

KATIE CHRISTIE  
AMD BERLIN  
2020/2022  
ECOSYSTEMS AND  
ECONOMICS

MUSIC



# LAND SYSTEM CHANGE

## LAND SYSTEM CHANGE

Land systems establish the physical state of the world as we know it, and are developed by any and all processes which require the human use of land. These systems include:

- socioeconomic systems
  - technological systems
  - organizational investments or arrangements
  - profiting or surviving from the land
  - social activities and systems
- (Verburg et al., 2013).

Because land systems are inherently intertwined with human life, even the slightest changes or developments can have massive impacts on human quality of life, local environment, and become amplified to a point of global environmental change. The land, and land systems we have developed over millennia, provide us with basic resources such as food and fuel, which have allowed us to create systems of cultural development and exchange, including the music industry. With the commodification of land and its resources, land system changes operate under the control of humans on many different scales, from home owners, through to international trading agreements and sustainability goals. More efficient system design at live music venues is a key opportunity to implement ecologically and ethically beneficial land system change.

***'land system change is both a cause and consequence of socio-ecological processes'*** (Crossman et al., 2013)

UK Music festivals, much like those globally, are contemporary cultural landmarks. Despite their development of human culture and appreciation for fulfilment, they have been built up on unsustainable land systems which we simply cannot afford to continue to work within the confines of.

Every year, festivals rely on unrenewable resources, produce tonnes of waste, and destroy the sites they are built on. For positive land system change, we require festival organisers to educate themselves thoroughly on the damage their current systems are causing, and develop the focus of their roles from temporary fulfilment, to long term fulfilment – they must implement climate mitigation systems at the core of their overall festival design.

