



FUTURE YARD

NET ZERO ROADMAP

**A COMMUNITY MUSIC VENUE'S JOURNEY
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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INTRODUCTION

The climate emergency is the defining crisis of our time. Rising temperatures are fuelling environmental collapse, natural disasters, extreme weather, food and water insecurity and economic disruption. Sea levels are rising, the Arctic is melting, coral reefs are dying, oceans are acidifying and forests are burning. As we confront the realities of these crises, now is the time for bold, collective action.

If you read the headlines, 2025 was not a good year for climate action. In all likelihood, humanity will overshoot the 1.5°C target established in Paris 2015. As coral reefs face long-term decline, we may have already reached a global tipping point – an event that could trigger huge and irreversible changes to global climate.

Alongside this, emboldened fossil-fuel funded climate-deniers across the globe are shifting the conversation. Donald Trump's blockage of offshore wind development may have cost the sector billions in the US. Here, Reform UK have made net zero a key talking point, claiming it is a cost and working people will pick up the bill.

They ignore the fact that renewable energy is the cheapest energy ever. That it would not only reduce energy bills over the long term but also create a boom in employment and deliver true energy security. Just like they ignore the catastrophic effects of the climate emergency taking place right now, and the future impacts they will help create – a bill that truly will be paid by working people.

The juxtaposition of the ever-increasing devastation we see across the globe and the inaction and denial of those who have the greatest power to prevent it, is forging a pathway in which the fight to keep our earth habitable is no one's responsibility – the easier choice in the short term perhaps, but one where catastrophe awaits at the end.

It is within this context that we proudly present our **Net Zero Roadmap**. This document is our North Star, guiding us towards a future where we have eliminated our venues environmental impact, and helped create a sustainable Birkenhead. It is ambitious, and would make us one of the first net zero organisations in the creative industries – but it is rooted in the strong foundations we have built so far. I am delighted to see where it takes us.

James Gillaspy

Sustainability Manager, Future Yard

THE FUTURE IS A GREEN BIRKENHEAD

Future Yard was founded on the belief that music can change the world. This founding principle pre-dates us moving in to our home on Argyle Street – it is a mission that sees us reimagine the role a music venue can play. Not simply as a stage for performance, but as an active agent in the transformation of people and places. We are rooted in Birkenhead to serve as a catalyst for positive change: nurturing creativity, empowering individuals and strengthening our community.

Our work is grounded in the understanding that the creative sector cannot stand apart from the defining issue of our time. The quest for climate justice has always sat at the heart of our ethos, not as an afterthought or an accessory, but as a fundamental part of what it means to be a responsible cultural organisation in today's world.

We are committed to the pursuit of a zero-carbon future for our venue, and to ensuring our operations reflect the realities of the world around us. Yet our ambitions extend beyond our own footprint. In Birkenhead, we see the opportunity to help shape a sustainable and equitable town. In the music industry, we recognise the potential of creativity and collaboration to confront the environmental and social challenges that define our era.

From the outset we have sought to align our financial, social and environmental values – a triple bottom line that has guided every decision we make. Our kitchen is vegan and vegetarian; our supply chains are rooted locally; none of our waste ends in landfill; and we champion active, sustainable transport. These are not simply policies, but principles that underpin how we work and who we are.

Our journey since has been one of steady, deliberate progress: switching to renewable electricity, embedding sustainability across our operations and programmes, and launching **Future Planet**, our annual climate-focused events programme.

This updated version of our Sustainability Roadmap sets out the next phase of that journey, that will see us transition to a fully net zero operation by 2030. It reflects both the scale of the challenge ahead and our unwavering belief that collective action can help counterbalance the forces that threaten our shared future.

Christopher Torpey

Co-founder and Director of Audiences, Future Yard

Read on to see the work we have done thus far, and the strides we will take towards Net Zero.

