



# Waterworks 2023

Our 2023 Sustainability Report





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# Introduction

# Introduction

Since the first edition of Waterworks in 2021, we have had the honour of creating an immersive festival space nestled in Cedar woodland. With no traditional headliner structure, our ethos is rooted in investing in the diverse local electronic music scene and empowering people to express themselves authentically.

This ethos is essential in fighting the climate emergency as marginalised communities are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis while being at the forefront of climate activism. We believe social justice is climate justice.

Part of our commitment to our attendees, alongside throwing a day of collective joy, is to share our values and report on our initiatives transparently. Continuing a conversation on the place of festivals as agents of change and key for creating social connections in the current socio-cultural climate.

This report contains an overview of the environmental and social impact of our 2023 event, sharing what worked and what areas need improvement. Although we have been collecting impact data at Waterworks since 2021, this is the first year that Waterworks has a standalone impact report. We commit to being transparent and accountable in our work toward sustainability.

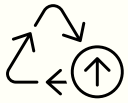
We're still at the beginning of our journey and continuously improving our operation to be more sustainable; keep an eye out for our 2024 edition!





# Our audience cares!

Top three things our audience cares about:



1. Reducing waste



2. Protecting the local environment



3. Diversity & Inclusivity



# Key Performance Indicators

## Our Priorities

Waterworks is a London based day festival which celebrates independent electronic music culture.

A collaboration between Team Love and Percolate, we work together to produce an unforgettable party while ensuring that sustainability remains a priority.

### We strive to:

- Create an inclusive community on and off the dance floor
- Develop purposeful partnerships with organisations, charities, and community groups
- Provide opportunities and employment for local people
- Be an environmentally responsible event, committed to measuring and mitigating our impacts
- Celebrate the beauty and biodiversity of Gunnersbury Park through our production

	2022	2023
Waste Generated	8 tonnes	7.45 tonnes
% recycled waste	35%	49.60%
Waste to Landfill	0	0
Fuel Consumption	3,750 Litres	2519.5 Litres
Type of fuel	HVO Fuel	HVO Fuel
Water usage	19,232	19,232
Big Team placement	0	7
Money for charity	£1,200	£2,790
Event's affordability	1,519 tickets sold to NHS /charity workers	120 tickets for NHS /charity workers
Traders survey	—	70%
Audience survey	111	100

\* Due to the Waterworks site being used by DnB Allstars for an event on the subsequent day, the energy & waste data from 2023 are averages based on total consumption across both events. Water consumption is based on 2022 as this data wasn't provided by our contractor.

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# Environmental Impact

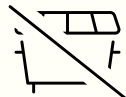
# Waste

**We increased our recycling rate by almost 15%!**

### What worked



We achieved a 49.6% recycling rate, up from 35% in 2022



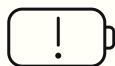
No general waste was sent to landfill



49.95% of our general waste went to recovery, 0.42% was reused by our waste contractor



Film pots reused as ashtrays reduced the amount of cigarette butts dropped on the ground



Disposable Vapes collection points to reuse batteries in social projects



No single use hot drink cups or water bottles supplied back of house

In 2023 we introduced onsite catering with reusable plates and crockery for crew and artist food, reducing waste in this area.

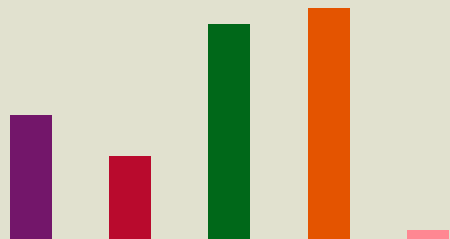
Thanks to Greenbox Events, Jack's Lab, Re-Bloom, Raw Foundation and Frank Water for helping us reduce our waste!

