

GREENING UP YOUR ACT - Guidance for Comedians**Calling all comedians in the Leicester Comedy Festival 2018!**

We are ReFiesta, a new local initiative to green Leicester's Festivals and Events and Leicester Comedy Festival have invited us to work with them. Here's where you come in! We've come up with ideas of ways you could address the impact that you as an artist will have on the environment during Leicester Comedy Festival. You will be a part of a growing global movement making a positive change to help the environment at a time when our planet is facing critical threats.

What help can we offer you?

We'd love to see greener behaviour at Leicester's festivals and events, and we can do this by supporting and encouraging busy people like yourselves in making adaptations. We're here to help with troubleshooting and info. Our website at www.refiesta.org.uk is being continually developed and provides useful resources that might help.

What can you do?

Have a look at the suggestions below, which give some simple tips on the following things:

- 1.Travel 2.Promotions 3.Content 4.Energy 5.Food and Drink 6.Waste

But you're different...

All performers are different and some things will be easier or more difficult depending on where you're travelling from and your needs during the festival. We have thought about areas that we think all performers could make changes in. We don't expect anyone to achieve all of these, but we'd love to hear about changes you do make and how we can support you. If you're doing some of these things already, tell us! Maybe we - and others - can learn from your experience...

You have the power!

As a comedian with an audience, you have the power! You can use your creativity to draw attention to what people can be doing to be greener. As a performer you may send requirements to your venue / accommodation provider in advance. Consider including some on behalf of the planet e.g. 'No disposable bottled water - tap water in a jug with a glass please.' We have sent a list like this to venues and promoted a list for punters too - test them on how well they are doing at THEIR challenges.

We look forward to seeing more of you in the run-up to the festival and at the festival itself.

The ReFiesta team and Leicester Comedy Festival**1. Promotions**

- Print fewer flyers and programmes and use other ways to advertise e.g. social media
- Ask your printer to use recycled paper & veg-based inks or change to a printer that does
- In place of flyers, ask someone to be a human billboard offering people to selfie with them so that they have a photo of the poster – and can share on social media too!
- Add a 'green challenge' to punters as part of your promotional materials

2. Content - Raise some environmental issues by:

- Including a 'green' joke or two
- Using audience engagement e.g. the most extreme thing they've done to e.g. save water / energy / avoid flying / reuse / recycle / avoid waste.
- Ask audience members to tell you their wackiest environmental efforts in attending the comedy festival!
- Incorporate some of the joys and pitfalls of attempting our challenges into your act.

3. Energy

Talk to your venue and accommodation provider about their energy use including:

- Any energy saving measures they have in place.
- Do they use a green energy provider? (if you're local and at home – ask yourself these questions! Ethical consumer 'Best Buys' are listed as Green Energy and Ecotricity)
- Do they have LED lighting or other energy saving measures like sensor lighting?
- Using reduced lighting during all or part of your performance
- Alternative power for amps or other equipment e.g. cycle power, and inviting audience members to power the bicycles!
- Encourage them to participate in the Refiesta challenge for venues

4. Travel

- Choose a more sustainable option for all or part of your journeys for the festival.
- For local travel, consider walking, cycling, taking public transport, taking a hybrid taxi or using a cycle rickshaw.
- If you're coming from further afield, check out train, car sharing or even boat options rather than choosing a flight or individual car journey.

5. Food and Drink

- While you're in Leicester, check out some proper local food & drink places & veggie and vegan places - [goleicestershire.com/food-and-drink/veggie-leicester.aspx](http://leicestershire.com/food-and-drink/veggie-leicester.aspx)
- Bring a reusable water bottle and use it on stage instead of something plastic and disposable (fill it with beer if you like)
- Avoid takeaways that serve in polystyrene or single-use plastics – bring your own reusable pots for takeaways to give you food in

6. Waste

- Bring a reusable coffee cup for re-fills rather than using single use coffee cups. Many places will give you a discount for using your own cup - make sure you ask for it.
- Take advantage of any reuse possibilities e.g. reusing your hotel towels rather than getting them laundered every day.
- Take the mellow yellow challenge when you pop to the loo – if it's brown flush it down but if it's yellow let it mellow.
- Take up opportunities to recycle wherever you can.



Greening Leicester's Festivals & Events

