

Running a Sustainable Event film - Transcript

Video begins.

Title credit:

Running a Sustainable Event

Opening sequence:

- Bird's eye view of Shakedown Festival in daytime, showing Stanmer Woods, a giant yellow and blue striped marquee with three flags, and crowds of people moving around in fast motion.
- Music fans walking around and sitting on grass in front of a lit-up sound stage. The sequence is shown at fast speed.
- Music fans enjoying a live show and a view of the back of a singer in a hoodie entertaining the crowd.

Shelaine Siepel, Council Officer voice over: "In Brighton and Hove currently, we have 300 plus events that take place every year on our outside spaces."

Reducing the environmental impacts of outdoor events

A scene of crowds at the Food Festival street market in New Road, Brighton.

Shelaine voice over continues: "So we are looking at ways to work with event organisers to reduce the environmental impacts of those events and promote positive benefits."

Shelaine stands in the foyer of Brighton Dome, talks to camera: "We know event organisers are very busy, and have lots of competing priorities when they're in the process of organising an event, so we decided to go for a really simple, pledge-based system that covers the obvious things like Energy Waste and Water, but it also looks at wider sustainability impacts: things like the health impacts of the event, the community involvement, and also things like the local economic benefits."

Wider sustainability impacts titles:

- Energy & Water
- Travel & Transport
- Waste & Recycling
- Food & Beverage
- Community & Landscape
- Suppliers & Products
- Health & Culture

Brighton Festival case study

Footage of people at an outdoor festival in daytime, eating and drinking and sitting on grass in front of a small stage.

Zoe Curtis, Brighton Dome and Brighton Festival voice over: "Here at Brighton Dome, we make it a priority to try and run our venues and also our events during Brighton Festival as sustainably as possible."

Zoe sits on a staircase at Brighton Dome, talking to the camera.

“One of the things that we do is that we try to think about what we can eliminate from the event when we’re planning one, so it’s not always about doing things; it might be about what we’re not doing in an event which actually makes it more low impact.”

Footage of:

- North Street and the Clock Tower draped in flags and bunting for the Brighton Festival
- Acrobats performing on zip wires strung from tower blocks in Kemp Town
- Brighton Festival Children’s Parade: crowds of people walking in the procession along the seafront; a giant purple puppet wearing a mask moving along Sydney Street past Dirty Harry; children in the procession playing drums and tubas; a small boy dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

Zoe voice over: “When we put on events we like to think about a broader idea of sustainability, so not just about saving water or energy, but about how working with the arts and experiencing the arts can really improve your wellbeing.”

Zoe sits on the staircase at Brighton Dome, talks to camera: “So an event like ‘Digging for Shakespeare’ embodies that, with people going out into the allotments, getting out in the elements, in good or bad weather, and really getting involved with it in that way.”

Digging for Shakespeare

Polly Barker, Brighton Dome and Brighton Festival, outside in front of trees, talking to the camera: “So as part of Brighton Festival we commissioned a promenade performance called ‘Digging for Shakespeare’ which took place at Roedale Allotments.”

The Big Lemon Bus pulls over at the side of the road next to Roedale Allotments. The guide directs the passengers off the bus and there is footage of them walking through the gate to the Allotments.

Polly voice over: “As a way to encourage people to not take their cars to event sites we had sponsorship with the Big Lemon Bus which is a local transport company and they run their vehicles on old cooking oil. And we collected the audience and transported them.”

Polly talks to camera: “The piece was fully embedded in the local community. We worked with Hollingbury Bowls Club who were the Woods [*Birnam Wood*] from Macbeth. We also worked with a local theatre group, a theatre workshop, and they were the fairies from *Midsummer Night’s Dream*.”

Spectators applaud in a field as the members of the Bowls Club walk towards them holding green paper trees over their faces.

Polly voice over: “All of the imagery is provided by the community cast, but the setting, which exists already, so the buildings, the allotments, Hollingbury Woods, people are walking through these places on a journey of discovery and learning the story of the show at the same time.”

Footage of:

- The Maître d’, a bearded man in a tweed suit, waistcoat and cap and carrying a megaphone, leading the audience through Hollingbury Woods past the Fairies hiding in the trees.
- The Fairies following the audience bearing placards.
- The audience exploring the allotments, walking past sheds and bunting.
- A woman discovering a small knitted Shakespearean character nestled between stones at the side of a path.

Polly talks to camera: “The main props that were used in the performance were sourced from local Brighton companies who lent them to us for the duration of the show and then we gave them back to them.”

Volunteers are working in a barn, delivering a polytunnel and a farmhouse table and sorting old leather-bound books.

Polly voice over: “*Digging for Shakespeare*’ as a whole project was very sustainable and low impact, although quite high profile within the Festival. It ran for 12 shows over three weeks and we have donated or reused all of the props and materials for the piece. I think I walked away with two bags of rubbish after 12 shows.”

Footage of:

- The Maître d’ corralling the audience in a flint walled courtyard.
- The back view of an actor in a long fur coat and top hat decorated with ivy, performing in the courtyard in front of a bank of large terracotta flowerpots.
- The audience smiling, then walking back through the allotments.
- Two men walking hand in hand through the trees.
- A small knitted character of a Shakespearean King propped up on a handrail.
- An older man walking away on a path through the trees

Pick 10 things to make your event more sustainable

Shelaine stands in the foyer of Brighton Dome, talks to camera: “What we’re asking event organisers to do is to take just a little bit of time out of their event planning schedule to go through the Sustainable Event Commitment, pick ten things that they’re going to do to make their event just a little bit more sustainable and tell people about it. We know that from talking to event organisers in the past that this not only reduces the environmental impact of the event but can also make the event a lot cheaper to deliver as well.”

Final text

To find out more about Sustainable Events
search Brighton Sustainable Events
[visit brightondome.org](http://visitbrightondome.org) & brighton-hove.gov.uk

Closing Credits:

Brighton & Hove City Council and Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival would like to thank

Brighton Open Air Theatre
The Big Lemon CIC
Firefly Clean Energy
Hewden Stuart Ltd

Digging for Shakespeare:
Artist – Marc Rees
The Allotmenters – RAGS (Roedale Allotment and Garden Society)
Birnam Wood – Hollingbury Park Bowls Club
The Fairies – The Theatre Workshop Youth Cast
Dan Lake & Paul Streetly – Production
Hollingbury Golf Club

End of video