### Areas for Improvement

- Improve calculation to reflect our event's waste
- Increase our recycling rate by 5%
- Increase the provision of compost toilets
- Procurement waste stream analysis to capture what is being re-hired, reused or discarded through our operations

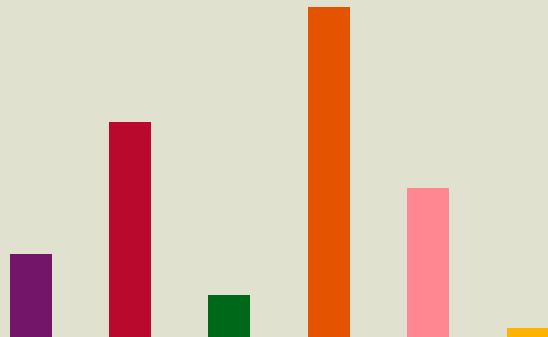
### kg CO<sub>2</sub> vs. Waste Type

Cardboard/Glass	3,090
Food	2,008
General	9,562
DMR	5,992
Nitrous Oxide	56



### Total Waste generated

Cardboard	0.76
Glass	2
Food	0.35
General	3.05
DMR	1.29
Nitrous Oxide	0.035





# Energy

Generators & plants used an average of 2,519L HVO Fuel\*, emitting 1,364 kg CO2e

## What worked



100% powered by renewable energy e.g HVO Fuel



HVO fuel used in all generators

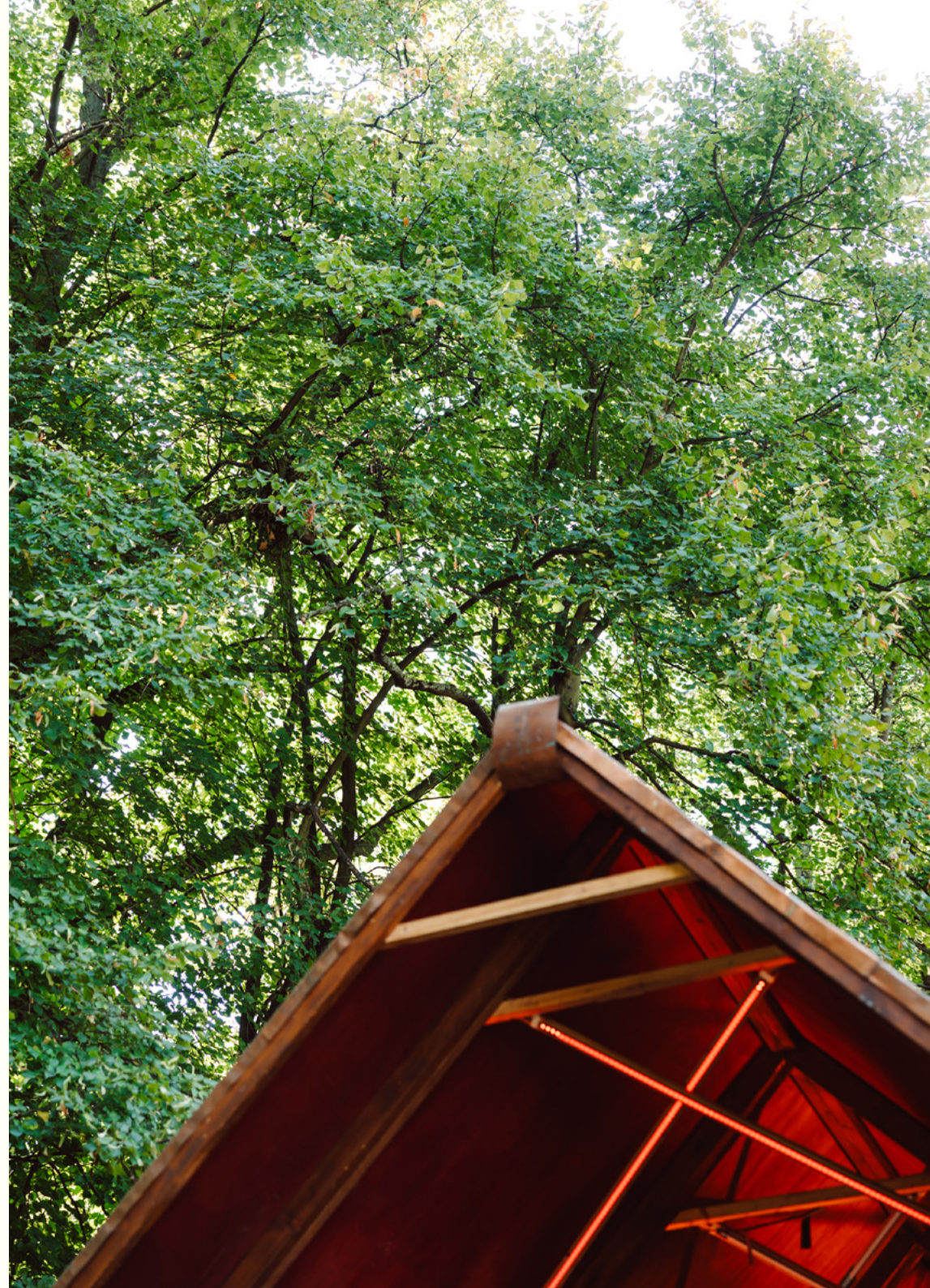


HVO fuel used in plant machinery, tower lights & buggies

## Areas for Improvement

- Deepen our understanding of energy usage per area to improve energy efficiency e.g traders, bars, stages etc.
- Work with our power contractor to collaboratively develop further improvements & reduce our emissions

\*Total HVO fuel consumption for 2 days divided by 2.





# Food & Drink

## What worked



80% of our traders served organic, local or seasonal food



We surveyed 70% of our traders to capture their food standards



Bringing in onsite crew catering helped us serve healthy veggie/vegan food



It also reduced some of our waste as they only use reusable serveware!



86% of you returned your cups to the bars or took them to the collection points, this helped us reduce cup breakage & loss!

