



FUTURE – GREEN THEATRE PROJECT

HOW CAN A THEATRE GO GREEN?

PROJECT REPORT 2021

FOREWORD



From the 2019/2020 season, the Miskolc National Theatre aims to become a so-called green theatre and through its pioneer initiative hopes to pass on its experience of becoming a green institution and will serve as a model for other cultural institutions committed to the environment throughout Hungary.

We achieved most of our goals in just six months, on our own, without considerable financial investment, by following valuable examples and experts. The institution is now operating with a significantly lower carbon footprint and more sustainably in many different areas.

This is relevant to emphasise because I believe that environmental awareness is not necessarily a function of financial support and investment - I believe that inventiveness, openness and determination are much more influential factors. And a willingness to think together and cooperate.

We are on the verge of a revolution in mindset and technology, and every choice we make can bring us closer to achieving this progress through environmental awareness. We have a responsibility to make green thinking part of our everyday lives through education and awareness-raising - from households to workplaces, across the wide range of society. Theatres are community spaces, prominent sites and buildings in cities. Also appropriate for becoming a platform for this process, a guide to sustainable living, an example to follow through eco-friendly operations and the most efficient use of resources. Now is the time to act, not only for the present but also for the audience of the future.

ENDRE PAPP
PROJECT MANAGER
April 2021

ABOUT THE PROJECT



The Future - Green Theatre Project is a sustainability initiative for greening cultural institutions, launched in 2019. The project's aim is to transfer existing experience, communication platforms, and permanent development resources for eco-consciousness to cultural institutions committed to the environment. Twenty cultural institutions and sixteen professional partners have joined the project in 3 years, with the long-term objective of making a more sustainable approach mainstream in culture.

6 MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- Energy efficiency
- Waste management
- Recycling
- Operations
- Awareness raising
- Cooperation with professionals

Strategic cooperation agreements with:

- **20 THEATRES**
- **16 COMPANIES & ORGANISATIONS**

ACHIEVEMENTS

Key impacts of sustainable development in the first six months of the project at Miskolc National Theatre:



39 %

of electricity has been replaced by renewables



5000 LITRES

general waste has been reduced per month



25 %

reduced water use for the entire institution



500 M

textiles have been reused in production

(between 09. 2019 - 03.2020)



MISKOLCI
NEMZETI
SZÍNHÁZ

1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Goals: To achieve the smallest possible eco-footprint and carbon neutrality in the future. To strive for energy efficiency, and to make improvements that are specifically environmentally conscious. The introduction of sensor lighting, improvements in insulation, and the use of renewable-sourced hot water are planned. The long-term plans include increasing the green area of the Theatre - a potential roof garden - and the introduction of a grey-water system. It is also a priority to replace the stage lighting fleet with LED devices as soon as possible. This could save more than 70% of energy. It is also planned to take advantage of digital solutions in design and construction. A more environmentally friendly solution to reduce carbon emissions from the company's commuting is included among the essential improvements.

Improvements: The Theatre now gets most of its electricity from renewable energy sources, saving an average of 39% since its introduction. Water-saving improvements have reduced consumption by 25%. As part of a municipal project, the heating system was upgraded by replacing outdated gas boilers with largely geothermal renewable sources.

2 WASTE MANAGEMENT



Goals: To minimise the Theatre's non-recyclable waste, maximise the efficiency of selective waste collection, and eliminate single-use plastics and paper usage.

Improvements: Separate waste collection has started (plastic, paper, metal). Furthermore so-called 'collection islands' have been installed for used batteries, light bulbs, printer ink cartridges, non-refillable bottles, and mobile phones (in partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute Hungary). Additionally, washable make-up wipes and biodegradable instruments have been introduced in the hair & make-up department. Since the implementation of these improvements, the amount of general waste has been reduced by about 5000 litres per month.

3

RECYCLING

Goals: To make the most efficient use of the existing resources. It is essential to ensure that all objects and equipment used in artistic activities and operations have a long lifespan. Textile recycling and efficient use are continually promoted throughout the project.

The creation of an inter-theatre database is under preparation, to allow the exchange of sets, props and furniture between theatres in different parts of the country.



Improvements: Miskolc National Theatre has always sought to reuse its sets, furniture, props and costumes in as many ways as possible. Campaigns are often advertised to rely on donations from the audience to purchase certain props. The agreement with the Miskolc Reuse Centre has further expanded the possibilities for reuse. Furthermore, a partnership has been signed with the domestic design brand Nanushka to produce costumes from their recycled textiles.

4

OPERATIONS:

Goals: To make environmental sustainability a primary consideration in the theatre's procurement and operations for its artistic projects. To rethink the use of printing and paper and to significantly reduce the use of single-use plastics. To introduce the use of more eco-conscious hygiene products, detergents, cleaning products, garbage bags, make-up tools and hairdressing accessories as widely as possible, and minimize the number of disposable, non-degradable, environmentally harmful products. It is also planned to increase the green area of the building.

Improvements: A re-cup system has been implemented in the Artists' Canteen. Bird-silhouette stickers have been applied to the glass surface of the office building. More eco-friendly hygiene and cleaning products are being used.



5 AWARENESS RAISING

The project's achievements can in themselves have an impact on everyone, whether spectator or staff member, who visits the institution. Collaborations have been established with environmental organisations in as many areas as possible through various actions and awareness-raising programmes, like participation in tree-planting and litter-picking activities. For colleagues, education programs are underway. The project also aims to have an impact on the promotion of public transport and the reduction of meat consumption. This is in cooperation with the local transport company and green organisations.



Developments: Members of the theatre participated in the last Kocsonya Festival in Miskolc (200 000 visitors), and moderated thematic panel discussions. An exhibition on the harmful effects of climate change and human intervention was introduced in the hall of the theatre. As part of our cooperation with WWF Hungary, a fundraising box has been installed in the ticket office. A brochure featuring useful tips for living an eco-friendly life was published in February 2020.

During European Waste Reduction Week, an awareness-raising video campaign was created, and two infographic boards were installed at the entrance to the theatre.

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COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONALS:

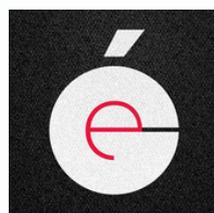
From the very beginning, the project has been able to rely on the expert advice of its partners. This will provide the professional background for the project and further opportunities for applications in the future. In one and a half years, cooperation agreements with 16 associations, companies, or professional bodies have been signed. In addition, 20 domestic theatres and production companies have joined the project or adopted the developed standard agreement. This initiative will also be an opportunity to build relationships between partners from different backgrounds. A collaboration with the Faculty of Environmental Engineering at the University of Miskolc is also in preparation.



NANUSHKA



PARTNER THEATRES



HOW TO GET AHEAD?

It is a huge undertaking to become a green institution, so we are thinking long-term and in small steps. Our goal is to find solutions in all areas of the theatre's operation that can help our environment. The Future - Green Theatre Project is also an open initiative to which anyone can contribute: it can be an idea, a more efficient process, or financial or material support that will make this theatre, one of the largest theatre institutions in the country, more efficient and even environmentally friendly. We also hope that together we can do something for the audience of the FUTURE!

