

A director's chair is constructed from natural, weathered driftwood in a lush forest. The chair's backrest is a simple rectangular frame with a light-colored fabric seat. The legs and armrests are intricately woven from gnarled branches. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees and dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy. The overall mood is natural and sustainable.

**PORTUGAL
FILM
COMMISSION**

**GREEN
PRODUCTION
PORTUGAL**
Sustainable Production
Guide 09.2024



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INTRODUCTION

The “GREEN PRODUCTION PORTUGAL” guide aims to raise awareness and inform the audio-visual sector on how to follow sustainable environmental practices, promoting its role as an agent of change leading to greener production models.

The orientations in this guide are based on the fundamental rule of the six R's: rethink, refuse, reduce, repair, reuse and recycle.

RE think
fuse
duce
pair
use
cycle

Making the filming process in Portugal environmentally conscious, efficient in the use of resources, allows for promoting competitive advantages regarding the optimization of natural and technological resources, local economies, and the promotion of synergies that are specific to each territory, therefore conveying the priorities of the 2030 Agenda under the Sustainable Development Goals.

With the aim of bringing Portugal's commitment to this issue onto the national agenda, National Sustainability Day was established for the first time in 2023, to be celebrated on September 25. This is a crucial initiative for the dissemination of information, the promotion of knowledge and the qualification of all social actors to consciously change behaviors with the potential to transform a sustainable future (RCM N.º 56/2023).

Raising awareness on the fundamental role that each team, and each individual, can play in promoting greener filming is a first step in making the commitment that, at European level, is based on the transition to a sustainable and carbon-neutral economy, transforming climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, in all areas of intervention.

In 2024, Portugal adopted environmental sustainability requirements in its incentives for film and audiovisual production, namely in the PicPortugal Cash Rebate and PicPortugal Cash Refund.

This document was prepared so that the best “environmentally friendly” choices are made by those involved throughout the production process.

Efficient management and use of resources are identified, as well as practices that reduce the environmental impact of the production process.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The basic principles for greener productions: save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoid toxic products and pollution, save water, avoid disposables, ensure proper waste separation and disposal, and protect and promote ecosystems and biodiversity. To this end, it is important to consider the principles of resource efficiency and circular economy, a strategic concept based on the reduction, reuse, repair, recovery and recycling of materials and energy, under which the end-of-life concept of the linear economy is replaced by new circular flows of reuse, restoration, and renewal, in an integrated process.

To facilitate the implementation of these principles, it is crucial to define priorities and challenges before production starts.

Some useful steps to start the GREEN PRODUCTION PORTUGAL process:

1. Involve filmmakers, investors, and heads of department early in the process, so that they commit themselves to ensuring sustainable production.
2. Hire a Green Consultant or appoint a team member responsible for implementing and managing sustainability practices. If possible, also employ a team with an Eco Coordinator and one or more Eco Managers.

Green Consultant duties may include:

- ✔ Develop a Sustainable production plan
- ✔ Identify sustainable suppliers/goods and services
- ✔ Disseminate information, resources and updates to these guidelines
- ✔ Meet with the heads of the various teams to help achieve the defined objectives
- ✔ Monitor strategies and results
- ✔ Gerir/atualizar as checklists (Orientações específicas) nas várias áreas de atividade
- ✔ Participar em reuniões semanais com as equipas
- ✔ Manage/update the checklists (Specific Guidelines) in the various areas of activity
- ✔ Participate in weekly meetings with the teams
- ✔ Elaborate the final sustainable production report

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3. Meet with the production team to discuss the Sustainable Production Plan.
4. Identify the main environmental impacts associated with production by area of activity and develop a strategy for their mitigation.
5. Provide training for the technical team.
6. Use a carbon footprint calculator to estimate emissions, and when no national calculator is available, an international one may be used.
7. Please take into consideration that each city and location have different recycling and waste policies, so it should be verified with the waste management entity of the filming location, which services are provided and the respective management policy.
8. Implement and ensure a waste separation system, including electronic equipment, light bulbs and, if available in the local municipality, food waste.



SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

These will be the specific guidelines to be followed by the production on any location shoot. Communicate early on with your whole team about implementing sustainable measures, and engage them throughout the process, reporting on progress:

1. PRE-PRODUCTION

- 🌱 Choose energy efficient equipment.
- 🌱 Select local suppliers who offer sustainable alternatives.
- 🌱 Alert employees to the efficient use of water and energy and use systems that allow selective and separate collection of waste, using visible, clear signage and taking into consideration the languages that are being used in production.
- 🌱 Use production software and apps to avoid the use of paper. If you need to print, use recycled paper, print b/w, double-sided and environmentally friendly.
- 🌱 Choose a renewable energy supplier.
- 🌱 Use air heating and cooling appliances efficiently, namely by adjusting the temperature according to the outside conditions (18°C in winter and 25°C in summer).
- 🌱 Use energy-efficient lighting, preferably LED lamps.
- 🌱 Meet by videoconference if face-to-face meetings are not justified.
- 🌱 Choose ecological cleaning products, preferably with EU Ecolabel certification: <http://ec.europa.eu/ecat/>
- 🌱 Give preference to renting equipment rather than buying new, donating those you no longer need.

2. PRODUCTION

- 🌱 Establish that the filming follows a sustainability plan and widely publicise key initiatives by the production team. Involve crew and cast in the initiatives.
- 🌱 Keep posted recommendations on water, energy and equipment use, as well as to encourage waste separation.
- 🌱 Provide for sustainable options in the purchasing processes, using suppliers with a sustainable origin certificate for products/services.
- 🌱 Whenever possible, seek to integrate behaviours of respect and care for the environment.



3. TRANSPORT

- 🌱 Encourage videoconferencing to avoid travel.
- 🌱 Plan an efficient transport of people and goods and opt for low-emission vehicles.
- 🌱 Prefer rail rather than air transport whenever possible.
- 🌱 Inform the crew about public transport and other environmentally friendly means (such as bicycle collection points) closest to the filming location.
- 🌱 Choose zero or low emission vehicles, such as electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- 🌱 Apply eco-driving principles, to optimise the km/fuel ratio.
- 🌱 For a better capacity/efficiency ratio, opt for transport vehicles with higher capacity for cargo and people.
- 🌱 Ensure accommodation for non-local crew members, preferably environmentally certified, and as close as possible to the filming location.
- 🌱 Ensure that routes are kept to a minimum, and that adequate parking is provided for production vehicles.



4. ENERGY/LIGHTING

- ✔ Use reflectors and natural light as much as possible when filming outdoors.
- ✔ Try to use LED and other low-energy light bulbs.
- ✔ Avoid using tungsten and incandescent lights when filming.
- ✔ Seek connection to the main grid rather than using generators and whenever possible use equipment with batteries (such as power banks, etc.)
- ✔ Choose for generators with biofuel and switch off generators when they are not in use.
- ✔ Make the crew aware of the need to switch off lights and equipment when not in use and, preferably, choose a crew member to be responsible for this routine.

5. EQUIPMENT

- 🌱 Use equipment with an energy efficient rating.
- 🌱 Prefer rechargeable batteries.
- 🌱 Give preference to electricity distribution network connection.
- 🌱 Limit the use of generators to the minimum possible and, whenever there is no alternative, try to choose energy efficient ones. Prefer models with low CO2 emissions and fine particle filters.
- 🌱 When it comes to special effects, always try to use products with as little environmental impact as possible.
- 🌱 Donate equipment that is no longer in use.
- 🌱 Electrical and electronic equipment waste should be sent to an appropriate destination, as well as the respective batteries.

6. CATERING

- 🌱 Choose a supplier with practices oriented towards sustainable development.
- 🌱 Do not use single-use disposable utensils.
- 🌱 If disposables are the only option, choose paper products with high percentages of post-consumer recycled content.
- 🌱 Find solutions for cooking the right quantities for the number of people in the team (e.g. implement a form for the team to select in advance what type of meal they want).
- 🌱 Avoid food waste: share uneaten food with team members or donate to a local institution.
- 🌱 Use larger containers (e.g. automatic water/coffee dispensers) and reusable containers that can be engraved/customised (e.g. water bottles) to limit the use of packaging/cups. Prefer reusable bags and packaging.
- 🌱 Choose local and seasonal ingredients, products certified for sustainable fishing practices, organic and/or fair-trade products.
- 🌱 Select balanced menus, establish a meatless day of the week and reduce red meat meals.
- 🌱 Favour tap water, ensuring drinking water sources for the team to fill their canteens.
- 🌱 Provide selective waste collection equipment for waste separation.