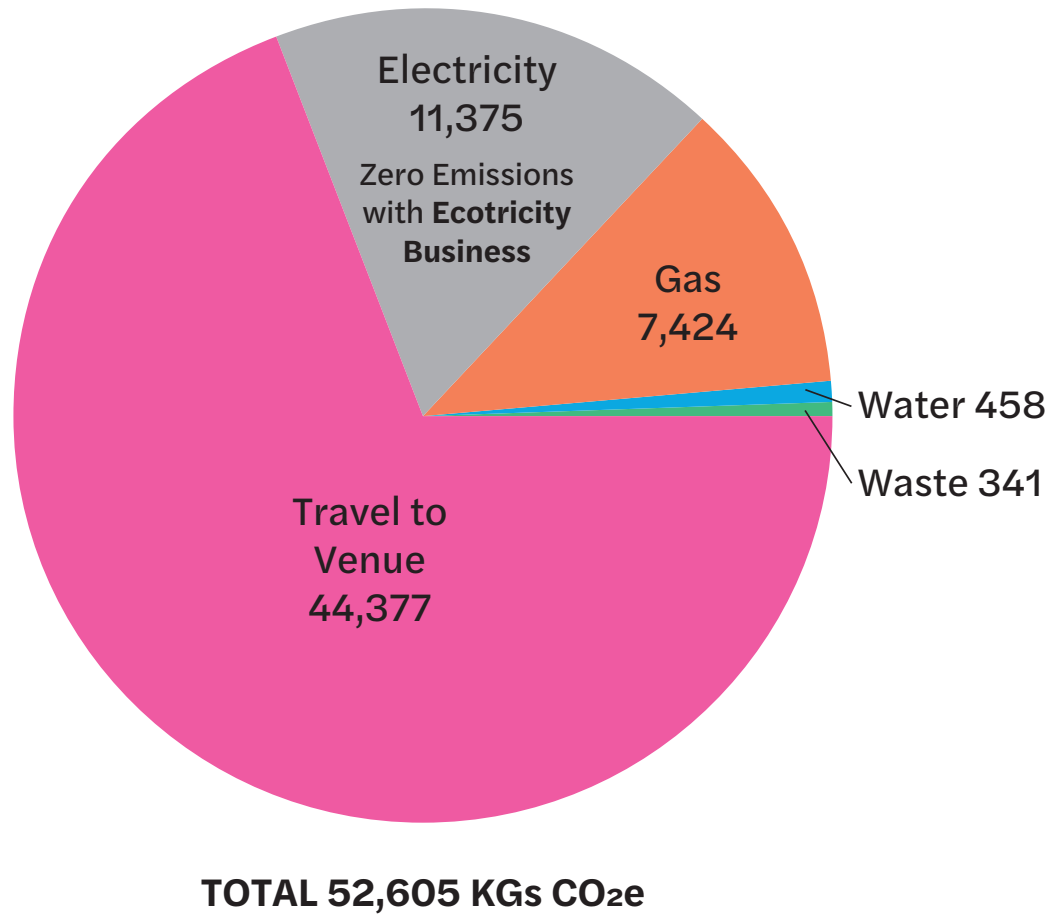




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OUR IMPACT 2024/25



Since September 2023, our electricity supply has been provided by **Ecotricity Business**. That means emissions from our electricity – which would have made up 17% of our emissions this year – is **ZERO**.

In 2025, we have recorded a decrease in audience transport emissions for the first time – through a combination of a slight increase in public transport use, and a decline in the use of diesel cars, **we have saved 4,000 KGs CO₂e**. One of our biggest priorities is reducing our travel emissions, and this is a significant step towards achieving that.

In collaboration with AGF, LIVE and MVT, Ecotricity Business have launched the 'Live Events Energy Scheme' as part of their mission to decarbonise the live events industry and Future Yard is proud to support and amplify its impact. As an independent venue and existing Ecotricity Business customer, we've seen first-hand the benefits of switching to deep green energy – and we believe this scheme is a game-changer. Our backing reinforces its credibility and growing momentum across the sector, especially for smaller, grassroots venues like ours. The scheme gives access to the same high-quality renewable energy solutions as the industry giants, proving that collective action can level the playing field and accelerate sustainability across the live events landscape.



