



présente le
**FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL
DE JAZZ
DE MONTREAL**

en collaboration avec
RioTinto



SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Festival International de Jazz de Montréal (the FIJM or the Festival) implement sustainable development initiatives to minimize its environmental impact while maximizing its positive influence on society and the local economy. Demonstrating that it's possible to host hundreds of thousands of festivalgoers while minimizing its environmental footprint, the Festival aims to be a model of eco-responsibility.

In 2023 and 2024, the Festival received Level 2 certification under the BNQ 9700-253 standard for Responsible Event Management, proving the seriousness of its commitment and approach.

Following recent updates to the certification program, this year's goal is to continue the initiatives from 2024 while further improving the actions taken to make the Festival even more environmentally and socially responsible. The team is actively working to enhance the effectiveness of its initiatives, constantly exploring innovative solutions to improve the performance of its actions.

Environmental initiatives

Concerned with preserving the environment, now and for future generations, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal makes it its duty to reduce its ecological footprint during the event. To this end, the Festival undertakes a number of sustainable development initiatives, paying particular attention to the management of residual materials and responsible, local sourcing.

Waste management

- A sorting system with 3 to 5 streams (compost, recycling, returnable containers, reusable cups, and ultimate waste) is available on-site to facilitate preliminary sorting of materials by festival-goers;
- A second visual sorting of waste bags is carried out by the site maintenance teams to prevent contamination of the different material streams. The recycling is sorted one last time at an external sorting center in order to increase the diversion rate of materials ;
- A Green Brigade, in collaboration with [Enuf](#), is present on-site near the sorting stations to assist and educate festival-goers on proper waste sorting. In 2024, more than 14,000 interactions on sorting were recorded between festival-goers and the Green Brigade ;
- Three-stream or more sorting stations are available in backstage areas and production offices to ensure better recovery of materials (compost, recycling, paper, cans, waste, etc.) ;
- Ashtrays are placed near sorting stations for the responsible disposal of cigarette butts. Pocket ashtrays are also distributed free of charge to employees ;
- In 2024, the performance report revealed that only 46g of waste were generated per festival-goer per day. The diversion rate reached 55%. For 2025, the objective is to reduce waste to 40g per festival-goer per day, and to increase the diversion rate to 60%.

Reuse and upcycling of materials

- A mini ecocenter is set up directly on the Festival site for the recovery of specific materials (batteries, paint, wood, metals, cardboard, plastic, zip ties, etc.) in collaboration with [MultiRecycle](#) ;
- Cigarette butts are collected using urban ashtrays installed near the sorting stations on-site. The butts are gathered and repurposed through [Mégot Zéro - Sollicité](#) program. In 2024, nearly 13,500 cigarette butts were successfully recovered and repurposed ;
- Sorting and recovery of returnable containers: a dedicated team opens recycling bags to extract returnable containers such as cans and plastic bottles, which are then sent to an external provider for recovery and repurposing ;
- Most of the set pieces are reused from one edition to the next, and across festivals within the Group. Elements that cannot be reused are either donated to organizations for a second life or recycled through specialized recycling companies ;
- Nearly all the tools required for the setup and takedown of the Festival's infrastructure are either rented or reused ;
- Lost items that are unclaimed and in good condition are given to the social economy organization [Renaissance](#) ;
- Reuse of accreditation lanyards from previous editions for the production teams, thus avoiding the excessive ordering of new lanyards ;
- For the second consecutive year, surplus food will be donated to [La Tablee des chefs](#) through their food recovery program. In 2024, more than 115 kg of surplus were redistributed.

Energy and water

- Use of energy-efficient LED bulbs throughout most of the site ;
- Use of hydroelectric power throughout the entire site ;
- Use of solar energy for lighting certain signs and restrooms ;
- Reduction of lighting (day and night) to minimize electricity consumption and reduce light pollution ;
- Water dispensers have been added at several strategic locations on the site to encourage people to refill their reusable water bottles, thereby reducing the presence of single-use plastic bottles on the site. In 2024, nearly 37,800 single-use plastic bottles were avoided ;
- Reduction of single-use water bottle usage by opting for water dispensers in production offices and backstage areas.