7. STUDIO AND SET

- 🌱 Ideally, choose studios that use 100% renewable energy.
- 🌱 Select workers and materials that are as close as possible to the filming locations.
- 🌱 Ensure that the sets are built with a concern for the environment, from the initial phase to dismantling.
- 🌱 Use recycled and/or certified matrices, avoid toxic products and choose bio- based materials.
- 🌱 Ask the studio service provider for equipment that enables the selective collection of waste (packaging), containers for disposing of paint water, a container for wood, etc.
- 🌱 Ensure that leftover materials are collected and recycled.
- 🌱 Inform staff about the sorting policy: display signs on sorting containers.
- 🌱 Select what can be reused for another production project or sold to the team, local associations, or organisations.
- 🌱 Rent or reuse materials, when possible, instead of buying and building from scratch.
- 🌱 Use sustainably harvested timber (FSC) with low levels of potentially hazardous substances, such as formaldehyde (a carcinogenic substance).

8. WARDROBE/ MAKE-UP

- 🌱 Avoid buying new wardrobes and reuse, rent, borrow or buy second-hand, instead.
- 🌱 Preferably choose local suppliers.
- 🌱 Choose sustainable / certified / ecological products.
- 🌱 Choose sustainable fabrics – by composition, origin and sourcing.
- 🌱 Avoid the use of plastics, products with micro-plastics and disposable products.
- 🌱 Reuse or, if not possible, recycle packaging.
- 🌱 Maintain energy and ecological concerns in the cleaning of clothes, such as using a water- and energy-efficient washing machine or certified detergent.
- 🌱 At the end of filming, reuse, donate or sell.



9. CLEANING

- 🌱 Replace chemical cleaners with non-toxic, biodegradable alternatives that do not pollute either indoor air or local waterways, using eco-labelled products.
- 🌱 Buy products in concentrates and bulk sizes to reduce packaging waste.
- 🌱 Use vegetable sponges and recyclable cloths rather than paper towels or disposable wipes.
- 🌱 Minimise water use when cleaning by choosing water-efficient equipment.

