

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Having delivered Aberdeen Christmas Village for 7 years, John Codona's Pleasure Fairs Ltd (JCPF) recognises the responsibility of the company to consider the environmental impact of the event and implement practical steps to minimise waste and resource usage.

Given the size and impact of our own business, JCPF have an Environmental Policy Statement, detailed as follows:

John Codona's Pleasure Fairs Ltd recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and are continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our strategy and operating methods.

Over the last few years, it has become more apparent that we need to consider and find ways of ensuring that the disposable 'single use' packaging we use is more environmentally friendly. We have been working with a local packaging supplier 'Travelstock Packaging Ltd' and have already moved the majority of our single use packaging to alternatives that are recyclable, compostable or biodegradable. These products include paper cups, food trays, napkins, carrier bags and most lately introducing PLA straws. We also made sure materials are from sustainable sources.

As part of this commitment, we continue to develop our Environmental Policy. Identify and determine objectives for the short, medium and long term, deliver strategies in line with the company's policy and evaluate our performance. We recognise this will assist JCPF to further improve sustainability and waste management at key external events we are involved with including Aberdeen Christmas Village.

Within this section, we explore specific areas where we can demonstrate steps to improve sustainability and waste reduction.

Transport and Travel

Aberdeen Christmas Village is located in the heart of Aberdeen City on Broad Street and Upperkirkgate. Taking into consideration the additional sites proposed in our plan, the event has good public transport links into the city with the majority of visitors able to access the event via bus or train. Many out of town locations, such as Ellon and Kingswells offer park and ride opportunities to ease congestion into the city and reduce environmental impact. For those travelling on bicycle, racks are available on Broad Street outside of Marichsal College.

JCPF staff for the build and running of the event are predominantly local with most able to access public transport.

Catering – Food and Drink

As event organiser, JCPF are very aware of the impact food waste bears on the company both financially and environmentally. Food and drink supplies are sourced via local companies. As an example of this, our handcrafted beers, gins and cocktails are sourced directly from local producers based within the city and shire. Meat products are sourced directly from local butchers McWilliam and bakery goods supplied from the Breadmaker.

JCPF have been working with local company Travelstock Packaging Ltd for some time now and have already moved the majority of our single use packaging to alternatives that are recyclable, compostable or biodegradable. Relevant to Aberdeen Christmas Village, these include products such as paper cups, food trays, napkins, carrier bags and PLA straws. We actively look for materials made from sustainable sources.

As a business, our ultimate aim is to reduce the amount of waste created in the first instance.

Food waste and oil waste is collected via OLLECO. Further information on waste management is addressed later in this document.

Event Dressing & Theming

JCPF have delivered Aberdeen Christmas Village for 7 years. Consideration is always given to re-using items and props used for dressing the event including all lighting, garland, catering equipment, 9m Christmas trees, signage and more. These are stored within Aberdeen city and any items deemed no longer of use, sold via gumtree Aberdeen or given to charity to minimise waste.

Energy Efficiency

JCPF carefully plan energy usage to minimise/ reduce our carbon footprint. Where generators are used, these are shared across the site and only used when/where absolutely necessary. Improvements have been made and for 2023 we now use mains electricity for 'Christmas in the Quad' to negate the use of a generator in this area. We would also be keen to explore other areas within Aberdeen Christmas Village where access may be available to mains electricity.

The style of Aberdeen Christmas Village is in keeping with traditional Christmas Markets found throughout Europe therefore the event is predominantly all outdoors therefore heating is only required in the Ice Rink Skate Exchange.

Waste Management

JCPF contracts waste management to local company EIS Waste Management. Visitors are encouraged to correctly dispose of their waste in different coloured/ labelled bins strategically placed throughout the venue and clustered together to ensure visitors can easily identify the correct disposal method. These bins include mixed recycling and general waste. Oil and food waste from catering units is recycled and turned into renewable energy via OLLECO. We recognise that we can and will improve labelling on public access bins to achieve a higher recycling rate.

We efficiently manage waste to avoid littering the event. Any litter is collected and disposed of by our operating staff using PPE to prevent injury. In accordance with our agreement, all waste generated by the event is removed by JCPF during and after the event.

Community Benefits

- JCPF are a local business, established 50 years ago, with strong local roots and knowledge and understanding of the local community and businesses throughout the city and shire. We attract visitors to the city from throughout Scotland, UK and beyond and offer procurement opportunities for local businesses and employment for local people.
- JCPF employ local staff to operate Aberdeen Christmas Village. There is always opportunities for further employment with JCPF after the close of the Village. As an example, our Bowling Reception Manager started work with us as a temporary staff member during Aberdeen Christmas Village in 2015.
- JCPF draw upon local business expertise and experience to successfully deliver Aberdeen Christmas Village using as many local suppliers as possible to support the local economy and people.
- 90% of food and drink for the operation of the event is sourced locally.
- The event attracts visitors both locally and further afield to Aberdeen and raises awareness of Aberdeen as a cultural destination.
- Aberdeen Christmas Village provides an opportunity to showcase local community projects, initiatives and groups such as performing arts, choirs etc
- In addition, further opportunities are available at the opening ceremony, and long term over the course of the next few years at other key locations .
- 'Christmas in the Quad' is open 5 weekends of Aberdeen Christmas Village and presents an opportunity to showcase up to 28 local producers and makers each week (140 in total).
- 'Festive Fun Day' – engagement with charitable organisations and school inclusion groups with the aim of including those who might not ordinarily be able to attend the event.
- Aberdeen Christmas Village 'chosen charity' – showcasing a specific local charity each year to highlight all the positive aspects of what they bring to the community and

local people with a view to increasing their profile and encouraging engagement with the wider community