Sustainable Conference Policy

Accelerate Green is the first climate focused scaling accelerator in Ireland and likely further afield. It was set up in late 2021 by Bord na Móna who sought to support Irish companies in the climate and sustainability sector, to provide a programme of ambition, scaling skills and to build a powerful network of companies who could deliver on the opportunities that are positively impacting the climate agenda. Designed and delivered by Resolve Partners, our first Accelerate Green programme culminates with a National conference, Ireland's Sustainable Future to assess how our Economic, Technological, and Financial Systems are working to deliver a sustainable future for us all. Bord Na Móna engaged Native Events, Ireland's leading sustainable event consultancy, to advise on and deliver impact reduction strategies for the conference.

The Bord na Móna Accelerate Green Conference commits to taking urgent climate action using the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDG's) as guiding principles:

Commitment: The Bord na Móna Accelerate Green Conference commits to deliver a live conference event that is sustainably focused in its approach by taking action and transparently reporting associated impacts.

Engagement: All event stakeholder including suppliers and contractors, are engaged and considered in the production process through our sustainable event approach.

Energy: To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, in line with SDG 7, The Conference's chosen venue, Tullamore Court Hotel part of the iNua collection, uses the Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative (HCMI) Carbon Calculator. HCMI will give Bord na Móna an overview of the hotel's gas, oil and electricity consumption, purchased renewable energy, refrigerants, outsourced use of electricity, and mobile fuels. Our AV partner, Conference Services' use of efficient LED screen technology and Robe LED lighting will reduce carbon emissions further.

Transport: To reduce travel and transport related emissions, a dedicated train carriage to the conference is available to attendees travelling from Dublin and aims to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles travelling to the event. Attendees who do not avail of the train service will be encouraged to car-share and will be asked to submit their travel information via survey to inform our carbon analysis. For the transport of equipment and infrastructure, all external contractors and suppliers to the event are obligated to provide their mobility details to inform the carbon analysis.

Materials: To ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns in line with SDG 12, the Accelerate Green Conference commits to carefully consider its true material needs and seeks to reduce, use lower-impact materials and entirely eliminate them where possible. Gift bags will not be distributed at the event. Returned lanyards will be reused for future events. The use of LED screens and QR codes will eliminate the need for excess printing on vinyl and cardboard. The conference set, where materials are used for the exhibition space, will consist of repurposed wood. In line with the Single Use Plastic Directive 2019, transposed into Irish law in July 2021, the event will not use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, beverage stirrers, or any polystyrene products of any kind.

Food: To promote sustainable agriculture in line with SDG 2, the Accelerate Green Conference will work with The Tullamore Court, iNua Collection hotel caterers to provide exclusively local and seasonal food supporting responsible sourcing and reducing travel miles significantly. In line with SDG 12, the menu is designed for responsible consumption through the minimisation of waste through the use of reusable containers and paper packaging.

Offsetting Residual Carbon Emissions: The Bord na Móna Accelerate Green Conference pledges to offset residual emissions associated with all impacts from the event. Information on carbon offsetting will be made available after the conference as the carbon data is compiled and analysed.

Signed: *John MacNamara*

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John MacNamara, Corporate Sustainability Lead, Bord na Móna

Date: 3 June 2022

Our Sustainability Measures

In designing this conference, we have taken extra measures to minimise the waste produced, reduce the carbon impact and measure as much acvtivity as possible so we can offset appropriately where needed. These measures have included:

- All food served will be produced in-house using ingredients from local supplier
  - Organic Leaves & Vegetables from East Galway: Mill House Farm - https://www.neighbourfood.ie/producers/mill-house-farm/45599
  - Garry Hinch Mushrooms: Cultivated exotic mushroom growers - https://garryhinchmushrooms.ie/
  - Meat sourced from Gilligan's farm in Roscommon, a true farm to fork producer
  - Dairy Products, Glenisk & Mossfield Slieve Bloom, delivered by electric vehicle
- Meat products delivered in reusable containers wrapped in paper
- Shared transport for delivery of ingredients
- Menu created using minimal cooking to reduce energy consumption
- Cooked food using low temperature energy efficient ovens
- All energy used during food preparation and cooking will be recorded
- Portion sizes created to minimise food waste
- Uneaten food will be reused where possible with a zero-waste target
- All food waste will be monitored and recorded for offset measurement
- No plastic bottles of water provided, plant based carton replacement
- Accredited carbon calculator used to measure all energy and consumables
- Rail transport provided by Iarnród Éireann from Dublin
- Networking Space created using reusable products and natural plants
- Name tags printed on recycled paper and reusable lanyards
- Notebooks printed on recycled paper & pens available if desired to reduce waste
- AV company provided sustainability policy and energy usage measurement
- Attendees shared travel details to capture carbon for offset
- Almost no printing, using low power projection and web/QR codes for information
- Prioritise plastic free with all suppliers
- Appropriate carbon offset investment to be delivered post conference