



SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

2026

As part of the Green Deal Circular Festivals (GDCF), Sziget is committed to becoming circular and climate-neutral.

The GDCF's objective is to set an example of good practice by bringing together ambitious players in the festival and event sector; and thereby achieve a cross-sectoral impact in the European green transition. The European Green Deal (2019) aims to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050, with a 55% reduction in EU CO₂e emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990).

The role of festivals in the transition:

(1) Legitimizing their place in and on the road to a carbon-neutral world by showing that **festivals can also drastically reduce their emissions.**

(2) As cultural actors, festivals have a crucial role to play in shaping attitudes. **Festivals inspire their visitors**, they can define new cultural forms, values and behaviours - which visitors take home with them and make part of their daily lives.

(3) They provide a **suitable platform for the introduction and testing of certain sustainable innovations**. Festivals are small communities with temporary infrastructures that can serve as models for future sustainable communities.

In this way, they can bring about structural (technology, infrastructure), individual behavioural (habits, choices) and social (norms, collective action) changes that can facilitate a sustainable transition.

Sziget aims to contribute to these objectives at the scope of their whole operations.

This document sets the main long-term objectives, claims the achieved results and plans the immediate actions of 2025 which aim to reduce the negative environmental impact of the festival and maximize positive impact.

GDCF Vision:

To integrate sustainability and circularity into everyday operations. Through this policy and other guides, we set short and long-term goals, and communicate current activities and achievements to all stakeholders. Initiatives are monitored through data collection and mandatory reporting, and results are communicated.

Already achieved:

- AGF Commended certification 2024
- AGF Innovation Award 2025
- GDCF Monitor

Actions in 2026:

- Updating and disseminating sustainability policy
- Expanding mandatory data provision, improving data collection
- Improving communication of results
- Developing a Green Office
- Start integrating the GDCF decision trees

FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Consider sustainability aspects when making decisions
- Reach out to sustainability department when in doubt
- Be transparent with all relevant action on your field that could influence the festival's sustainability performance
- Contribute to the data collection process by providing accurate data
- Comply with the content of this policy

MATERIALS

GDCF Vision:

Less raw material input and less waste production. By putting circular thinking into practice, we reduce waste per capita, increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. On the procurement side, purchased products must be made from environmentally friendly materials (preferably recycled), produced under ethical conditions, used for a long time and collected, reused and recycled at the end of their life cycle.

Already achieved:

- Green Procurement Guide
- 30% recycling rate
- Expanded composting program, 135 m³ in 2025
- Deposit-based hard cup system, 85% return rate
- Donating tents to charities for reuse + upcycled merch
- Reduced nr of tents left on the field through the tent deposit initiative
- All meals for staff and artists were served in reusable tableware during the festival

Actions in 2026:

- Integrating the Green Procurement Guide into more purchasing decisions
 - Purchasing only necessary products and quantities
 - Prioritizing the use of reusable, recyclable and biodegradable products
 - Prioritizing natural, recycled, certified and ethically produced products
- Modernizing and harmonizing the recycling system, expanding to new waste streams, increase recycling rate
- Minimising printing through the introduction of digital signature
- Testing and introducing reusable tableware for audience
- Reducing single-use beverage packaging

FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Follow the guidelines of the Green Procurement Guide when purchasing
- All materials are recommended to be organic or recycled
- Reduce waste production throughout careful planning
- Collect all waste according to the Waste Management Plan
- Do not litter, you are fully responsible for your area and all possible damages
- Prioritize reusable items, plan for the end of the life cycle
- Use of single use plastics is prohibited

GDCF Vision:

Most meals are plant-based, and the ingredients are certified organic or sourced from regenerative agriculture. All meals are made from local (Hungarian), preferably seasonal ingredients, processed through a short supply chain.

Food waste is minimised through careful planning, no municipal waste is generated in catering, and unavoidable food waste is composted.

Emissions associated with food and beverages are net zero and unavoidable emissions are compensated.

Already achieved:

- Introduction and gradual strictening of criteria system for applications with positive incentives
- Awareness-raising in collaboration with the Heroes of Responsible Dining
- 53% of offered meals were vegan or vegetarian in 2025, 50% of meals consumed by staff and artists were vegan
- 50% of ingredients are local
- 135 m³ organic waste collected in 2025

Actions in 2026:

- Increasing vegetarian/vegan offers, increasing consumption through awareness raising and communication (visitors, staff and artists)
- Improving communication
- Promoting the use of local, seasonal, organic certified products
- Promoting the use of Fair Trade, MSC-certified products
- Reducing food waste
- Having an on-site farmer's market
- Creating the Green Caterer category for outstanding caterers, aiming for 10 Green Caterers in 2026

FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Prefer meals with lower environmental impact for you and your crew, order just the needed amounts – avoid foodwaste
- Use exclusively compostable tableware, and dispose them to the composting bin after use

GDCF Vision:

Decarbonization of travel and transport, through planning, optimisation and choosing sustainable alternatives (e.g. biofuels, electric vehicles, micromobility) when available. Including own and suppliers' transport, staff, artists and visitors. Offsetting unavoidable emissions.

Already achieved:

- Helped with ridesharing, high car occupancy (3,7 people)
- Cycling campaign
- 62% of people choose a more sustainable mode of transport in 2025 (on foot, bike, public transport, train, coach)
- Restricting the use of on site motorbikes with combustion engines
- Green Sziget used cargo bikes

Actions in 2026:

- Improving communication and awareness raising – focusing on travel packages and promoting more sustainable travel options
- Further optimising transport – considering transport options when making purchases – prioritise shorter routes and sustainable options
- On-site mobility by cargo bikes or electric vehicles
- Research on the possibility of importing and using HVO

FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Plan shipments, minimize transport
- Consider the use of low or zero emission vehicles to transport, the use of zero emission vehicles on-site
- Avoid the use any unnecessary vehicles on-site, reduce transport to minimum during build up and break down as well
- Comply with the content of the Traffic Management Plan
- Use of motorbikes with combustion engines is prohibited during the festival
- Traffic on site is only allowed on designated routes, vehicles are not allowed on any other areas
- Do not cause any harm the surrounding environment, incl. soil of not designated routes

GDCF Vision:

Reducing the consumption of potable drinking to a safe minimum. Where drinking water quality is not required, using „renewable” sources, e.g. water from the Danube, and recycled water on-site (grey water systems). Strict protection of the local environment, surface and groundwater from waste and pollution.

Already achieved:

- 45% of caterers used environmentally friendly cleaning products in 2024
- Moved away from chemical toilets
- Ensuring free access to drinking water
- Effective protection of the Danube from waste and pollution
- Dust prevention with water from the Danube

Actions in 2026:

- Introducing a water-saving campaign, assessing the possibilities of push-button taps
- Further reducing the number of packaged water provided for artists
- Expanding the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Starting to develop an irrigation system by mapping possible water wells, modernize pipe system

FOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Avoid all kind of spillage to local surroundings – report spillages immediately
- Protect local waterways of all kind of pollution or litter
- Be mindful of the water you are using – do not waste
- Use your own reusable water bottle