

Sustainability Action Plan

City Recital Hall is on Gadigal Land

City Recital Hall acknowledges that we are located above the Tank Stream which has always been an important waterway on Gadigal Country. We also acknowledge the importance of the living cultural practice of caring for Country. Our First Nations people have used resilient land management practices for thousands of generations and know that if we care for Country, it will care for us.

Why is sustainability important for City Recital Hall?

As a large venue operating in the heart of Sydney, City Recital Hall contributes to carbon emissions. For the sake of our future city, it is important that we do whatever is possible to reduce this output, and at the same time, show our audiences, artists and peers what is possible.

About City Recital Hall and our sustainability achievements to date

City Recital Hall Ltd is a registered not for profit with the sole task of operating City Recital Hall. Our sphere of influence for reducing operational waste and for reducing our environmental footprint is focused on what comes in and out of the building, which is sublet from the City of Sydney. We have limited capacity to make substantial changes to the building itself. We can influence the sustainability of our operations, and this is where we will make improvements.

100% Renewable Power: In late 2022, following a competitive market price review, we switched to 100% renewable power to reduce our emissions. Our landlord, the City of Sydney, aims to phase out natural gas from their operations over coming years.

Capital Works: In the last year, we have upgraded foyer and auditorium lighting and technical equipment to more energy efficient options. We recognise that sustainability is an ongoing commitment, and we will continue to improve our energy efficiency in future capital works and renovations to the venue.

Supply Chains: We continue to evaluate both our supply chains and suppliers for opportunities to reduce embodied emissions and deliver circular economy outcomes. Over the last couple of years, we have made switches for toilet paper and tissues, cleaning products, single use water bottles, recyclable glass products for Front of House bars, bin liners for office bins, and office paper (which is 100% recycled and indigenous owned). We no longer maintain paper files and introduced a digital-only archiving system. We recycle and donate our old tech to local community theatre groups and organisations such as Reverse Garbage instead of disposing. Items that have needed to be thrown away, such as e-waste, are thoughtfully disposed of.

Reducing Paper Waste: In 2023, we opened a dialogue this year with our presenters and hirers regarding the excess of programs and exit billing flyers leftover at the end of each shows run that are being thrown away or recycled. Over the last year, this dialogue has seen a reduced amount of paper waste at the end of each event, and we plan to formalise this further into a structured process in the coming year.

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle

Our Sustainability Action Plan is based upon the five R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle. Increasing awareness of among staff, presenters, and visitors about waste avoidance in this way is a priority.

What is City Recital Hall doing to reduce our environmental footprint?

Staff Training: We are investigating staff training options with organisations like Sustainable Destination Partnerships and Green Music Australia, to change and improve upon old practices across all full time, part time and casual staff.

Writing Green Policies into Contracts: From our 2026 contracts and onwards, we will be including a Green Policy. This will reflect our commitment to our Sustainability Action Plan for presenters and venue hirers and ensure all hirers are informed of our internal green policies before stepping foot into the venue.

Investigating Carbon Offsets: As a not-for-profit organisation, we are not able to purchase carbon offsets but believe this is a potential sponsorship opportunity that we are looking to investigate.

Building Management System: Over the next few years, in addition to our improved lighting management system, we will be updating other building management systems to be inclusive of smart building energy management principles.

Green Procurement Policy: City Recital Hall will develop an internal Green Procurement Policy to reduce our carbon footprint in our purchasing choices.

Stocktaking for Paper Waste: We will commence measuring presenter and hirer oversupply and waste generated by paper programs and exit billing activities to feedback to hirers to reduce overall waste.

Plan Updates: The working group will meet regularly and review this plan on a 6 monthly basis.

CITY RECITAL HALL

Action	Status
Building & Capital Works	
Switch to 100% renewable power	✓
Switch to energy-efficient lightings, fittings, & auditorium consoles	✓
Become member of Sustainable Destinations Partnership	In progress
Investigate carbon offsets sponsorships	In progress
Upgrade Building Management System/s	Ongoing
Supply Chains	
Switch to 100% recycled toilet paper and tissues	✓
Switch to environmentally friendly cleaning products	✓
Switch to 100% recycled paper	✓
Introduce a digital-only archiving system; no longer use paper filing	✓
Develop an internal Green Procurement Policy	In progress
Waste & Recycling	
Donate old tech and production items to local community groups	✓
Become single-use plastic free in our bars	✓
Have sorted recycling bins in our office	✓
Reduce excess paper marketing collateral with all presenters	✓
Formalise a process for stocktaking client paper wastage (programs)	Ongoing
Staff	
Create a Sustainability Action Plan	✓
Write a Green Policy into our contracts from 2026 onwards	In progress
Formalise processes for energy saving & correct waste disposal	In progress
Encourage staff to use public transport	✓
Report actions and achievements to Board and at staff meetings	Ongoing
CRH Marketing & Communications	
Use local printer	✓
Reduce printing of marketing collateral	✓
Switch from paper to digital venue signage	✓