5 THE EQUIVALENT
TO DRIVING AROUND
THE EQUATOR
TIMES

**FUTURE YARD IS
AIMING TO BECOME...**

**OPERATIONALLY NET
ZERO BY 2030**

All Emissions Related to
Energy, Waste + Water

**NET ZERO
BY 2035**

Everything Else, such as Audience
Travel + Supply Chain

OUR NET ZERO VISION

Future Yard imagines an environmentally sustainable future for the people of Birkenhead. We are a national leader in arts sector sustainability, combining impactful creative solutions with ambitious, data-driven targets. We champion the cause of climate action through engaging and original events and campaigns, bringing our audience along for the journey.

We see a future where Birkenhead has been fundamentally reimagined, where sustainable transport, clean energy and a circular economy are at the core of a bold civic identity.



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OUR STRATEGY

DECARBONISE

CONTINUE TO
EFFECTIVELY REDUCE
AND UNDERSTAND
OUR ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT



To reach operational net zero by 2030, we will reduce the carbon emissions of our energy, waste and water requirements by 90% from the baseline level, established in 2022. So far, we have eliminated our electricity emissions through our supply of renewable energy from Ecotricity Business and have reduced our gas emissions by electrifying our kitchen appliances.

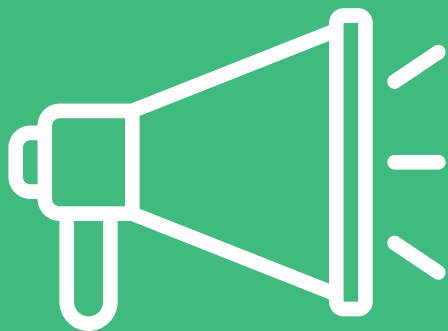
Our remaining gas impact derives from heating, which we will reduce through switching to biogas, and ultimately installing a heat pump once our remaining capital projects have been completed. Finally, we will become a renewable energy generator in 2029, installing solar panels.

None of the waste we create ends up in landfill, making our waste emissions low already. We will improve this further by progressively increasing our recycling rate to 75%. Our food waste is converted to energy through anaerobic digestion – we will transition to locally distributed composting.

In 2026 we will conduct a supply chain mapping project, assessing the embedded carbon emissions within every product and service across our value chain. We want to know every mile a can of beer travels, every investment made by our pension provider, every raw material used by our building suppliers – and by 2027, we will establish decarbonisation agreements with our core suppliers.

ADVOCATE

PUT OUR COMMUNITY
AT THE HEART OF OUR
WORK, PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICE ACROSS OUR
ACTIVITY



Whether we're showcasing renowned artists on our stage here in Birkenhead, training up young people to work in the music industry, or introducing music making to local children, community is at the core of what we do. Sustainability is no different. While we strive to make our own operations net zero, we know that is not the end goal – it is but one milestone in our vision of a sustainable Birkenhead.

As a venue, we have a unique ability to engage our community – to showcase compelling narratives, to highlight important voices, to start conversations. This is the true superpower of arts and culture within the quest for climate justice – to be a vehicle for inspiration, positivity and action, looking beyond our own impact and imagining a shared sustainable future.

That is why, this year, we launched **Future Planet, powered by Ecotricity Business** – an annual programme of climate-focused events. Whoever you are, however you interact with Future Yard, we want to include you within our mission.

