, and end of life.

RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING

"Responsible purchasing involves integrating sustainable development and social responsibility into the procurement processes of private and public organizations. It consists of integrating environmental, social, and economic criteria into the purchasing processes for goods and services as a means of reducing environmental impact, increasing social benefits, and strengthening the economic sustainability of organizations throughout the product life cycle." ([Réseau d'organisations pour l'approvisionnement responsable ECPAR, 2018](#))

BEST PRACTICES TO ADOPT

ECO-RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

A responsible purchase is one that considers its environmental, social, and economic impacts. Here are some responsible purchasing questions to inspire you to make good choices:

- Provenance: Is it a local purchase? How far does the product travel to get to you?
- Ethics: Is the product manufactured with respect for workers?
- Performance: Does the product allow for reduced energy usage or water consumption? Does the quality of its materials help extend its lifespan?
- Content: Is the product organic, non-toxic, made from recycled materials, etc.?
- Container: Does the product come in reduced packaging, or packaging that is at least recyclable or compostable?
- Ownership: Can the product be repaired? Does it have a prolonged, predictable end-of-life and the ability to be salvaged or recycled?

WATER AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- Prompt team members to bring their own reusable water bottles and permanently ban single-use water bottles.
- Encourage cold water washing.
- Raise awareness among work teams about saving energy, particularly by turning off energy-consuming equipment between work periods and performances.
- Turn off all non-safety lighting between work periods and performances.
- Reduce the use of air conditioning in dressing rooms and spaces used after performances.

ECO-RESPONSIBILITY AND ECO-DESIGN

Eco-responsibility and eco-design are new parameters that should be integrated into the creation of an artistic work project, just as a schedule and a budget are. To achieve this, you should avoid having materials considered as waste at the end of a production and instead make sure that their lifespan can be extended.

It is generally estimated that 80% of environmental and social impacts and 70% of costs are determined during the design phase.

Source: Ministry of the Economy, Innovation and Energy

Designing for reuse helps improve a production's environmental footprint.

Did you know?

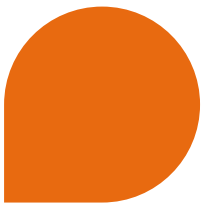
According to a British study, 77% of audience members think "cultural organizations have a responsibility to influence society to make radical changes in response to the climate emergency."

(Theatre Green Book, 2022)

FOOD

In choosing restaurants and caterers:

- Prioritize menus that include vegetarian or vegan options.
- Opt for local purchases and restaurants near Place des Arts ([see this non-exhaustive list](#)).
- Choose products with reduced, reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging.
- Use the reusable cutlery and plates available in the backstage kitchens at Place des Arts.
- Choose caterers who adhere to eco-friendly principles (in their choice of food, containers, etc.) and who communicate these principles.
- Quantify and plan menus and meals to avoid food waste.
- Plan to donate surplus products to team members or to an organization that collects food donations.



Les Pages Vertes lists several restaurants that stick to eco-friendly principles—feel free to browse their directory!

TOURING PRODUCTIONS

- Choose "Green Key" hotels that meet eco-responsible standards.
- Bring your own soaps and shampoos to avoid using the samples provided in hotels.
- See Tourisme Montréal's [Visitor Promise](#) to find responsible tourism practices or a [list of recommendations for an eco-friendly stay](#).

SETS AND PROPS

Eco-friendly design

- Draw inspiration from existing resources. Warehouses and second-hand markets are teeming with a variety of materials and objects, offering the opportunity to gather readily available resources rather than buying new.
- Use as much existing inventory as you can. Cultivate sharing relationships with other cultural spaces and, if possible, digitize your inventories of props and stage material.

Anticipating a future life

- Anticipate a second life: plan to redistribute used elements (rental, trade, donation, resale, return to the community) from the beginning of your process.
- Assemble stage elements mechanically when constructing them, so that materials can then be reused in the future. For example, try to use screws instead of using glue and nail guns.

Manufacturing and processing

- Choose to use non-toxic products, such as paints and stains that do not include volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

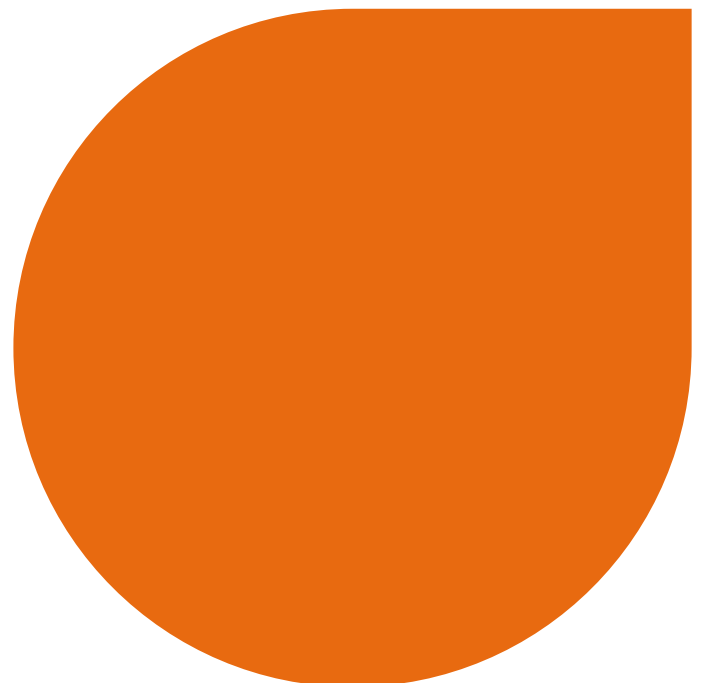
COSTUMES

Eco-friendly design

- Adapt your concept to what's available (thrift stores, costume designers, surplus fabrics in workshops, etc.) and establish a plan to reuse textiles/costumes from the outset of the process.
- Use mood boards rather than detailed costume sketches to offer more flexibility.