Food and beverage

- Elimination of single-use beverage containers for all Festival concessions. Drinks at the concessions are served in reusable Ecocup-style glasses. The glasses are cleaned on-site using dishwasher containers and returned to circulation to promote their reuse ;
- Condiment dispensers are available to replace individual portions ;
- Use of compostable containers throughout the site for food service ;
- Food and beverages are primarily available in bulk or in large formats in the artist lounges and backstage areas ;
- Food surpluses are redistributed through [La Tablee des chefs](#) to organizations that assist people in need, such as Mission Old Brewery and Mission Bon Accueil ;
- The Festival implements an effective purchasing and sourcing strategy to accurately assess the number of products to purchase, without overloading inventories. This strategy results in better control and management of stock turnover.

Suppliers and Procurement

- Significant reduction in paper usage in favor of electronic files, particularly for promotional materials, press relations, and administrative processes ;
- Elimination of printed programming catalogs in favor of digital communication channels: mobile app, website, and social media ;
- Some menus displayed in the Festival's restaurants are replaced by screens ;
- The quantity of products distributed by sponsors during the event is controlled to reduce waste. The event's sponsorship team ensures the distribution of printed communication materials is limited and encourages sponsors to choose products with a low environmental impact and minimal packaging ;
- Priority is given to suppliers located near the festival and with commitments aligned with sustainable development. In 2024, the performance report revealed that 95% of the festival's suppliers were within a 100 km radius, and 19% of them had commitments to sustainable development ;
- Being located on an open site in the city center, it is difficult to control what comes from outside the site. However, a reduction aimed at the complete elimination of single-use products is underway and will continue in future editions.

Transportation

- The use of eco-friendly and sustainable modes of transportation to get to the Festival is recommended on the event's website ;

- More than 340 secure and free bike parking spaces are available for festival-goers who wish to come to the Festival by bicycle ;
- In 2024, the performance report revealed that over 85% of attendees traveled to the festival site using active or sustainable modes of transportation (56.6% by public transit, 6% by bicycle, 22.4% on foot and 0.2% through carpooling).

Community engagement

The Festival is actively committed to promoting inclusion and equity through various social initiatives. It also supports local communities by fostering access to culture for all. Key actions include job creation for youth and underrepresented groups, as well as accessibility programs to make the event more inclusive. The Festival also collaborates with social enterprises and local organizations to promote a fair economy. These initiatives aim to provide a rich and meaningful cultural experience for all communities.

Accessibility

In 2024, the Festival was certified as a fully accessible site for people with reduced mobility by the organization [Kéroul](#). Among the adapted services offered on-site to facilitate movement for individuals with reduced mobility, you will find :

- Multiple access ramps and cable covers throughout the site ;
- Several reduced mobility platforms available with reservation ;
- Accessible pathways to reach the stages ;
- Availability of accessible restrooms ;
- On-site signage and site map indicating accessible areas and the drop-off zone for people with reduced mobility ;
- Installation of adapted counters in several concessions on site ;
- Several adapted picnic tables are installed on-site to facilitate their use by festival-goers in wheelchairs ;
- Wheelchairs available at the customer service kiosk ;
- Sensory kits for autistic guests attending the festival ;
- Service dogs (with a valid certificate) are allowed on the site ;
- The adapted transportation area is located close to the Festival site.

Community engagement

- The Festival's organization participates in informational meetings bringing together merchants, partners, and residents of the Quartier des spectacles ;
- Participation of certain members of the Festival's production team in a mentorship program with Recyc-Québec and inter-festival training on eco-responsible actions (initiatives led by Événements Attraction Québec, Tourisme Montréal, and the Conseil Québécois des Événements Écoresponsables) ;

- Collaboration with several social economy organizations :
 - [La Tablée des chefs](#), which redistributes surplus food to people in need and fights against food insecurity ;
 - [Renaissance](#), a non-profit organization that helps thousands of individuals reintegrate into the job market while contributing to environmental sustainability by diverting clothing and household items from landfills ;
 - [Textil'Art](#), a non-profit school-business for professional and social integration that recovers t-shirts and uniforms from previous editions' teams with the goal of recycling them into industrial rags.