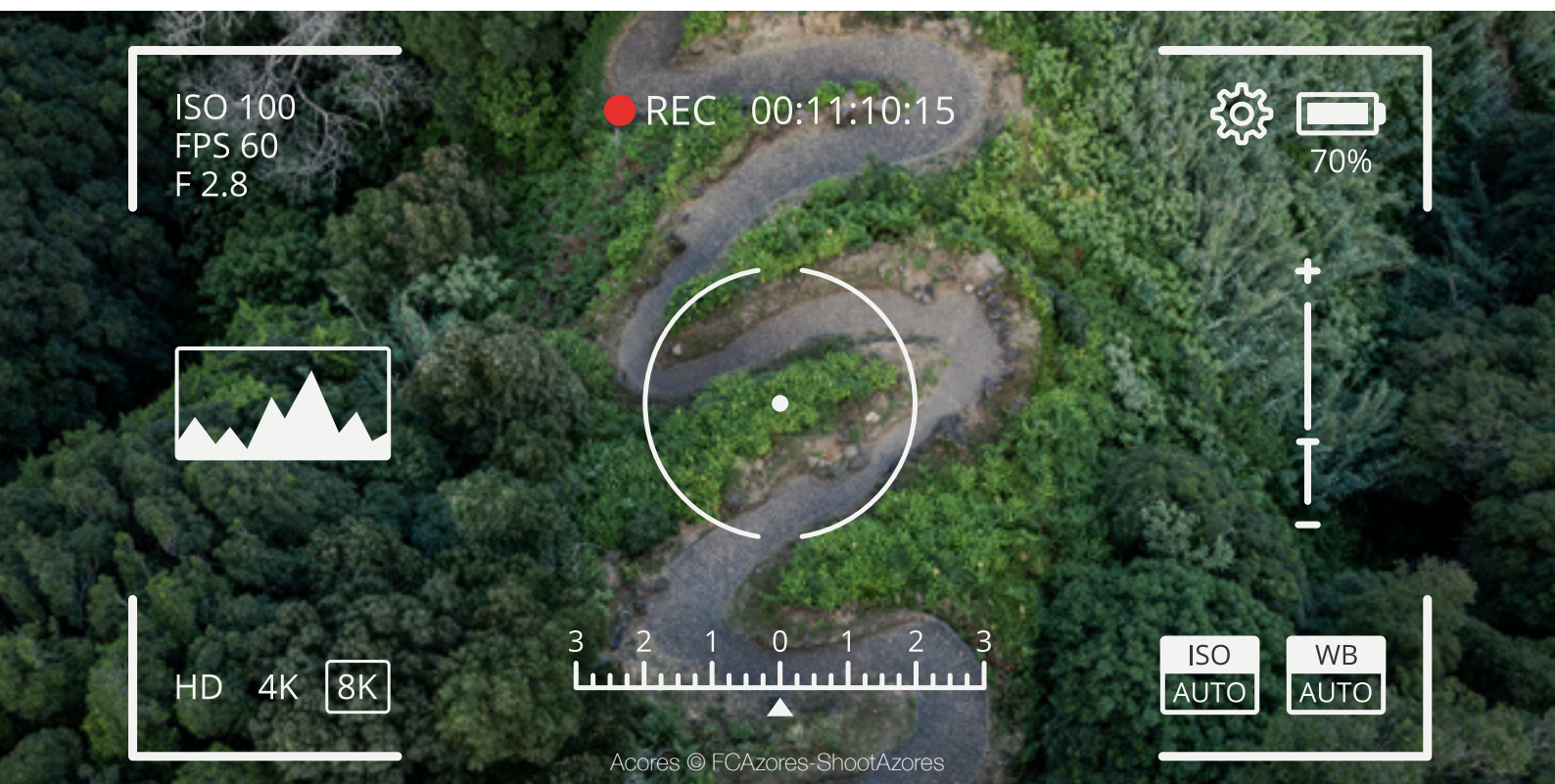


10. POST-PRODUCTION

- 🌱 Choose energy efficient and certified equipment.
- 🌱 Keep equipment switched off when not in use.
- 🌱 Make the post-production studio aware of the importance of environmental and energy efficiency practices.
- 🌱 Prefer studios powered by electricity from renewable energy sources.
- 🌱 Make the cooling cycle of machines more efficient and sustainable.
- 🌱 Delete virtual file contents when no longer needed.

11. PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

- 🌿 Isolate any areas with particularly sensitive flora or fauna, especially if they are protected or classified.
- 🌿 Ensure that all production-related activities are carefully managed to avoid damage to landscape, ecosystems and biodiversity.
- 🌿 Restore any natural areas, for example vegetation damaged because of production activities.
- 🌿 Before leaving, carefully check all areas where production activities take place, to ensure nothing is left behind and that they reflect their pre-production condition.



12. SCOUTING

- 🌿 When scouting filming locations, it is important to properly assess the various sustainability options.
- 🌿 Whenever possible, seek locations using public transport, bicycle (with helmet), walking or car sharing.
- 🌿 Include information on public transport with maps, disseminating them to the cast and crews. Choose low emission or electric vehicles.
- 🌿 Escolher veículos de baixas emissões ou elétricos.
- 🌿 Try to make exhaustive photo/video surveys of the locations, to avoid multiple trips to the same place.



CHECKLIST GREEN PRODUCTION

This checklist is a tool to help assess the level of sustainability at any time, before, during or after production.

1. PRE-PRODUCTION

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Choose energy efficient equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choose local suppliers who offer sustainable alternatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visible, clear and translated when needed recommendations for the efficient use of energy and equipment and encouraging recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of production software and apps	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of digital documents or printed on recycled paper, B/W, 2 sides, in the green option	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recycling of equipment, paper, packaging and other materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of green energy suppliers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Efficient use of air heating and cooling appliances	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy efficient lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Holding meetings by videoconference	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of ecological cleaning products	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of rented equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Donation of unused equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	

2. PRODUCTION

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Reporting on the initiatives in the sustainability plan. Involvement of the team	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Posting of recommendations in the set	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carbon emissions calculation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Measures to compensate carbon emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Disclosure of sustainable filming options with suppliers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Integration into the work of behaviour that respects and cares for the environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. TRANSPORT