Anticipating a future life

- Assemble costumes mechanically when putting them together, so that the materials can be reused in the future. For example, to add a logo to a uniform, sew on a fabric patch rather than using glue; it will be easier to reuse the uniform if the logo can be removed.



Responsible sourcing

- Choose quality products and materials that can be reused, and select finishing products carefully, so that the materials can be preserved and guaranteed a second life.

Manufacturing and processing

- Machine wash costumes in cold water and air dry them when possible. Choose eco-friendly laundry products and buy in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Opt for natural fibres or, alternatively, wash synthetic fabrics in an anti-microfibre laundry bag.



LIGHTING, SOUND, AND VIDEO

Eco-friendly design

- Choose energy-efficient LED lighting equipment.

Note: This recommendation applies specifically to Quebec, where the electrical supply comes from clean, renewable sources.

- Work within the venue's actual constraints to avoid having to rely on additional equipment that would use more energy. Avoid diesel generators for outdoor installations and connect to municipal electrical circuits instead.
- Work with what's available and be energy-efficient when creating lighting/sound/video effects. Calculate amperage and avoid peaks in your programming, as they are extremely energy hungry.

Responsible sourcing

- Purchase equipment from suppliers known to provide durable and easy to maintain material, with a local availability of spare parts.
- Consider borrowing and leasing before deciding to purchase new equipment. Keep environmental costs in mind when evaluating your budget.
- Optimize the supply of perishable materials to save costs and avoid silo ordering. If possible, coordinate deliveries with other technical departments.
- Choose reusable items whenever possible. For example, cotton ties or rubber anchor bands (Belgian collars) to secure extension cables. Avoid polyvinyl adhesive tape (electrical tape) and single-use tie-wraps whenever possible. Reusable cable ties and rubber bands are the preferred option.
- Use rechargeable batteries for microphones and other battery-powered electronic equipment.

Did you know ?

Repairing products and equipment contributes to the circular economy by extending their lifespan, which helps reduce resource consumption and waste production. It also helps maintain and develop local jobs (shoemakers, seamstresses, electronic equipment repairers, etc.).

(source: ECPAR, 2023)

The 4Rs Principle

This principle should be applied when deciding to purchase any goods.

- **Rethink:** Examine your consumption habits and practices to adopt more sustainable methods.
- **Reduce at the source:** Minimize waste production by avoiding its creation. For example, print only what's necessary or scan documents.
- **Reuse:** Give objects a second life by reusing them or sharing them with others. For example, use single-sided sheets for drafts or as notepads.
- **Recycle:** Gather recyclables to give new life to materials like paper.

Applying this principle will help you to avoid the last resort—disposal—when a product or object has reached the end of its life.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Make proper use of Place des Arts' sorting facilities.
- Recycle used batteries, light bulbs, and small electronics in designated areas.
- Plan your disposal of end-of-life materials to prevent them from ending up in landfills; use the "Ça va où?" app to learn how and where to dispose of your items and materials.
- Analyze the waste you generate as part of a continuous process of improvement.

Did you know?

There are resources available in Montreal to help you properly dispose of your electronic devices. Visit recyclemyelectronics.ca to find the nearest drop-off location!

There is also an Electrobac box at Place des Arts, where you can dispose of your small devices (phones, cords, headphones, etc.). Technical managers can show you where to dispose of your small devices.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, PLACE DES ARTS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING A STRUCTURE TO IMPROVE ITS WASTE MANAGEMENT. THREE-WAY SORTING STATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE PREMISES.

TRANSPORTATION

- Encourage active transportation and mass transit for teams (use the many options available around Place des Arts: Bixi, buses, metro, etc.).
- Provide incentives for team members to carpool.
- Plan and optimize car travel to reduce distances traveled.
- Use Place des Arts' facilities and materials to avoid having to bring your own.
- Use a calculator to keep count of GHG emissions produced for a production, tour, etc.
- Offset GHGs through carbon credits or another method (such as donating to an environmental organization or taking part in a park cleaning activity, etc.).
- When renting vehicles, choose electric vehicles if possible, or ones that pollute less.
- Optimize routes and the choice of vehicles when planning the delivery of sets and materials.
- Turn off engines when unloading your sets and props.

Did you know?

There are reserved spaces for electric vehicles in the Place des Arts parking lot.

Ask for details!

IN CONCLUSION

This guide was designed to better equip and inform you about the eco-friendly efforts you can make during your time at Place des Arts.

If you would like to further your eco-responsible approach, feel free to use the resources in the appendix to this guide.

Thank you for helping us make Place des Arts a welcoming and eco-friendly venue!.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Écoscéno

<https://ecosceno.org/en/>

Julie's Bicycle

<https://juliesbicycle.com/our-work/creative-green/%20creative-climate-tools/>

Theatre Green Book

<https://theatregreenbook.com>

User Guide – Creative Green Tools

<https://squarespace.com>

The Shifters

<https://www.theshifters.org/>

Recyc-Québec

<https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/>

ECPAR

<https://www.ecpar.org/en/>

Les Pages Vertes

<https://lespagesvertes.ca/>

The directory of eco-responsible suppliers

<https://evenementecoresponsable.com/search/type/fournisseur>

Single-use plastic: What you need to know about legislation

<https://montreal.ca/en/articles/single-use-plastic-what-you-need-to-know-about-legislation-20549>