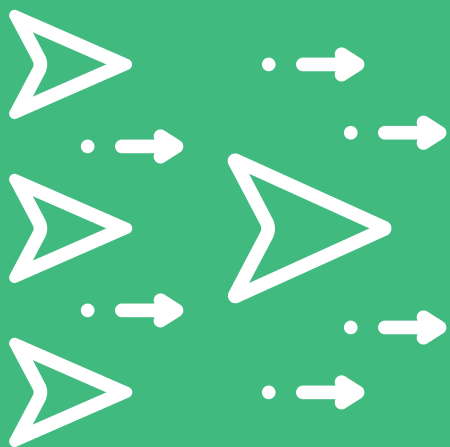
Wax + Gears, our flagship off-grid music festival, has fans pedalling to power the music. **Sustainable Travel Month, in partnership with Merseyrail**, in May offered audiences free train travel to our events. **Mosh Tots Earth Day** brings climate and nature to our weekly gig for kids. **POP3**, our climate conference, will convene culture organisations from across the UK, taking place during our launch of this roadmap.

We are among a cohort of eight music venues across the UK who are delivering **EarthSonic Local**, a project aimed at helping young musicians document and create music that tell stories of climate change – being led by **EarthSonic**, In Place Of War's global climate initiative.

We will continue this work by integrating sustainable practice into our Skills + Learning programmes, Sound Check, New Noise Music Centre and our work within local schools.

LEAD

OPERATE AT THE FOREFRONT OF CREATIVE CLIMATE ACTION ON NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS



Our ideas are one of our greatest strengths. Through them, we believe we can not only decarbonise our venue, but also bring about wider change within the creative industries.

In 2026, **Plug + Play**, our innovative approach to reduce artist vehicle use by offering them a range of in-house backline equipment, will be launched across 10 pilot venues. A public-transport powered tour will be delivered across these venues; that's a tour booked and designed for public transport – a first of its kind solution to one of the biggest impacts within the live music industry.

Starting in January 2026, Future Yard will become a **Carbon Literacy Trainer**. Utilising our wide breadth of expertise within the sustainable culture space, we will help organisations and practitioners achieve one of the industry standard sustainability qualifications. Completing Carbon Literacy was one of the key first steps we took on our journey. Now we will deliver our own course, designed specifically for arts venues.