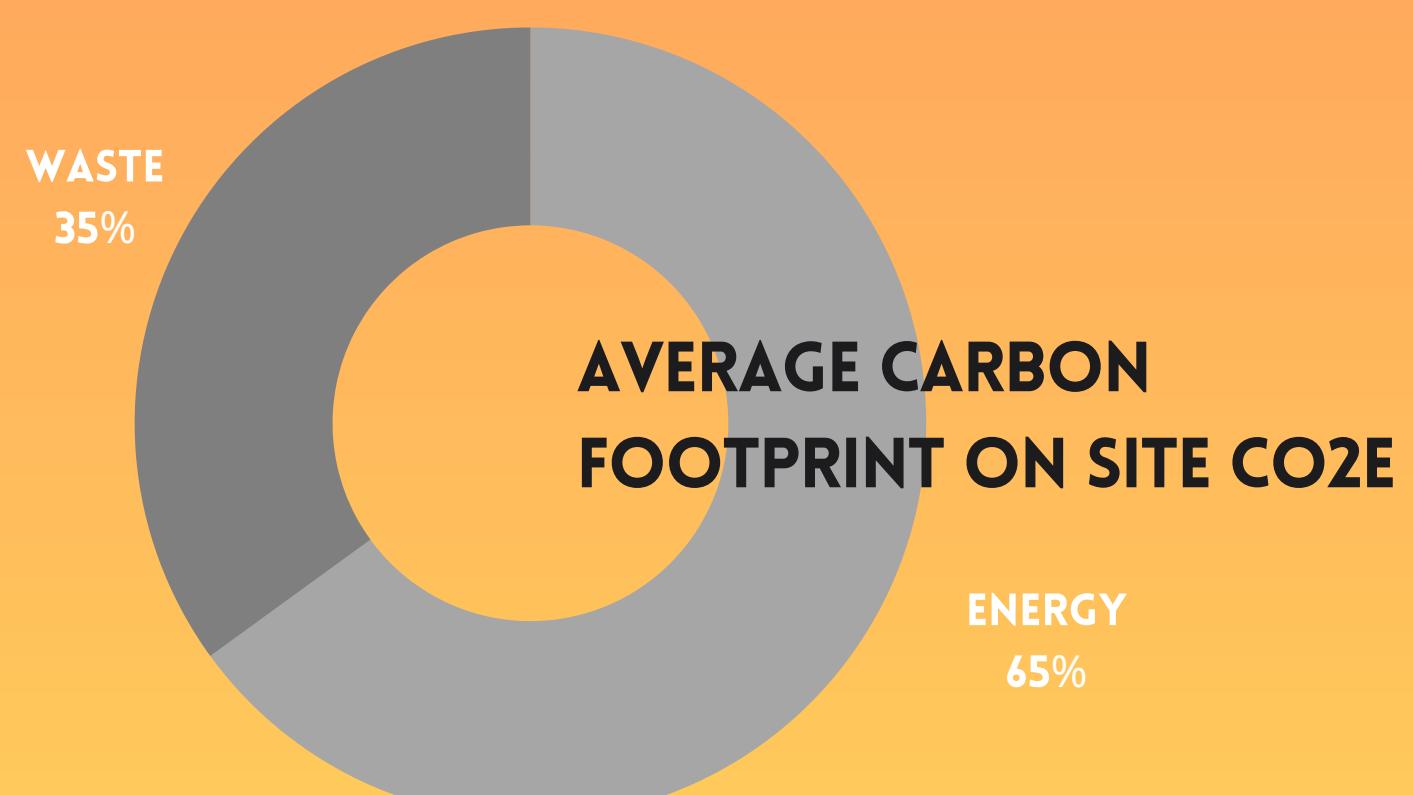
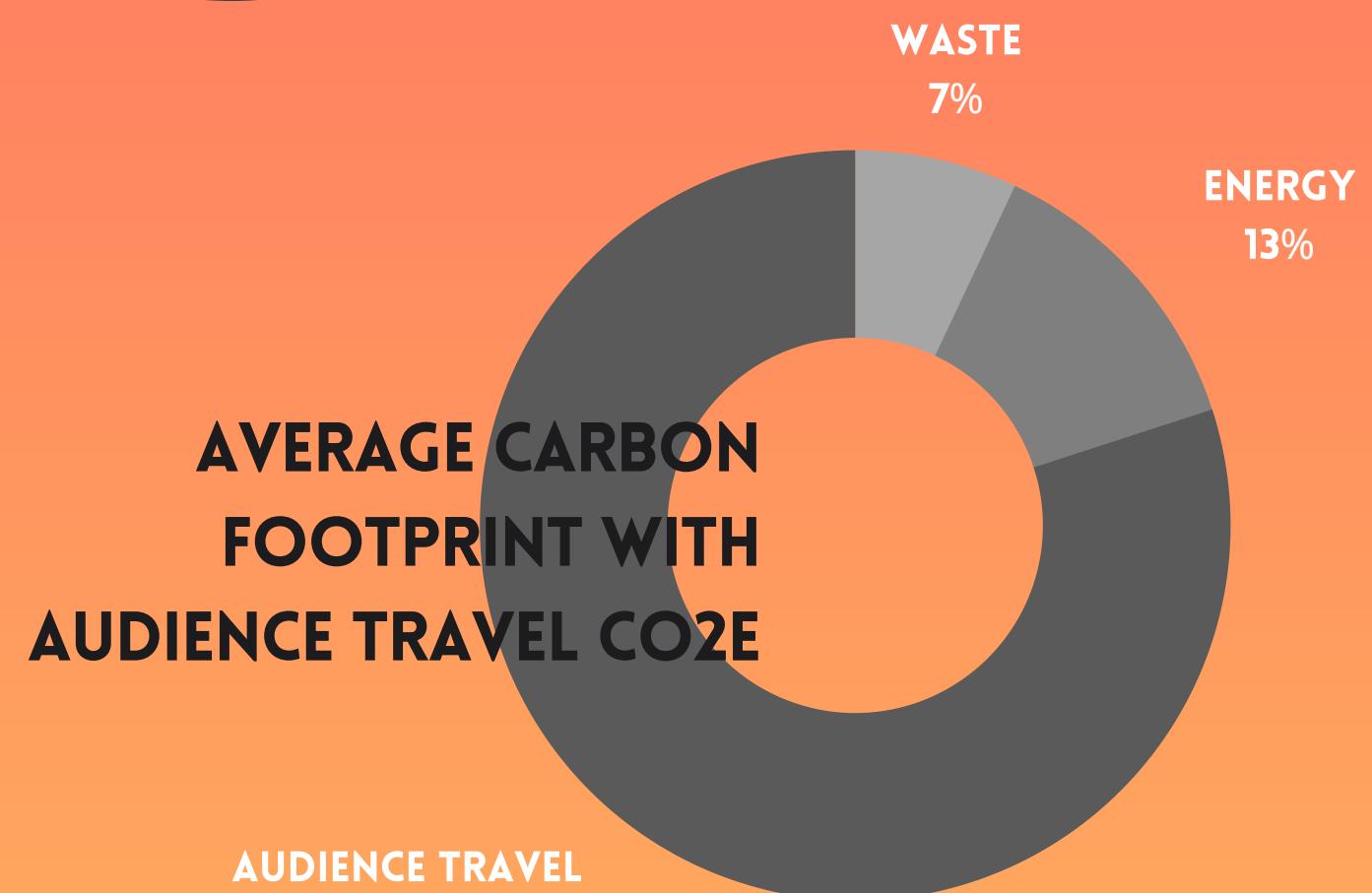