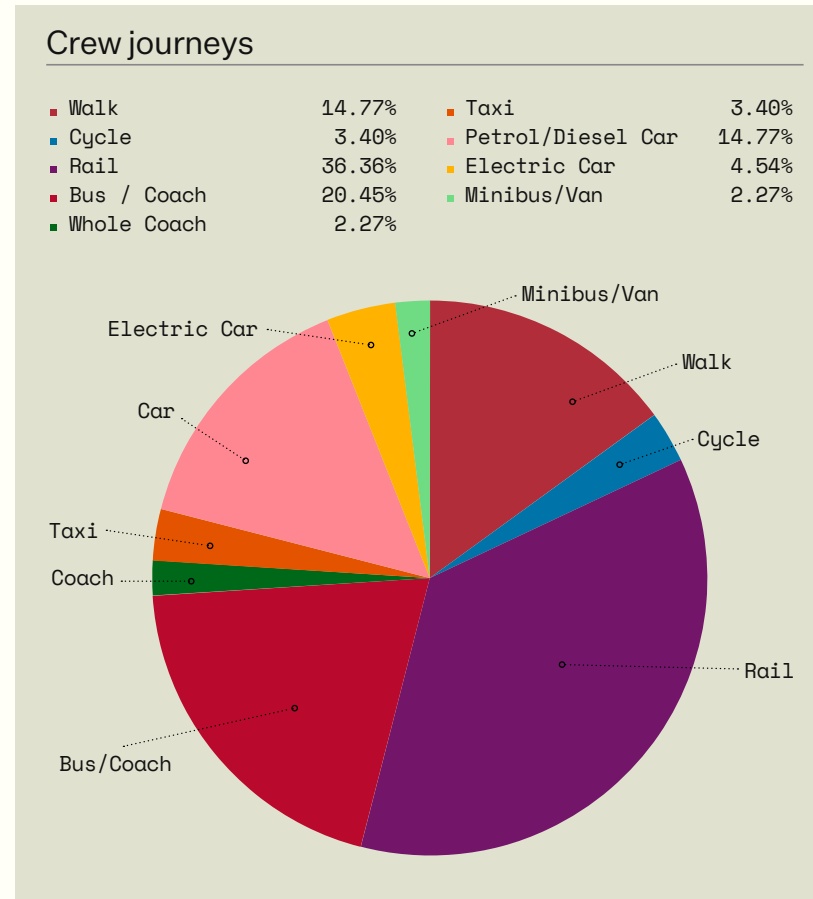
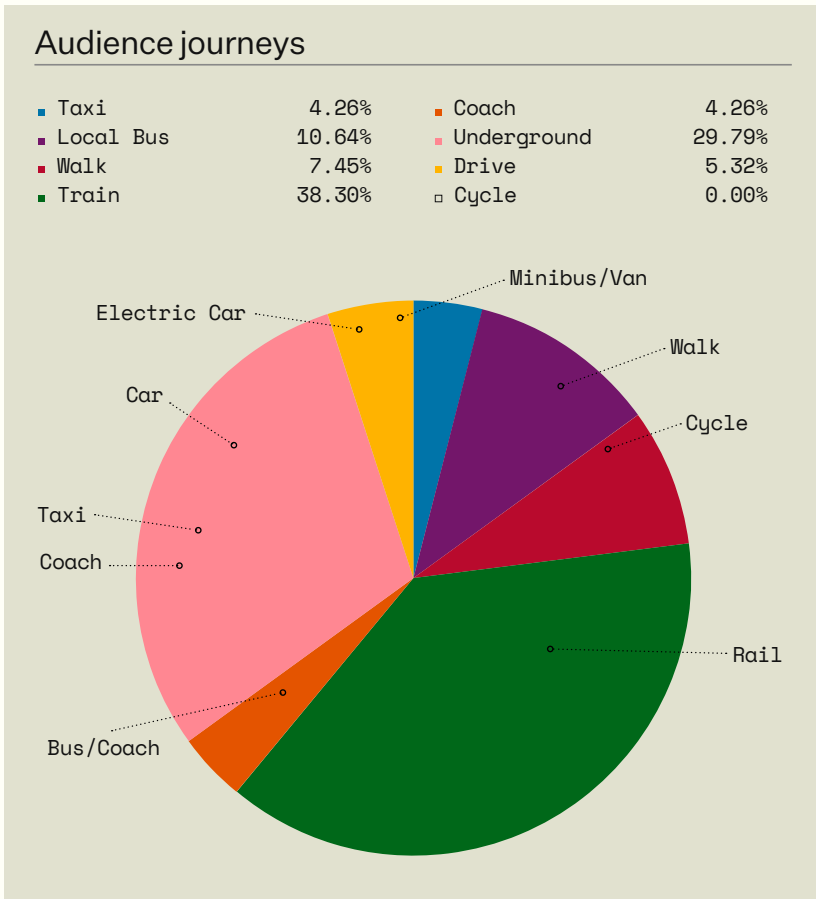
## Areas for Improvement

- Make recommended onsite food standards compulsory
- Improve our onsite data collection
- Increase our vegetarian & vegan offerings by 10%
- Introduce a compulsory requirement for all cleaning products to be bio-based



# Transport

We captured how our audience, crew & contractors travel to the site to understand behaviour and any barriers to low-carbon transport. We're working towards balancing travel emissions in the future.





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# Socio Economic Impact

# Accessibility

## What worked



Personal Assistant/  
Companion Ticket  
Provision



Accessible Parking



Accessible Toilets



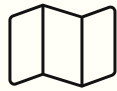
Lowered Bar Areas



Induction hearing  
loops



Assistance Dogs  
welcome



Accessible map

## Areas for Improvement

- Better data gathering for crew & attendee's feedback
- Further increase staff training through Attitude is Everything and actively work towards the bronze charter
- Focus on crew & artist accessibility
- Introduce accessible viewing platforms

Furthermore, we have also signed up for the Attitude Is Everything Beyond the Music Programme, which offers volunteering and work opportunities to the d/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent communities.





# Big Team CIC

Waterworks works in partnership with Big Team.

Big Team actively works to diversify the people who create, contribute and attend festivals.

They support 18-30 year olds from groups that are currently under-represented to forge their paths in the industry and work with industry partners to develop more inclusive festival environments.

Big Team has connected with local Youth Centre Bollo Brook to start developing ways to partner and work together. In 2023 we offered a onsite roles in the social media and Info Point teams. Together, Big Team and Bollo Brook also organised a behind-the-scenes tour to show what it's like to bring a festival to life including the different job roles involved in making it happen.