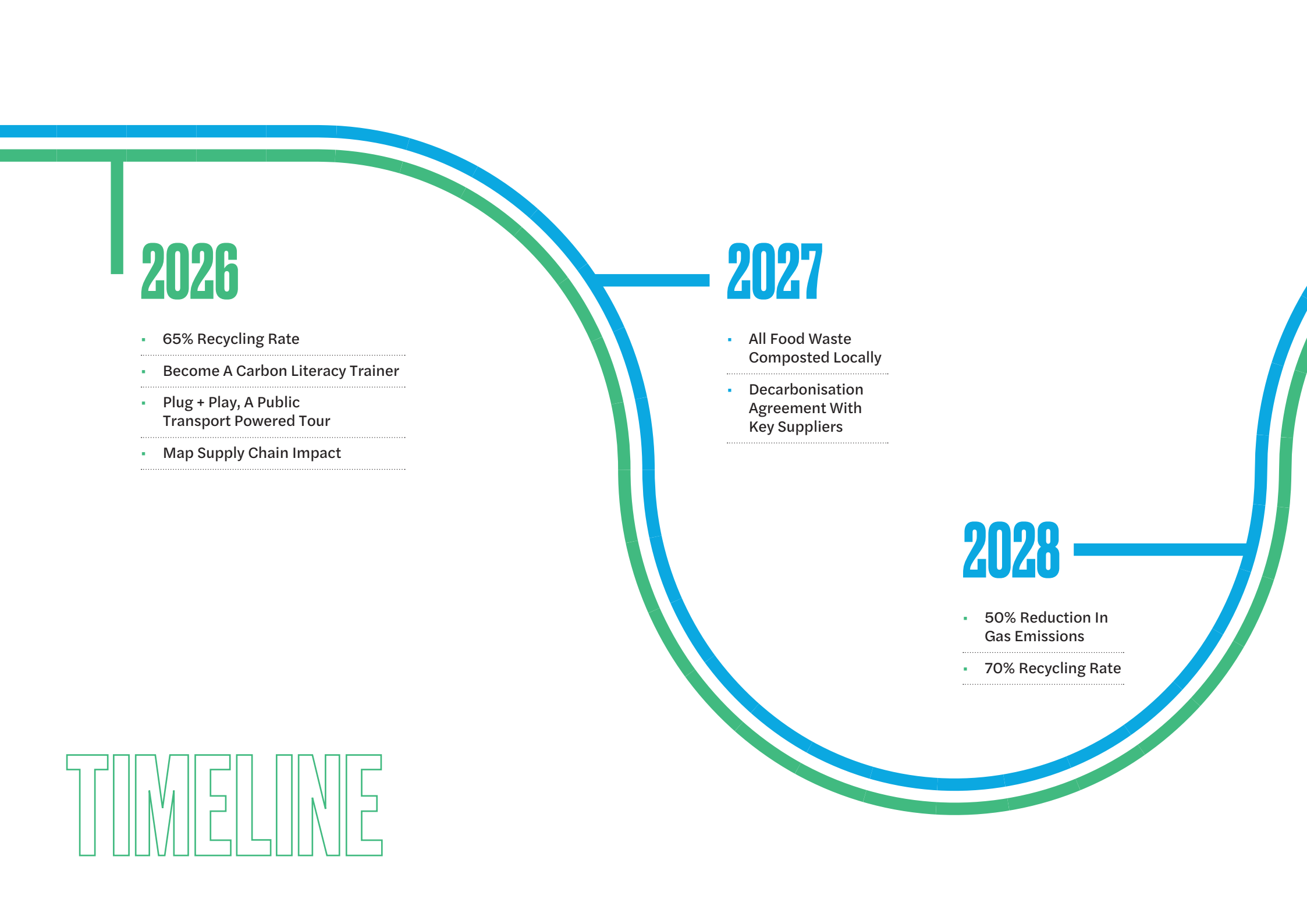
We believe in the transformational power of music – not only its capacity to change individual lives, but to bring about wider change. Our relationship with **Ecotricity Business**, the world's first green energy company, allows us to amplify our voice further, acting as a vehicle to drive decarbonisation across the grassroots music industry.

By playing a key role in **Shift**, Liverpool's culture and sustainability network, we are helping shape the sector's response to the climate crisis locally, while collaborating with peers across the City Region to share knowledge and plan for the future.



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2026

- 65% Recycling Rate
- Become A Carbon Literacy Trainer
- Plug + Play, A Public Transport Powered Tour
- Map Supply Chain Impact