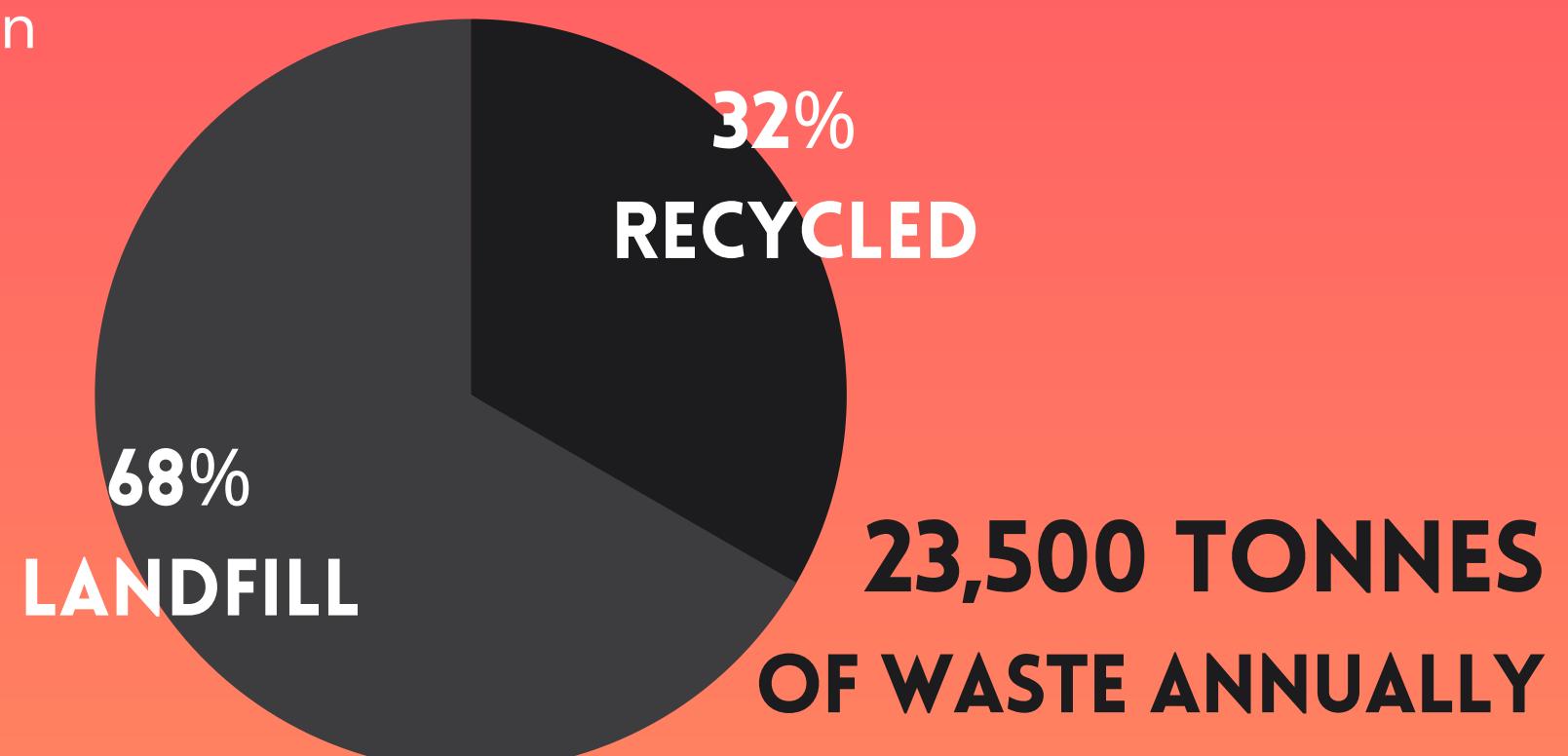