Alongside this, members of Big Team's Capture Forwards photography project were booked to shoot Waterworks as part of the 'Free Roaming' festival team.

Big Team also partnered with Saffron to offer two placements in Sound & Stage Management at the festival.



**£6,151.89 raised**

Through our guestlist donation scheme, we raised **£6,151.89** for Big Team in 2023, which will support its work, and increase our partnership in 2024!





# Create. Define. Release. Music Producer Club

Create. Define. Release (CDR) is a black-led music and talent development organisation with a deep heritage in the UK's grassroots electronic music scene. In 2024, Waterworks and Resident Advisor are funding £12,000 into the Music Producer Club (MPC) project in collaboration with CDR, which will provide electronic music production training for students in local colleges and youth centres.

MPC creates space for young people to nurture their digital music-making ambitions, skills and identity through composition, production and performance. The project is part of their commitment to create high-quality, impactful experiences through music technology. MPC is a response to the severe lack of music-making opportunities for young people, especially those which reflect their everyday lives, experiences, and cultures. The aim is to nurture and support the next generation of forward-thinking music professionals, giving them the skills and mindset to prepare them for a world of creativity and personal innovation.

# CDR

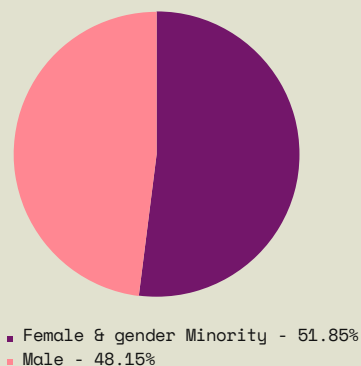




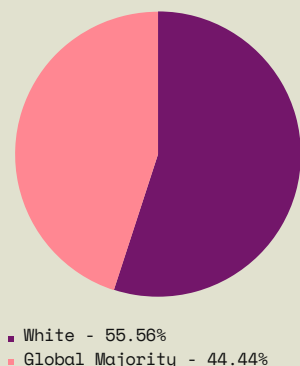
# Line-up Equity

We are a UK festival, and we're proud of our homegrown electronic music scene. In 2023, we programmed over 80% UK-based electronic artists, with the majority of these being London-based. As part of the booking process, our team research the diversity of London's population and aim to reflect and celebrate this diversity with the artists on our line-up.

Gender Breakdown



Ethnicity Breakdown



We continue to work towards more equitable programming practices. In 2024 we are focusing on improving our data capture to be able to represent the social identities of our artists more accurately. We acknowledge the limitations of the categorisation used, and we will be working towards aligning our data collection with ONS categorisation for the future.



# Affordable ticket schemes

This year, we offered a number of different schemes to help make our event more affordable. As our overall costs increase, we are working really hard to not pass on the costs to our customers and provide alternative pricing for those in need of a little support.

- Discounted tickets are available for those who are unemployed, low-waged or Students
- Tickets allocated given to Tickets for Good to offer to the NHS, charity sector workers and cost of living payment recipients
- Free Personal Assistant / Companion tickets for eligible disabled attendees
- Discounted tickets available for local residents





# Charity Partners



MY CAUSE UK

£1,990 raised across 2022 & 2023

£790.00 raised by My Cause volunteers to organisations such as Mermaids, Mind, Care4Calais, Stonewall Equality



Over £2000 raised

We released another merch collaboration with Right to Dance, raising £2000 for War Child to support children in conflict zones.



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Conclusion



# Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read our impact report, we hope this provides more insight into our social, environmental and economic activities. Cultivating a relationship of transparency and accountability. We're not perfect but in today's world, we continue to strive towards a fairer and better future.

## What we will be focusing on in 2024:

- Growing our social & climate justice partnerships
- Increasing our food sustainability credentials
- Improving demographic data collection with a specific focus on artists
- Strengthen messaging about welfare and anti-harassment/violence on site
- Keeping our event as affordable as possible whilst continuing to offer a high-quality show
- Development of placement and employment opportunities for 18-30 year olds in the local area

See you next year!

