



OVERVIEW

Having been heavily involved in the development of the Theatre Green Book since its inception, NTS been hitting Intermediate standard on 70% of its Productions since 2022.

As a trial organisation for Version 2 we have been able therefore to give a greater focus to bringing our Buildings and Operations up to the same level.

We signed off on Basic in April and aim to hit Intermediate in all areas by the end of the year.

We are fortunate to be starting our journey on Buildings and Operations from an already advanced position.

NTS moved into its purpose-built headquarters in 2017. The building is equipped with a biomass boiler and in 2021 we installed a 12kw solar PV array on the roof.

There is cultural buy-in on achieving sustainability goals from Executive Leadership, we have an established Green Team with representation from every department, and around 85% of the staff body have already undertaken Carbon Literacy Training.

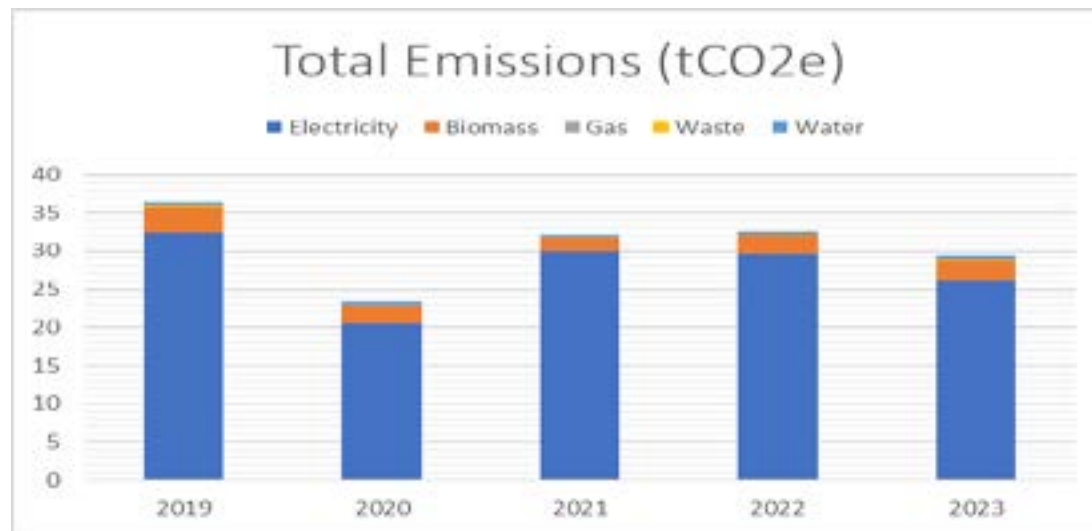
However, trialling V2 for Buildings and Operations has still meant undertaking a variety of actions to achieve Baseline and will require much further work if we are to reach our objective of Intermediate by the end of 2024.



BUILDINGS

The Building Survey Tool has given us a clear action plan and while some areas of action are more complicated to move forward and some capital projects will undoubtedly require substantial investment, we now know what it is we are looking to achieve and how we are going to achieve it. In 2023 NTS benefitted from consultation work with a researcher from Step Up to Net Zero, who amongst other actions, gave us an emissions reporting baseline starting from 2019.

We therefore have the framework in place to record our scope emissions and the ability to compare year on year (allowing for Covid lockdown discrepancies). We compile data from our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions monthly and provide quarterly updates to the Board.



One area we realised we needed to progress quickly was our staff's understanding of our Building Management System. The previous facilities maintenance contractor's engineers had limited knowledge of the system's capabilities and the front-end software isn't intuitive to use.

We went through an audit and tender process to assess our options for FM contracting and were able to move our planned maintenance contracting to an organisation more in sync with our sustainability goals. Their sub-contractors have already helped us start to optimise use of the system and we are beginning to see the reward in terms of energy efficiency and reduced biomass use.

The Green Book's clear guidance in encouraging biodiversity projects around the building has given our Green Team plenty to get involved with.

Some actions implemented include:

- Stopping cutting the grass on our front lawn to encourage growth of wildflowers
- Installing a water butt to collect rainwater from our roof gutters to water plants and clean bins
- Engaging with local volunteers to build outdoor planters from recycled stage set
- Installing a green blackboard in reception to share sustainability hints and tips
- Offering staff a volunteering day at our neighbouring inner-city nature reserve.

We are of course conscious that to move beyond Intermediate, there will be investment required for capital projects, foremost of which will be the expansion of our solar PV installation.

Further quotes have been sought for:

- EV charge points in the car park
- Voltage optimisation
- Air to air heat pumps
- Optimised zoning of our heating system.



OPERATIONS

Being part of the group of V2 trial organisations has been invaluable. Shared knowledge is undoubtedly essential, but also knowing that other organisations are grappling with the same Operational issues is reassuring.

It seemed to be the case that many of those involved had been tackling the same issues we've encountered around procurement, contracting and deliveries.

These are obviously areas where third party buy-in to achieving sustainability goals is essential and, in future, having shared language across the sector that will enable us to bring partner organisations along with us on our journey to net zero will be invaluable.

Actions undertaken so far to work towards Intermediate:

REUSE & RECYCLING

- Now weighing our own waste to compare with totals supplied to us by our recycling company with stark results
- Building Supervisor attended an open day at our recycling partner's premises, gaining insight into the processes and challenges of their operation

BUILDING MANAGEMENT

- Shut down physical server array, moving to cloud based solution saving around 15% on average monthly electricity kwh
- Installed several draft excluders at key egress points and fire escape doors
- Sourced sustainable sanitary products from a locally based social enterprise

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

- Using our new finance system to monitor core staff travel recorded via expenses
- Introduced a cycle to work scheme via The Green Commune Initiative and are working towards a Cycle Friendly employer award with Bike for Good

FOOD & DRINK

- No single use plastics at any NTS events
- 75% of all catered events in our building were vegan in 2023
- Now purchasing our oat milk in reusable glass bottles not tetra-packs

PAPER & DIGITAL

- Moved to a cloud-based system for printers, eliminating the need for a physical host server
- Moved to a fully sustainable website hosting service and now have an overall eco-grader score of 87.3% from Supercool
- Recycled paper and 2-sided printing as standard, visiting companies encouraged to reduce the number of draft scripts printed with some tablets made available as an alternative.

CONTRACTS

- Draft of a Sustainable Procurement Policy to be taken to Board for approval
- Deliveries into our premises now being recorded via our Sign In app

SUMMARY

Whilst we have a great deal of work still to do, our experience as a trial organisation for V2 of The Theatre Green Book has given us an action plan and a clear priorities list to reach Intermediate level across all areas.

By bringing together Buildings and Operations and giving them equal weight in V2 we now have confidence in where to direct our efforts and engage with our Green Team, whereas previously we were a bit more scattergun in our approach, being reactive to suggestions rather than proactive in our planning.

The greater challenge of course will come when capital investment is needed to move beyond Intermediate and towards Advanced. Many of our bigger ticket items, particularly for Buildings, will inevitably require significant investment to realise.

