

# How to include disabled people in sustainability initiatives



Easy read booklet

# Who we are

**attitude**  
is everything

We are a charity called **attitude is everything.**



We make sure disabled people can enjoy and take part in live music.



We want **live music events** to be **accessible** and **sustainable**.



**Live music events** are places where music is played, like festivals or concerts.



**Accessible** means it is easy for everyone to take part.

# Sustainability



**Sustainable** means something is good for **the environment** because it can be used for a long time.



**The environment** is everything around us including the air, water, plants and animals.



Lots of festivals have **sustainability initiatives** that are good for the environment.



A **sustainability initiative** is when you make a decision to help you be more sustainable.



It can be hard for disabled people to take part in sustainability initiatives.



We need to include disabled people when we talk about how to be more sustainable.



**Climate change** is a problem that affects disabled people more than lots of other people.



**Climate change** means how the earth's weather and temperature is changing because people make choices that are not sustainable.



In this booklet we will tell you why it is hard for disabled people to take part in sustainability initiatives.



# Our survey



We made a **survey**. A **survey** is a booklet with questions for you to answer.



In our survey we asked disabled people why it is hard for them to take part in sustainability initiatives.



107 disabled people answered our survey. These people go to live music events, are artists or help run live music events.



In the rest of this booklet we call live music events, events.

# Answers to our survey



Most people said they think about how sustainable an event is before they go.



Most people said they cannot take part in sustainability initiatives at events.



Some people said their **access needs** mean they cannot take part in sustainability initiatives.



**Access needs** are anything you need to take part in everyday life. For example, a ramp for your wheelchair.



People talked about the problems that stop them from taking part in sustainability initiatives.



These problems include

- 1. food and water at events**
- 2. travel to events**
- 3. accessible facilities at events**
- 4. how information is shared about events**



We decided to have 2 meetings to talk about these problems and how we can fix them.



Disabled artists and people who help run events came to these meetings.



The rest of this booklet explains these problems and what changes your organisation can make to fix them.

# Food and water



Disabled people said the food and water at events can be a problem.

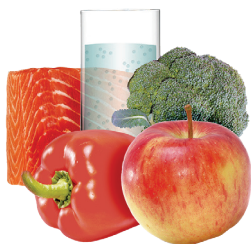
Disabled people said



- many water stations are far away, and the ground near them is often wet and muddy.



- the taps at water stations are hard to use and are not low enough for people who use a wheelchair.

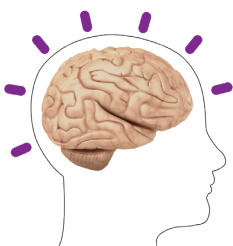


- **organic food** that has no plastic packaging often costs more money.

**Organic food** is food grown without using chemicals to kill bugs.



- events that don't sell food that includes meat or fish can be hard for people who are **neurodivergent** or cannot eat certain food.



**Neurodivergent** means your brain works in a different way from other people and this affects your daily life.

# Changes you can make



There are a few changes you can make to fix these problems.

To fix these problems you can



- make sure the ground near water stations is kept dry.
- make sure taps at water stations are easy for everyone to use.
- make sure there are water stations next to accessible camping.
- think about what changes you can make to water stations so everyone can use them.
- let people order food when they buy tickets for an event. Or let people bring their own food.
- listen to what disabled people need and include them.



# Travel

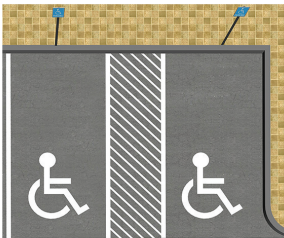


Disabled people said travelling to events can be a problem.

Disabled people said



- bus and train stops can be far away from events.
- they often need to drive and park close to the event because of **accessible equipment**.



**Accessible equipment** helps you get around or do a task. This includes wheelchairs, walking frames and hoists.



- it can be hard to get on buses and trains with accessible equipment.
- buses and trains can be too loud and busy for people who are neurodivergent.



- they cannot use electric wheelchairs on most buses.



# Changes you can make



There are a few changes you can make to fix these problems.

