

## Executive Summary

ACT 2 CAM is committed to placing sustainability at the heart of our youth filmmaking provision.

As a youth-focused film and media organisation delivering high-quality, inclusive training across the North East of England, we recognise the significant environmental footprint of the film industry. Transport accounts for around 51 per cent of emissions in large-scale productions (per Screen New Deal report 2020 ) and energy use is another major contributor. We aim to lead by example with low-carbon and regenerative practices.

Our Carbon Action Plan rests on three strategic pillars:

1. Reducing the carbon footprint of delivery
2. Embedding green skills in the curriculum
3. Operational standards and continuous improvement

The plan draws on the most up-to-date research and best practice, including albert's SPARK roadmap and IG Tools (updated 2025), Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Tools (in use by A2C since 2022), Equity's Green Rider clauses (launched 2023 with 2025 pilot results showing pollution reductions of up to 80 per cent on compliant productions), the EMA Green Seal and Sustainable Entertainment Alliance toolkits, "Sustainability Standards in Film Production" (Turzo, 2026) highlighting European and UK leadership in certifications, and BFI National Lottery Sustainable Screen Fund guidance on net-zero pathways for youth and regional projects.

We will report emissions quarterly using Julie's Bicycle IG-Tools and the albert carbon calculator, with annual independent reviews to ensure steady progress.

## Pillar 1: Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Delivery

### **Core approach: "We Travel to Them" hub-and-mobile model**

Our delivery model keeps participant travel emissions to a minimum, which is often the largest single source in film-related activities. We bring broadcast-standard training directly to rural and underserved areas (cold spots) such as Loftus, Ashington and Horden rather than asking young people to travel long distances to a central venue.

Mobile micro-sessions use portable, energy-efficient equipment delivered in community venues. This approach is expected to cut cohort-wide transport emissions by 70 to 90 per cent compared with traditional centralised models, in line with the efficiencies of hybrid and virtual production methods highlighted in recent studies and Sustainable Entertainment Alliance guidance.

For central hub activities we choose venues with strong public transport links, such as ARC Stockton and Sticks & Stones in Middlesbrough. We have secured a local academy minibus

for essential crew and equipment movement, and we encourage car-sharing, public transport or active travel wherever possible.

All applications, resources, pre-production planning, feedback and participant portfolios are handled digitally to remove paper waste entirely.

## **Energy and resource efficiency on site**

LED lighting and rechargeable batteries are standard across all delivery sites. We use Krystal Hosting, a UK-based provider that has run on 100 per cent renewable energy since 2017 (sun, wind and sea sources), holds Certified B Corp status and is a member of 1% for the Planet. This powers our website, participant portals and digital badging system while supporting climate-positive initiatives through reforestation and a dedicated workforce.

Catering follows a local, plant-based approach with reusable or compostable serviceware and a strict zero single-use plastics policy.

This pillar targets a reduction of more than 60 per cent in transport-related emissions per cohort compared with conventional models, supporting wider industry goals such as the Producers Guild of America's aim for a 50 per cent cut by 2030.

## **Pillar 2: Embedding Green Skills in the Curriculum**

We are training the next generation of green-ready filmmakers, making sustainability a core creative and professional skill rather than an optional extra.

A dedicated session called "The Greenlight: Sustainable Art & Production" runs across four minihub locations to keep travel low. It covers eco-friendly art department practices, including "Scavenger Props" (foraging and recycling materials for sets and props), integrating carbon reduction into risk assessments and production planning, and designing reusable or modular sets that feed into regional material reuse networks.

Every participant completes albert carbon literacy training (we are seeking confirmation or a letter of support for formal integration), earning recognised credentials that are now expected on modern productions. All green skills achievements are digitally badged in line with the ScreenSkills Passport Programme.

Our Freelance Toolkit includes a specific "Sustainability on Set" module that addresses Green Rider principles, low-carbon transport, waste hierarchies and the basics of virtual production.

A Picture Zero specialist delivers workshops and consultancy on green production practices, such as energy-efficient workflows and battery alternatives to diesel generators. This work aligns with the 2026 Turzo chapter's emphasis on training for sustainability standards and with 2025 insights that identify talent development as a key lever for industry-wide change.

## Pillar 3: Operational Standards and Continuous Improvement

We follow circular economy principles by repurposing professional high-end hardware (for example, through CECA donations or loans) and hiring equipment rather than buying new, which lowers embodied carbon.

Emissions are tracked quarterly with Julie's Bicycle IG-Tools and the albert calculator. We conduct annual performance reviews with clear targets for ongoing reductions.

Equity Green Rider-inspired clauses are embedded in participant agreements and contracts where relevant, and we aim to pursue albert certification for our programmes.

We collaborate with regional bodies such as the BFI and ScreenSkills, and we share our learning through youth networks to help scale low-carbon models more widely.

## Targets and Milestones (2025-2026)

- Complete a baseline emissions inventory in the first quarter of 2026.
- Reduce per-participant transport emissions by at least 70 per cent against a centralised benchmark.
- Ensure 100 per cent of participants complete green skills training and receive digital badges.
- Maintain zero single-use plastics and fully digital administration.
- Publish an annual public report to inspire other regional youth media organisations.

This Carbon Action Plan positions ACT 2 CAM as a leader in sustainable youth film training, bringing together creativity, inclusion and environmental responsibility. We welcome collaboration to refine and extend these commitments.

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## Review

Reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, guidance, or operational requirements change.

**Externally Audited: January 2026**

Next review: January 2027