

Arts & Entertainment Venue Energy Health Check

A Practical Self-Assessment for Theatres, Music Venues, Galleries, Museums & Creative Spaces

Energy costs remain one of the largest operational expenses for arts and cultural organisations.

Whether you operate a theatre, live music venue, gallery, museum, arts centre or community performance space, understanding where energy is being consumed is the first step towards reducing costs, improving sustainability and protecting your organisation's future.



At Indigo Swan, we want to work with you as your trusted energy partner. So we've created this quick checklist to help you understand your current situation and what the next steps could look like.

Use this simple checklist to assess your venue. If you identify multiple opportunities for improvement, Indigo Swan can help you develop a tailored energy reduction plan, uncover savings and support your net zero ambitions.

Take time to think about each area of your venue and answer each question as accurately as possible to understand your baseline for sustainability and energy management.

At the end of the checklist you'll find a score card that will help you understand your position and how to progress.



Energy Monitoring & Data

- ☐ Do you regularly review electricity and gas consumption?
- ☐ Can you identify periods when the building is using energy despite being unoccupied?
- ☐ Are you monitoring half-hourly data or smart meter information?

Opportunity: Many venues discover significant overnight and weekend energy consumption that can often be reduced with simple operational changes.

Heating Controls & Scheduling

- ☐ Are heating systems programmed to match actual occupancy and event schedules?
- ☐ Is heating reduced in unused areas such as storage rooms, backstage spaces or workshops?
- ☐ Are thermostat settings consistent throughout the building?

Opportunity: Incorrect heating schedules are one of the biggest causes of wasted energy in arts venues.

Ventilation & Air Conditioning

- ☐ Is ventilation operating only when required?
- ☐ Are HVAC systems regularly maintained?
- ☐ Is there simultaneous heating and cooling occurring within the same area?

Opportunity: Ventilation and cooling systems can account for a large proportion of venue energy use, particularly in performance spaces.

Auditorium & Venue Lighting

- ☐ Have traditional lamps been upgraded to LED technology?
- ☐ Are occupancy sensors used in low-traffic areas?
- ☐ Are house lights, corridor lights and rehearsal spaces switched off when not in use?

Opportunity: LED upgrades can reduce lighting energy consumption by up to 70–80% in some applications.



Stage & Production Lighting

- ☐ Have older tungsten or halogen stage fixtures been replaced where practical?
- ☐ Are lighting rigs reviewed regularly for efficiency?
- ☐ Are rehearsal and technical sessions using full production lighting only when necessary?

Opportunity: Production lighting can be one of the largest electricity consumers within a performing arts venue.

Technical & Audio Equipment

- ☐ Are sound, AV and control systems powered down between events?
- ☐ Do equipment racks utilise energy-saving settings where available?
- ☐ Is equipment regularly maintained to operate efficiently?

Opportunity: Reducing idle equipment loads can provide substantial year-round savings.

Building Fabric & Insulation

- ☐ Are roofs, walls and ceilings adequately insulated?
- ☐ Are draughts evident around doors, windows or loading bays?
- ☐ Are backstage and workshop areas losing heat unnecessarily?

Opportunity: Improving insulation reduces heating demand and increases occupant comfort.

Doors, Loading Areas & Air Leakage

- ☐ Do external doors close properly?
- ☐ Are loading doors left open for extended periods?
- ☐ Are entrance lobbies helping to reduce heat loss?

Opportunity: Frequent air leakage is common in busy venues and can significantly increase heating costs.



Front of House Operations

- ☐ Are bars, cafés and hospitality areas optimised for energy efficiency?
- ☐ Are refrigeration units maintained and cleaned regularly?
- ☐ Are equipment operating hours aligned with event schedules?

Opportunity: Hospitality areas often present quick-win opportunities for energy reduction.

Refrigeration & Catering Equipment

- ☐ Are fridges and freezers modern and energy efficient?
- ☐ Are door seals in good condition?
- ☐ Is equipment located away from heat sources?

Opportunity: Poorly maintained refrigeration equipment can use considerably more energy than necessary.

Staff & Volunteer Engagement

- ☐ Do employees understand your energy-saving objectives?
- ☐ Is energy awareness included in induction training?
- ☐ Are responsibilities clearly assigned?

Opportunity: Behavioural changes often deliver savings without requiring capital investment.

Renewable Energy & Low Carbon Technologies

- ☐ Have you explored solar PV, battery storage or heat pumps?
- ☐ Do you know your site's maximum electricity demand?
- ☐ Are renewable opportunities regularly reviewed?

Opportunity: Renewable technologies can reduce both costs and carbon emissions over the long term.



Energy Strategy & Governance

- ☐ Do you have a formal energy reduction target?
- ☐ Is energy performance reviewed by leadership teams?
- ☐ Do you have an Energy Champion or sustainability group?

Opportunity: Organisations with clear ownership and targets typically achieve greater reductions in energy consumption.

Event & Production Planning

- ☐ Is energy efficiency considered when planning productions and events?
- ☐ Are power requirements reviewed before events?
- ☐ Can equipment setup and operating periods be reduced?

Opportunity: Integrating energy management into production planning creates savings without affecting audience experience.

Your Results

Add up all your ticked boxes and take a look at our score card below.

11+

Congratulations! It looks like you've got sustainability under control, but there's always more that can be done!

6 - 10

You're on the right track, with some tailored support you'd definitely see some benefits!

0-5

Hmm, you might need some help. Acknowledgement is the first step, contacting an energy expert is the next.



How Indigo Swan Can Help

At Indigo Swan, we work with theatres, music venues, museums, galleries and cultural organisations to:

- Conduct detailed energy audits
- Analyse energy consumption data
- Identify quick win savings opportunities
- Develop energy reduction strategies
- Support Net Zero and sustainability initiatives
- Review contracts and energy purchasing arrangements
- Explore renewable energy and low-carbon solutions

Every venue is different. A professional energy review can often reveal savings that are hidden in day to day operations.

Get in touch



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Helping arts organisations reduce costs, improve sustainability and focus more resources on delivering exceptional cultural experiences.

