



theBottleYardSTUDIOS



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Designated
UNESCO Creative City
in 2017

Sustainability statement

The Bottle Yard Studios & Bristol Film Office

About us

[The Bottle Yard Studios](#) (TBYS) is the largest film and TV studio in the West of England, located in Bristol, an internationally recognised UNESCO City of Film. 11 stages are available within 14 acres of re-purposed industrial premises; eight at the main site and three at TBYS2, the Studios' neighbouring £12m facility which opened in 2022 offering premium sound-proofed shooting space, powered by a 1MWp PV array believed to be the largest community-owned solar rooftop in the UK. The Bottle Yard Studios is a Bristol City Council initiative backed by West of England Combined Authority investment.

[Bristol Film Office](#) (BFO) permits and facilitates location filming activity across Bristol City Council-managed property and land, leading liaison with internal Council departments and private property owners to ensure the smooth operations of this activity. Established in 2003, BFO supports on average 900 filming days per year; assisting with complex logistical arrangements to enable productions of all sizes to source locations and successfully complete their shoots in Bristol.

Our commitment

TBYS and BFO are committed to reducing the carbon output generated by activities on site at TBYS *and* filming on location around the city, to align the production sector's activities with Bristol's ambitious target to become carbon neutral by 2030, as stated in [Bristol's One City Climate Strategy](#).

Together, we established our Green Team in 2020 and developed a medium-term Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan which seeks to implement a number of de-carbonisation projects to TBYS's buildings and systems, to assist clients to become more sustainable whilst working at TBYS and/or filming on location in Bristol, and in turn, to enable productions to be successful [BAFTA albert](#) accredited projects.

As a UNESCO City of Film (designated in 2017), Bristol is committed to fully integrating culture and creativity into local strategies and plans for sustainable city development. [Bristol UNESCO City of Film](#) represents the many organisations and businesses that make up Bristol's diverse film, TV and moving image sector. The work of TBYS and BFO's Green Team complements the Bristol UNESCO City of Film 2021-25 Action Plan, which commits the sector to the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals with a specific focus on [SDG 13 \(Climate Action\)](#).

TBYS is a member of the [Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#) and the [Future Leap Network](#) and attends regular networking events to interact with like-minded local organisations that share the commitment to deliver on the One City Climate Strategy.

In 2023, The Bottle Yard's newly opened TBYS2 facility became [albert Studio Standard accredited](#), receiving a 'Very Good' status; the highest accolade awarded in the scheme's inaugural year. Moving forward, TBYS is committed to obtaining this accreditation for both of its sites in its 2023 bid submission and has focussed its Sustainability Strategy on the reduction of environmental impact over the 6 key areas monitored by the Standard: Climate, Circularity, Nature, People, Management and Data.

De-carbonisation measures

[Bristol City Council's Energy Team](#) is fully engaged with TBYS and BFO's Green Team. Together, they have implemented a number of de-carbonisation projects, focussing initially on reducing impact of scope 1 & 2 emissions.

The largest of these measures to date is the installation of TBYS's [award-winning 1MW community-owned rooftop solar array](#), which was 'switched on' in late 2022. Funded by [Bristol Energy Cooperative](#), the array has more than 2,300 panels producing enough power to run 250 average Bristol households per year. During peak conditions, when more energy is produced than the TBYS facility needs, surplus energy will be 'sleeved' to other Council-owned buildings via the [Bristol City Leap](#) Sleaving Pool, helping Bristol reach its 2030 net zero goal.

This project has attracted widespread praise and attention to date. It was named Best Sustainable Initiative at the [2023 Global Production Awards](#) during Cannes Film Festival, it took home the Innovation in Low Carbon Technology Award at the 2023 [Future Leap Sustainable Business Awards](#) and it is nominated in the upcoming [Makers & Shakers Awards](#) (6th December 2023).

Other de-carbonisation projects delivered at TBYS to date include:

- Insulation to walls and ceilings and low carbon heating solutions in two studios at the main site
- Roofing insulation works
- Replacement of c90% of existing lighting with LED
- Implementation of new cycling facilities
- Installation of 8 EV charging points
- Consideration of waste recycling facilities (DMR, cardboard, food, batteries, printer cartridges electrical) and re-use partnerships
- Moving over to 100% renewable electricity tariffs and installing large electric studio power to avoid use of generators
- Upgrading old heating and cooling infrastructure with new, energy efficient equipment

Projects currently in progress at TBYS include:

- Main site solar array feasibility of scale
- Installation of an additional eight EV charging points
- Unit base electric plug-in stations (negating need for generators completely)
- Scope 1 & 2 carbon baselining

Promoting a sustainable culture

In addition to building and infrastructure de-carbonisation schemes, TBYS and BFO's Green Team is working hard to make changes that will encourage sustainable practices in filmmaking in the region. These include:

- Creation of an albert Sustainability Toolkit providing key information to TBYS and BFO clients which will enable them to make environmentally focussed decisions throughout the production lifecycle. The Toolkit signposts productions to sustainable practices for both studio-based and location filming, and promotes the key principles of circular economy activities, including sustainable travel, local suppliers, accommodation lists and local crewing opportunities.
- Introduction of a robust waste strategy that encourages productions to budget and design for end of life and connects each department with local organisations who can re-use props, sets and costumes. This strategy also focusses heavily on recycling measures within offices, studios, and workshops.
- Implementation of a Zero Plastic Waste Policy for all studio-controlled areas across the TBYS site.
- Installation of communal water coolers to promote bottle re-filling around the TBYS site.
- Creation of wellbeing spaces onsite at TBYS to promote improved mental health.

- Continuing updates to #wearebottleyardgreen noticeboards around the TBYS site, providing eco-tips and environmental updates to visiting productions.
- Embedding sustainability in all TBYS and BFO procurement, ensuring that specifications are designed with low carbon priorities and appropriate that weighting and scoring is allocated when considering bids.

Summary

TBYS and BFO remain committed to reducing the carbon output generated by activities on site at TBYS and filming on location around the city, in alignment with Bristol’s target to become carbon neutral by 2030. Its Green Team will continue to meet regularly to a) review and evaluate decarbonisation measures already in place; b) coordinate the implementation of new decarbonisation measures; and c) consider new measures and/or collaborations with third parties that will help Bristol become a more sustainable city in which to film.

TBYS and BFO will continue to use its voice within the industry to celebrate sustainable practises within the region, to highlight the importance of green filmmaking and encourage sustainable decision-making among those who are active on site at TBYS or filming on location in Bristol.

For more information, visit The Bottle Yard Studios’ [Sustainability page](#), follow #wearebottleyardgreen on social media, or to email us at thebottleyard@bristol.gov.uk.

