



## **TGE 2019 POST EVENT SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

The Great Escape festival take their sustainability seriously and are committed each year to reducing the environmental impact of the event within Brighton. With over 60 different venues and sites in 2019, implementing policies can be quite challenging. TGE are in ongoing discussions with the licensed venue owners and operators are continually working on plans to improve sustainability within these venues.

The main area of focus for TGE in 2019 was the sites that they do operate, namely Jubilee Square, Jubilee Street, New Road and the Beach Site. In these areas, the event organisers had more control over decisions on sustainability.

### **SINGLE USE PLASTICS (SUP)**

One of the biggest challenges for the event is reducing the amount of single use plastics across the various venues and sites. TGE had discussions with BHCC and with independent consultant Claire Potter in the lead up to the event on how best to tackle this.

In 2018 TGE introduced 100% compostable cups on their bars on our outdoor sites, however this campaign soon fell short when they discovered there was nowhere locally that would offer a composting service for the cups. For 2019 TGE revisited the idea of compostable cups but again could not find a local facility that would compost them. Removing the waste and taking it to a composting facility further afield was neither practical or cost effect.

The event organisers and bar operators did some extensive research into reusable cups, including a branded 'souvenir' option that customers could choose to keep or a hired in generic cup that would be washed and reused.

The cost of reusable cups is quite significant for a small event and as the event is spread across so many venues it was deemed not financially viable for this year. The dwell time on the outdoor sites can be as little as thirty minutes, unlike a festival site where customers spend all day on site and TGE did not want to pass the cost of a reusable cup (approx. £1) on to the customers.

TGE will continue to research this and will have a more sustainable option on their outdoor sites in place for 2020. A reusable cup scheme would only realistically work if TGE can engage the third-party venues to use and accept these cups which is something they will continue to explore ahead of next year's event. It has been suggested that venues would need to offer an incentive for customers to encourage them to carry a cup to multiple venues. TGE will also continue to find a suitable recycling solution for compostable cups locally so this will hopefully become another viable option for the event.



Measures that TGE did manage to successfully implement to reduce SUP on the event in 2019 include:

#### Reusable bottles



All TGE event staff, crew and volunteers were given an aluminium reusable bottle for use during the event eliminating the use of SUP bottled water. Select Security also followed this lead and provided their own branded reusable water bottles for all security and stewards working on this event and future events in Brighton.

#### Refill



TGE partnered with City to Sea and their Refill app which shows more than 150 locations in Brighton city centre where free water refills are available. Festival goers, staff and volunteers were encouraged to download the app in order to refill their water bottles and reduce the need for SUP water bottles at the event. TGE venues were also encouraged to sign up for this scheme.

## Free Drinking Water



A free drinking water refill station was installed on the beach site for customers, artists and staff to use to refill their water bottles.

## Artist riders



TGE provided artists with aluminium cans of water from Life Water on their riders as a trial in a bid to reduce SUP on artist riders. This is an area of the event that TGE will continue to work on and implement solutions to reduce and hopefully eliminate SUP in the future.

### Food traders

All food traders and concessions were advised in advance of the event that they were to use sustainable packaging and no SUP containers, straws, stirrers were allowed on the beach or Jubilee square and Jubilee Street sites.

### Waste Removal

All waste on the TGE beach Jubilee Square sites was separated BOH into glass, mixed recycling and general waste. Waste removal was carried out by City Clean in line with their recycling policy. No SUP plastic cups were permitted to be taken offsite on the Beach and Jubilee Square, containing the waste on the sites for recycling. Litter pickers were employed for the duration of the event and derig to ensure that no waste was left on the event sites including Jubilee Street and New Road for the duration of the event.

### **POWER**

As well as the reduction of single use plastics on the event TGE are committed to other ways to reduce the overall impact of the event on the environment. In 2019 TGE again used hydro-treated-vegetable-oil (HVO) instead of regular diesel in all generators on their outdoor sites, to help reduce our CO2e emissions in 2019. Hybrid power generators were also integrated into the energy mix to manage periods of low load.

The generators were synched in a *by load demand configuration*, which is the most energy efficient set up. TGE power supplier SMART POWER Ltd was using both on board telemetry & external data loggers to monitor the generator loadings, & this data will help to produce a detailed report on the festival's energy usage, fuel consumption & overall emissions.

At Jubilee Square, TGE continued to use the mains feed to supply the majority of their power requirements. With the city's new offshore wind farm, the mains supply should be as green as it gets, with a higher percentage than ever produced through renewables.

For 2019, TGE were pleased to welcome Energy Revolution to the conference hub at Jury's Inn Waterfront. They are a charity that helps event organisers offset the emissions associated with their supplier & crew travel. Julie's Bicycle, the charity supporting the creative community in acting on climate change, also made a welcome return & hosted a drop-in session in the Jury's Inn atrium.