

**SAIL**

Sustainable Arts in Leeds

**OPERA  
NORTH**

# Climate Action in the Creative and Cultural Sector

# About me

- Opera North – Howard Assembly Room Technical Manager
- Opera North sustainability champion and chair of Opera North “Green Team”
- Co-founder and company secretary of SAIL (Sustainable Arts in Leeds)

riptide



HAREWOOD

ROYAL ARMOURIES  
Witness | Guardian | Expert | Leader

LORD WHITNEY



PYRAMID

Leeds CITY COUNCIL



wrong<sup>2</sup>emble



COMPASS FESTIVAL



LEEDS YEAR OF CULTURE 2023

PRIME STUDIOS

opera north

SCREEN YORKSHIRE



COME PLAY WITH ME



YORKSHIRE DANCE

# SAIL

PROVISION  
equipment hire for film and television



FOUNDED 1944  
The Leeds Library

itv

Leeds Museums & Galleries

OPEN SOURCE ARTS



slung low

EAST ST ARTS

RED LADDER THEATRE COMPANY

PCAN LEEDS CLIMATE COMMISSION



ASSEMBLY HOUSE STUDIOS & PROJECTSPACE

THE TETLEY

tutti frutti

GRAND Theatre & Sports House Leeds

Leeds Heritage Theatres

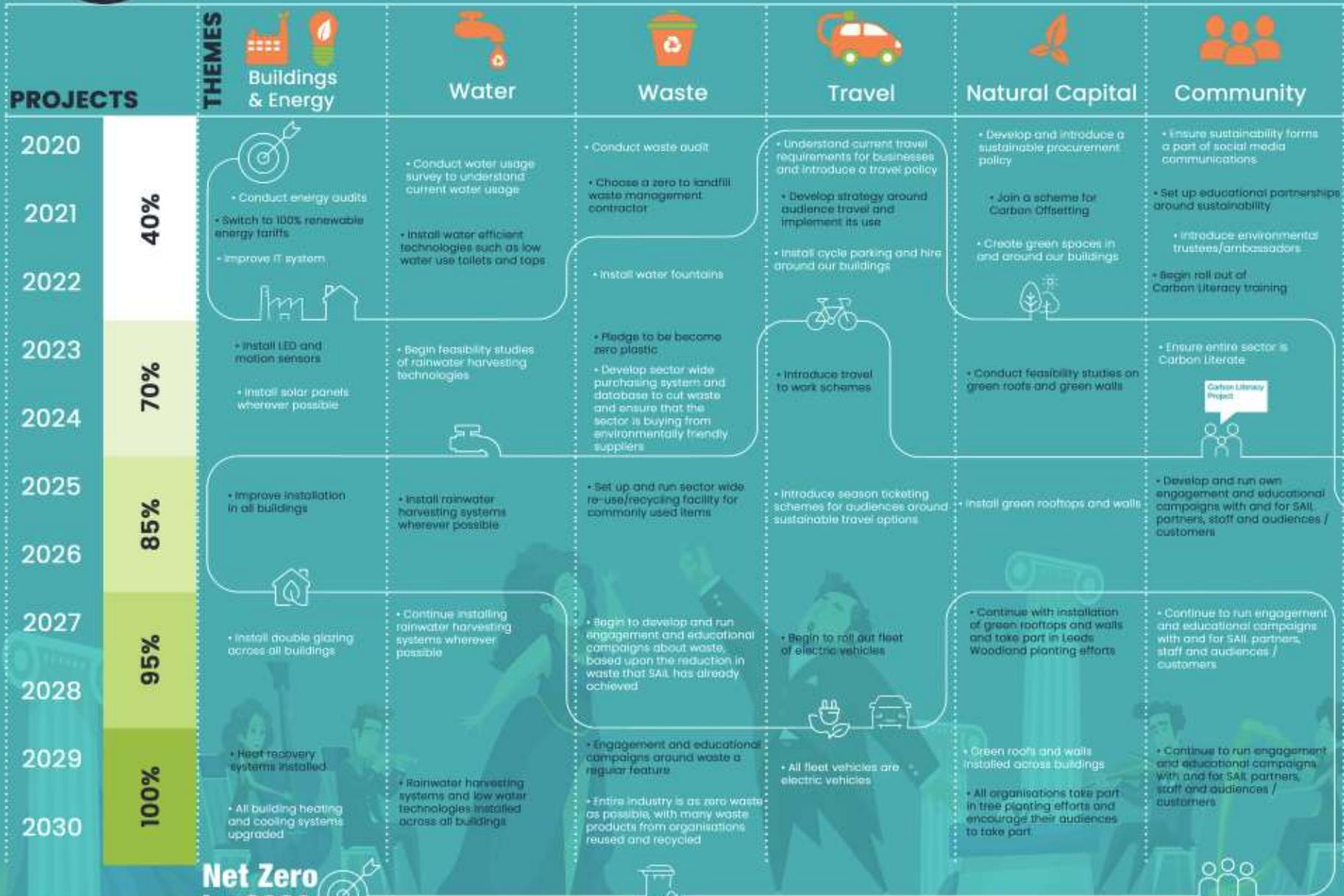
HYDE PARK PICTURE HOUSE Est. 1914

CLAY. Creating the Last Art Filmhouse

LEEDS ARTS UNIVERSITY est. 1846



**Our vision** is to create a zero carbon/zero waste future for the cultural and creative industries of Leeds



## Net Zero by 2030



# Harnessing Identity

We love Leeds, our members do too!

**We're able to make changes faster as a local collective than as individuals**



# Ensuring relevance

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Providing our members with the knowledge of how they can help, and the tools to enable them to make changes.