3.17 MILLION  
UK FESTIVAL ATTENDEES  
ANNUALLY

(Powerful Thinking, 2021)

# FESTIVALS AND TOURS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACTS OF UK  
FESTIVALS



# FESTIVALS AND TOURS

QUALITY OF LIFE AND  
SOCIO ECONOMIC  
IMPACTS

## CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Preservation of cultural heritage is a large component of urban strategies for both ecological and economic growth. Historically, we have seen the focus of cultural heritage site preservation focus on visible cultural assets such as traditional architecture. Events and intangible culture, including festivals or live music tours, are frequently left devoid of the time and effort placed in preserving traditional, visible cultural heritage (Bianchini and Parkinson 1993). However, with a system redesign of the music festival business model, which includes the democratisation of the arts via increased public participation in music festival creation, a more nurturing approach to the relationship between festivals and resources or energy could encourage the financially supported preservation of festivals as heritage sites. This would mean preservation laws and guidelines would have to be implemented by festival developers.

For example, from 2021, music venues and nightclubs in Germany are recognised as 'facilities of cultural purpose' (Dazed, 2021) and will protect the venues from urban development and gentrification while increasing the pressure of ecologically focused national goals. This campaign was led by the Greens, The Left, the Free Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party of Germany, and the CDU/CSU, who all founded the Parliamentary Forum of Club Culture and Nightlife. (Dazed, 2021)

## ACCESSIBILITY

Beyond the need for ecologically focused land system change at music festivals, many most music festivals are still designed without consideration for accessibility or inclusivity at their core, and adaptation of system design often feels like an afterthought at cultural events which people with disabilities should have every right to participate in.

Latitude Festival, in the UK for example, considers accessibility design systems as a core design principle, and offers the following (Disability Horizons 2021):

- wheelchair accessible viewing platform
- accessible car parking and drop off pass
- free of charge PA ticket
- accessible toilet facilities
- and accessible camping



Land system adaptation should not only focus on climate damage prevention efforts, but also on increasing the cultural value of live music events for a wider range of people.



## HOW TO FIX THE SYSTEM

Currently the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND VISION FOR THE UK FESTIVAL INDUSTRY by Powerful Thinking, recommends the following action points for UK festivals to reduce their negative impact system design, which is of course applicable to music festivals and venues around the world.

REDUCE WASTE and SEGREGATE ALL MATERIALS ONSITE  
AIM FOR AT LEAST A 50% RECYCLING RATE (OF TOTAL MATERIALS PRESENT ONSITE)  
ENSURE ACCURATE REPORTING

50% REDUCTION IN DIESEL CONSUMPTION  
ENERGY MONITORING AS STANDARD IN CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS  
DIVERSIFICATION TOWARD RENEWABLE SOURCES

MEASURE CONTRACTOR AND ARTIST TRAVEL  
INCREASE CAR OCCUPANCY AND USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT  
CONSIDER CARBON BALANCING INITIATIVES TO RECOGNISE UNAVOIDABLE EMISSIONS

SOURCE FOOD AS LOCALLY AS POSSIBLE and ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS BASED ON CREDIBLE CERTIFICATIONS  
REDUCE FOOD WASTE and MEAT CONSUMPTION

(Powerful Thinking, 2021)

Actions you can take right now on the road to recovery for positive impact land system based festivals, include: sharing the Festival Vision:2025 pledge with your local festival producers, and supporting festivals mentioned on [www.agreenerfestival.com](http://www.agreenerfestival.com)

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