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Planning of sustainable journeys/routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Planning transportation of people and goods with preference for low- emission vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Providing information on public transport and other existing ecological transport alternatives to the whole team	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Promoting the optimisation of the km/fuel ratio through eco-driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choosing vehicles with low emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Using rail rather than air, wherever possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Primordial use of vehicles with more capacity for people and cargo	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prioritary use of videoconferencing platforms, avoiding travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choice of accommodation as close as possible to the filming location	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assured parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. ENERGY/ LIGHTING

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Use of reflectors and natural light where possible on outdoor shoots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use LEDs and other low energy light bulbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Avoid tungsten and incandescent lamps	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of appropriate containers for recycling used light bulbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensure that lights and equipment have always been switched off when not in use	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recycle waste electrical and electronic equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. EQUIPAMENT

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Use of rechargeable batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reducing the use of generators by using the most energy efficient ones and models with low CO2 emissions and fine particle filters	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of products with the lowest possible impact on special effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Donation of equipment no longer in use	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6. CATERING

	✓	Note(s)
Choice of suppliers based on sustainable alternatives and practices	<input type="radio"/>	
Avoiding Single-Use Plastics or other disposable materials	<input type="radio"/>	
Choosing paper products with high percentages of post-consumer recycled content	<input type="radio"/>	
Use reusable and larger containers	<input type="radio"/>	
Donating surplus food to team members and/or a local institution	<input type="radio"/>	
Using reusable bags and packaging	<input type="radio"/>	
Opting for local and seasonal ingredients, products certified by sustainable fishing practices, organic and/ or fair-trade products	<input type="radio"/>	
Prefer balanced menus and establish one day a week without meat	<input type="radio"/>	
Provide drinking water to refillable containers	<input type="radio"/>	
Waste separation containers	<input type="radio"/>	

7. STUDIO AND SET

	✓	Note(s)
Use of labour and materials as close as possible to the filming locations	<input type="radio"/>	
Promoting ecological construction, assembly and dismantling of sets	<input type="radio"/>	
Use of recycled and/or certified materials, avoiding toxic products and giving priority to plant-based materials	<input type="radio"/>	
Supply of containers for waste separation, paint water disposal, wood containers, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	
Collection and recycling of leftover materials	<input type="radio"/>	
Display of appropriate signage in the sorting containers	<input type="radio"/>	
Promoting the reuse or sale of materials/equipment for other projects or for team members, associations, or local organisations	<input type="radio"/>	
Renting or reusing materials whenever possible	<input type="radio"/>	
Use of sustainably harvested wood (FSC), with little or no formaldehyde	<input type="radio"/>	

8. WARDROBE / MAKE-UP

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Promotion, in terms of wardrobe, of re-use, rental, loan or second- hand purchase	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choosing local suppliers	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choice of sustainable / certified products	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of sustainable fabrics	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Non-use of plastics, micro-plastics, and disposable products	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Recycling packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Using eco-friendly ways of cleaning clothes, such as energy- efficient washing machine and certified detergent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Promoting the reuse, donation, or sale of products at the end of filming	<input type="checkbox"/>	

9. CLEANING

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Replacing chemical cleaning products with non-toxic and biodegradable ones	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Purchasing products in concentrates and bulk sizes, to reduce the use of packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Using vegetable sponges and recyclable cloths	<input type="checkbox"/>	

10. POST-PRODUCTION

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Energy efficient and certified equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensuring that equipment was switched off when not in use	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Raise awareness in the post-production studio of the importance of environmental and energy efficiency practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Studio powered by electricity from renewable energy sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ensuring an efficient and sustainable machine cooling cycle	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Unnecessary virtual file content deleted	<input type="checkbox"/>	

11. PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Isolating areas of sensitive, protected, or classified vegetation or wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Management of production activities in such a way as to avoid damage to the landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Undertaking actions to restore any land or vegetation damaged by production activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carefully check the whole area before departure to ensure that nothing has been left behind and that the site is maintained as it was before production	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12. SCOUTING

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Note(s)
Assessment of sustainability options during location scouting	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Analysis and application of existing policies in each city/ location regarding recycling and waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of alternative fuel vehicles (low emission, electric) for long journeys	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Use of public transport, bicycle (with helmet), walking or car sharing where possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dissemination of information and public transport maps to professionals involved in the survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carrying out photo and video surveys of the sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	

USEFUL CONTACTS

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