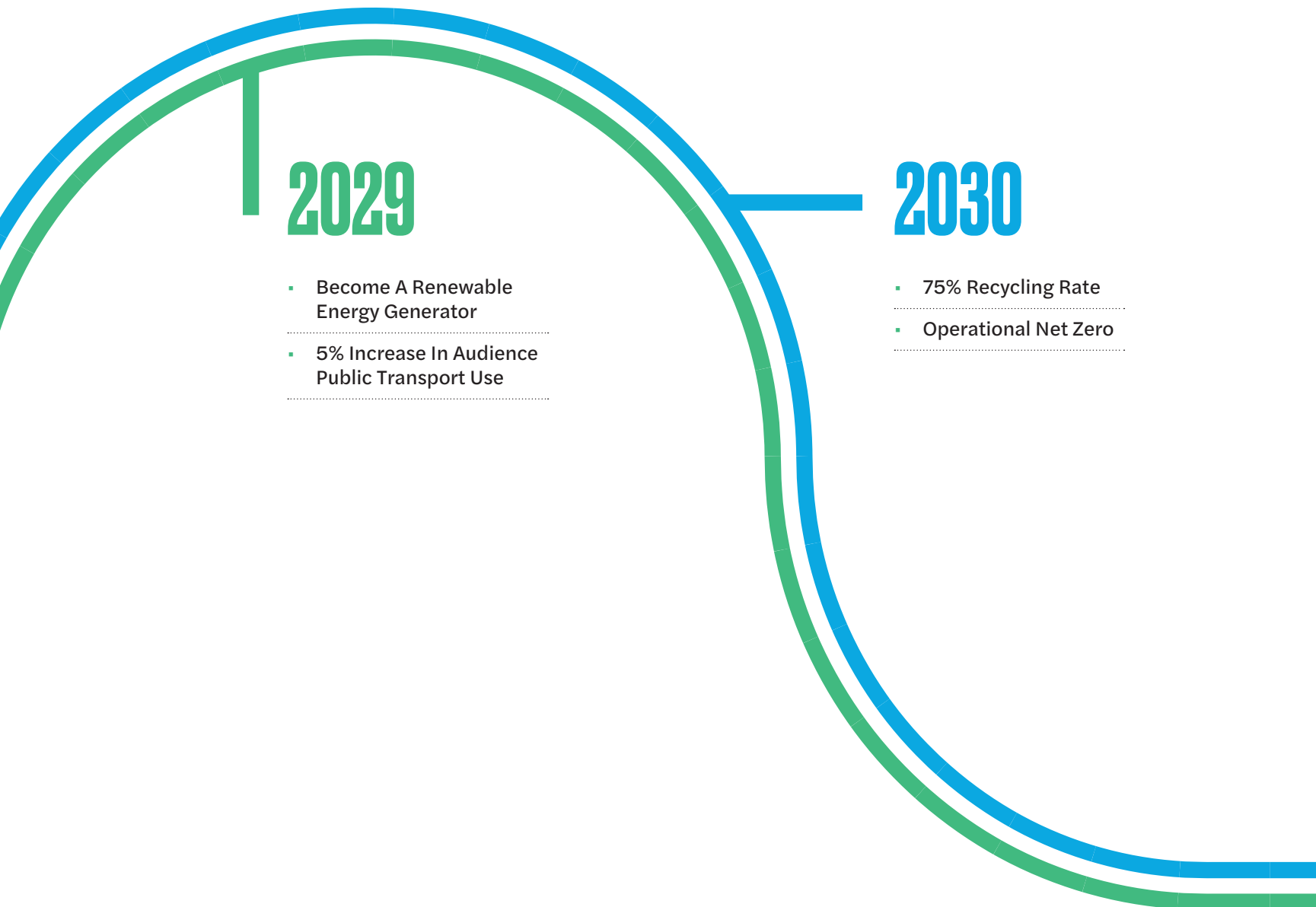
2027

- All Food Waste Composted Locally
- Decarbonisation Agreement With Key Suppliers

2028

- 50% Reduction In Gas Emissions
- 70% Recycling Rate

TIMELINE



2029

- Become A Renewable Energy Generator
- 5% Increase In Audience Public Transport Use

2030

- 75% Recycling Rate
- Operational Net Zero

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WORK WITH US

Future Yard is determined to bring about a sustainable future for the people of Birkenhead, and more widely across the UK creative industries.

Interested in working with us to champion sustainability? Perhaps you have an idea for an event we can host, or a project we can collaborate on. Or you may be interested in taking our Carbon Literacy course in 2026, developing a sustainability strategy yourself, or measuring your impact through carbon accounting.

We would be delighted to bring our extensive experience to help you deliver effective climate action. Please contact our Sustainability Manager, James, with ideas, dreams and enquiries.

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Shift



EarthSonic

Grassroots, mid-cap, or main stage — it's time to plug into the power of change. Future Yard is backing the Live Events Energy Scheme because deep green energy shouldn't be exclusive.

Scan to find out how your venue or event can join the mission to Net Zero — and turn up the volume on sustainability.



FUTURE YARD



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

