

**Eco**venue



JULIE'S BICYCLE



## **CALL TO THEATRES TO JOIN IN THE THEATRES DEC POOL AND GREEN DATABASE SURVEY**

Tuesday 17 May 2011

The Theatres Trust and Julie's Bicycle have joined together to undertake a comprehensive survey of environmental and sustainability issues facing performing arts venues in the UK.

All performing arts venues (whether currently holding a Display Energy Certificate or not) are invited to participate in the survey. Plymouth Theatre Royal, the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield, Hereford's Courtyard Theatre and the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse are among the first venues in the DEC Pool.

Led by The Theatres Trust, the national advisory body for theatres, the **Theatres DEC Pool** will bring together evidence on the energy performance of theatres and support the evaluation of its Ecovenue project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Through the provision of theatre-specific advice and the awarding of Display Energy Certificates, Ecovenue is improving the environmental performance of 48 London theatres. The **Theatres DEC Pool** will compare the performance of participating London venues with national theatre building performance.

The **Theatres DEC Pool** will cover all theatres throughout the UK and enable venues of similar types to compare approaches and share best practice. Theatres will also be able to see where they can contribute to promoting a more sustainable theatre sector. Analysis of the data will inform the next series of Government DEC benchmarks so they can be relevant to the theatre industry as a whole and will be incorporated into the Trust's established Theatres Database.

Julie's Bicycle will compare survey data with information gathered via the online tools SMEasure and Industry Green, to also help improve the Government's DEC benchmarks. SMEasure helps buildings monitor their weekly gas and electricity use against weather conditions, while the Industry Green (IG) tools offer a monthly or annual carbon calculation of energy, water, waste and travel impacts. Users of these tools are contributing to a valuable benchmarking exercise that will help provide feedback and intelligence across the sector, while also improving national standards.

Julie's Bicycle will also include eligible theatres that complete the survey in a web-based Green Database for environmentally friendly services and suppliers in the music, theatre, visual arts and performing arts sectors. Julie's Bicycle's 2010 "Moving Arts" report into the carbon impacts of theatre touring identified a need for better signposting of such services and suppliers. Venues

### **Protecting theatres for everyone**

**Director** Mhora Samuel **Chairman** Rob Dickins CBE  
**Trustees** Nick Allott, Phil Clark, Ruth Eastwood, Tim Foster, Oliver Goodwin, Jerry Katzman, Penelope Keith CBE DL, Dr Pauleen Lane CBE, Graham McPherson, Anne McReynolds, Judith Mellor, Matthew Rooke, Chris Shepley CBE, Ben Twist

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres  
The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with The Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697

are a critical hub in the touring supply chain, and those with positive environmental performance will be promoted via the free online Green Database.

Mhora Samuel, Director of The Theatres Trust, said “The **Theatres DEC Pool** is an important part of our Ecovvenue project. As well as providing a base line for evaluation, by linking it into our existing Theatres Database we will create a publicly available resource of UK theatres architectural history and environmental performance.”

Alison Tickell, Director of Julie’s Bicycle, said “Having identified recently that the theatre sector could save at least £8m in energy efficiencies up to 2015, we are delighted to be partnering with Theatres Trust on this survey that will help us support theatres to achieve these efficiencies, improve standards against which success is measured, and promote their successes. Despite the disappointingly mixed signals we are getting from Government on green issues, more and more theatres are recognising the manifold benefits of building environmental considerations into their core business priorities.”

Venues wishing to participate in the online survey should contact either [theatresDECPool@theatretrust.org.uk](mailto:theatresDECPool@theatretrust.org.uk) or [info@juliesbicycle.com](mailto:info@juliesbicycle.com) .

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## Notes for Editors

**1. European Regional Development Fund: London European Regional Development Fund 2007 to 2013:** The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is used to tackle regional disparities across Europe. The ERDF supports regional development through actions such as business innovation and support and regeneration. Working on behalf of the Mayor of London, the European Programmes Management Unit (EPMU) at the London Development Agency (LDA) is responsible for the administration of the 2007 to 2013 ERDF programme.

**2. The Theatres Trust:** The Theatres Trust is the National Advisory Public Body for Theatres. The Trust aims to protect theatres on behalf of the nation. It advises in planning, regeneration and development, architecture and design, heritage, and theatre. It enables better planning to secure, improve and achieve sustainability for new and existing theatre buildings and to protect theatre use. Its aim is to ensure that current and future generations have access to good quality theatres that reflect our rich cultural heritage and offer inspiring new environments in which to enjoy theatre. [www.theatretrust.org.uk](http://www.theatretrust.org.uk)

**3. Ecovvenue:** Ecovvenue’s environmental assessments, Display Energy Certificates and environmental policies are being delivered by Tim Atkinson, the Trust’s Theatre Building Services Adviser. Dissemination Events for the project will be held throughout the project.

Further information on Ecovvenue and The Theatres Trust can be obtained from its website [www.theatretrust.org.uk](http://www.theatretrust.org.uk)

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**4. Julie's Bicycle:** Julie's Bicycle is a broad coalition of music, theatre and scientific experts committed to delivering a concerted response to climate change. Our ambition is global, our main operations UK. Almost everything we do is relevant to other creative industries and other global territories. Established in 2007 initially within the UK music industry, Julie's Bicycle is a non-profit company now working across the creative industries to co-ordinate and catalyse best practice in sustainability and develop cultural leadership around climate issues to reduce the sector's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We help organisations understand their carbon impacts and take responsibility for reducing them by providing clear, practical advice and support, based on the best available research, tools and resources.

Sector-specific research is at the core of our work. Together with our research partners, Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute and Surrey University's Centre for Environmental Strategy, we produce research papers and practical guides that document the environmental impacts of specific creative sectors, and offer them recommendations for reducing GHG emissions. Accessible research with scientific integrity allows the creative industries to make informed decisions to tackle climate change in the most meaningful, and economically viable way.

We also run events, workshops, seminars and training sessions, as well as facilitating several sector-specific networks and focus groups to maximize the reach and relevance of our work. By building communities of creative professionals who are well informed, well supported, and committed to climate change, we are able to embed environmental solutions into standard practice and stimulate action across the creative industries.

We believe that by developing a shared vision and systematically working together the creative industries are shaping a future where the arts can continue to thrive and contribute to the wellbeing of society, whilst being financially, environmentally and artistically sustainable.

[www.juliesbicycle.com](http://www.juliesbicycle.com)