- Carbon Literacy Training
- Consultancy
- Workshops & events

In the future:

- Best practice & guidance
- Accreditation
- Carbon Calculators



# Making it accessible

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## **Carbon Literacy Training**

Carbon Literacy provides participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence to embed climate action in their personal and professional lives.

# The training really works!

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Each Carbon Literate citizen reduces their personal and/or professional resource footprint by between 5% - 15% annually

**Jacobs, 2021**

“Carbon Literacy training works because it creates new work cultures and directly engages staff in making a difference to the organisation”

**Buchs, Payling & Hogarth, 2021**

Using our  
collective  
influence to  
enable positive  
change

SHIFT Liverpool Network

Greater Manchester  
Arts Sustainability  
Team (GMAST)

Sustainable Arts in  
Leeds (SAIL)

Green Arts  
Oxfordshire Network

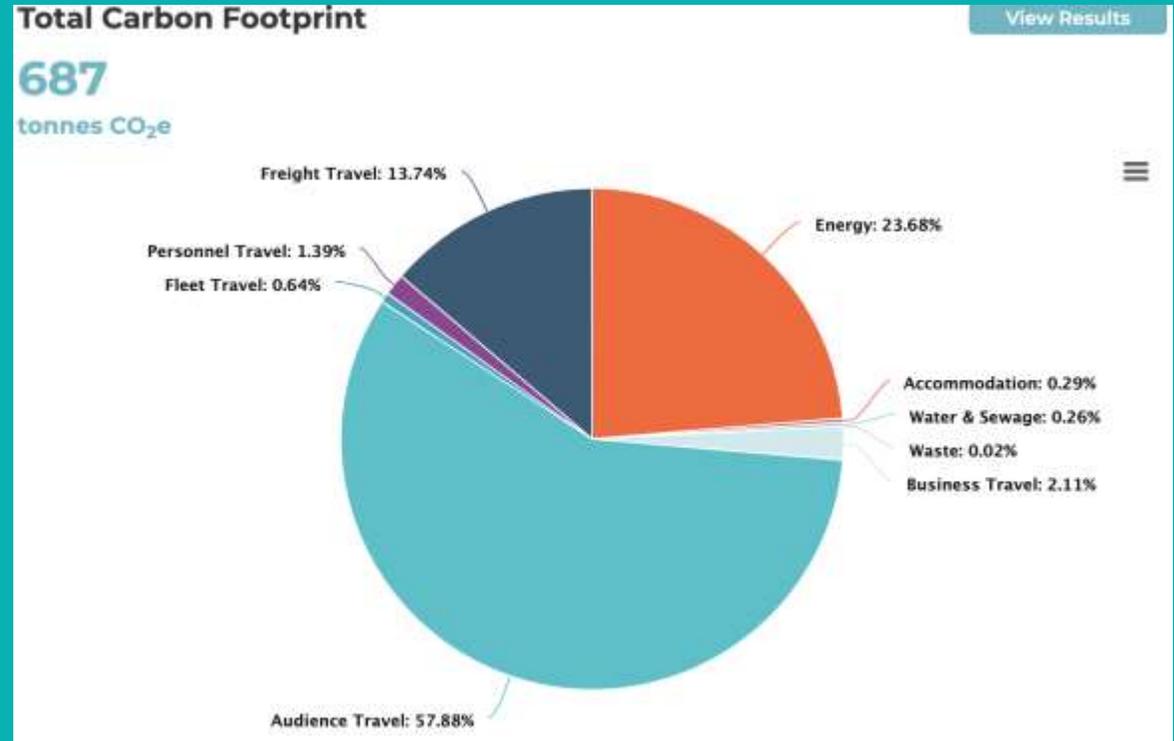


# Opera North's actions

- Started Green Team in 2018
- Members from across all levels of organisation and all departments
- Meet monthly to discuss challenges, potential solutions and successes
- Won “best newcomer” at 2019 Creative Green award in recognition of achievements

# Data, data and more data

- Data driven approach to carbon footprint reduction
- Rather than focusing on waste, focusing on big ticket items (audience travel, energy + freight travel)



# Audience travel

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- **Tracking our audience travel habits via post show survey**
- **Why are 56% of audience travelling by car?**
- **What do we currently encourage audiences to do? What is within our scope of influence to change?**
- **Utilising SAIL network – getting together with local authority to address challenges**

| Travel Method      | Miles travelled  | Percentage of audience |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Bus                | 1066.517         | 7%                     |
| Car                | 8999.236         | 56%                    |
| Coach              | 349.039          | 2%                     |
| On foot            | 976.943          | 6%                     |
| Taxi               | 471.645          | 3%                     |
| Train              | 4160.854         | 26%                    |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>16024.234</b> | <b>100%</b>            |

# “Act green” survey 2022

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- 11,682 respondents
- 86% of respondents class themselves as “worried” about climate change, moving up to 91% for the under 35’s
- To the question “Cultural organisations have a responsibility to influence society to make radical change to address the climate emergency”, 77% of respondents agreed (moving up to 86% for the under 35’s.)



# What audiences want from cultural organisations

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- Using materials from reused or recycled sources (90% agree)
- Ensuring that sets and materials are reused (88% agree)
- Seeking funding or financial support from ethical sources (66% agree)
- Ensuring that cultural buildings are as energy efficient as possible (93% agree)
- Reducing and recycling waste (92% agree)
- Avoiding disposable packaging and single use plastic (91% agree)
- [Full report here](#)



## Other actions

### Opera North Alcina

First fully-sustainable main stage production, with a fully recycled & second-hand set

# Water diviners tale

- Opera North education department "Big Sing"
- Written by Rachael Portman, piece of music specifically about climate change
- Set all made from recycled materials
- Toured with small footprint, all fit in 1 small van!



Thank you!

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