To fix these problems you can

- work with local **councils** to make sure bus and train stops are closer to events.



**Councils** run and make decisions about services like schools, libraries, parks and hospitals.



- offer buses that are quieter and less busy.



- make sure it does not cost more money for disabled people to drive instead of get a bus or train.



- talk to companies about how you can make buses and trains easier for disabled people to use.



- offer buses for people who use electric wheelchairs.

# Accessible facilities



**Accessible facilities** means anything made for a disabled person, like toilets, seats or accessible equipment.

Disabled people said



- many **viewing platforms** do not have bins for rubbish.



**Viewing platforms** are spaces for disabled people to enjoy live music. They are big enough for wheelchairs.

- they need to use plastics and materials that cannot be recycled or used more than once.



- they have to use accessible equipment like mobility scooters and hoists that use electricity.

- **compost toilets** are sometimes not easy to use or clean enough.



**Compost toilets** do not use water to flush.

# Changes you can make



There are a few changes you can make to fix these problems.



To fix these problems you can

- make sure all viewing platforms have bins and signs that show where the bins are.
- offer different types of toilets, like toilets you can flush with water.
- think about people who need to use electricity for their accessible equipment.
- think about these people when you make sustainability initiatives about how to use less electricity.



# Sharing information



Disabled people said there are a few problems with how information is shared about sustainability and accessibility.



Information about sustainability and accessibility can be



- hard to find or in different places on a website.



- shared too late to be helpful.
- hard to read and understand.



People who help run events do not know enough about accessibility.



Disabled people are not involved in how sustainability initiatives are made.



# Changes you can make



There are a few changes you can make to fix these problems.

To fix these problems you can



- share information about sustainability and accessibility that is easy to understand.



- explain your sustainability initiatives so everyone understands what you plan to do.



- give disabled people information about accessibility when they buy tickets for your event.



- give information about sustainability and accessibility in different ways. For example, on your website and at the event.

- talk to disabled people before you make sustainability initiatives.

# Case studies



A **case study** is when you look closely at how well something works.



The next few pages tell you about 2 case studies of live music events.



We will tell you about their sustainability initiatives.



We will also tell you what they did to make their events accessible for disabled people.

# Forwards Festival

## Sustainability initiatives



Forwards festival want their **environmental footprint** to be 50% smaller by 2025.



Your **environmental footprint** is a way to think about your impact on the environment in numbers.



They made a compost toilet that can be used by people who use a wheelchair.



They give people water to drink in cans instead of plastic bottles.



People can also travel by bus to Forwards Festival.

# Accessibility



Forwards Festival have headsets for people with visual impairments to listen to live music.



They ask people who use British Sign Language to sign along to live music.



They have spaces that are quiet and calm for people who are neurodivergent.



They have toilets you can flush with water and toilets for people who use a hoist or sling.



They use a type of key called a Radar key for their disabled toilets.

# Green Man Festival

## Sustainability initiatives



Green Man Festival want their environmental footprint to be 50% smaller by 2025.



They use energy from the sun for their electricity.



They have taps that you do not need to turn off. They will stop water running after 15 seconds.



They have a certificate called **A Greener Future.**



This certificate shows that a festival works hard to be sustainable.



# Accessibility



Green Man Festival have a certificate from us called **Gold Charter Accreditation.**



We give this certificate to events that work hard to be accessible for disabled people.



Green Man Festival have a campsite that is more accessible for disabled people.



This campsite has accessible toilets and is closer to the live music than other campsites.



They have a team of people who work at the festival to help with any problems to do with accessibility.

# What you can do next



It is important to make choices that are sustainable and accessible for everyone.



Your team who plan sustainability initiatives should work with your team who make sure your events are accessible.



Talk to disabled people and ask them what they think about your sustainability initiatives.



Talk to other organisations that run live music events and ask for their help and advice.

**Thank you for reading this booklet**

Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION



**A GREENER FUTURE**

We worked with **Julie's Bicycle and A Greener Future** to make this booklet.

Thank you to A2i for the words  
**[www.a2i.co.uk](http://www.a2i.co.uk)** (reference 38956a)

The full version of this document is called  
**No climate action without us**