Social and economic development

- A large part of the Festival's programming is offered free of charge in order to make francophone music more accessible to audiences from all socio-economic backgrounds ;
- Through its many components, the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal highlight the talent of artists from various creative fields, many of whom are from Quebec. Whether musicians, singers, or visual artists, the Festival showcases Quebec's diverse artistic talents. By bringing together a wide range of contributors for its production, it generates economic benefits for the arts community and, by extension, contributes to the province's economy ;
- The Festival supports local expertise by working with skilled personnel from the Montreal area, including technical, logistical, and site planning providers. In fact, 95% of the Festival's suppliers—head offices and branches—are located within a 100 km radius.

Sustainable hiring practices

In terms of workforce, the Festival adheres to pay equity standards and plays a significant role in creating and maintaining jobs by focusing on :

- High-quality permanent jobs with a competitive benefits program ;
- The absence of reliance on volunteer work ;
- Hiring students and interns to allow them to explore the event production field ;
- Providing professional development opportunities for individuals facing chronic employment barriers ;
- Continuous training for its employees ;
- Specialization and experience development of its workforce (technical, operations management, logistics).

To promote inclusion and diversity in the recruitment and selection process, the organization has implemented the following actions :

- Review of the terminology used in job postings to promote inclusion and diversity ;
- Careful tracking of demographic data related to diversity ;

- Implementation of informal practices to ensure representation of individuals from minority groups in candidate pools ;
- Formation of a committee dedicated to inclusion and diversity ;
- Annual training on best practices in diversity and inclusion.

Healthy and respectful work environment

The Festival provides training for its teams to ensure a healthy, safe, and respectful workplace, including the following :

- Training on the prevention of psychological and sexual harassment (for both permanent and temporary event employees): The goal is to raise awareness among employees about best practices to promote a healthy work environment free from any form of harassment ;
- Training on managing issues related to homelessness on the festival site : provided by [SDS](#) to members of the production, reception, and security teams, in order to properly equip them to handle these situations.
- RESPECT Workplace Training (for permanent employees): This online training enables employees to identify and prevent behaviors such as bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination, and encourages them to take steps toward eliminating the culture of silence.

Security

- A mobile intervention team from [GRIP/Hirondelles](#) is present during the Festival to raise awareness, prevent, and address various forms of sexual assault and harassment against women and marginalized individuals ;
- Sufficient numbers of welcome and security agents are present to assist festival-goers and ensure their safety ;
- During operating hours, first aid-trained patrollers are on-site to ensure public safety and respond quickly to requests. A first aid team is also present to ensure public safety and address emergencies promptly ;
- Concrete blocks are installed at the site entrances to prevent vehicle access, except for those authorized by the Festival, reinforcing security measures against ram-raiding vehicles ;
- A systematic bag check is conducted for festival-goers, guests, and staff at the site entrance ;
- Additional lighting is installed in the darker areas of the site ;
- Emergency security measures have been established in collaboration with the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal - SPVM and the Montréal fire department - SIM ;
- An emergency measures plan (EMP) is updated and communicated to the relevant teams. This plan covers all possible situations at an outdoor site and the actions to be taken if such situations arise. The plan includes a heatwave plan (if needed) ;

- Implementation of a heatwave plan (as needed): misting stations, extended break times for employees, additional first aid staff, etc ;
- All installation plans are approved by an engineer prior to the event, who then issues a Certificate of Structural Integrity and Compliance for the Festival's installations. An electrical audit is also conducted on all electrical installations on site.
- Informational meetings and training sessions on emergency measures are provided to all employees responsible for on-site teams.
- During operating hours, a communications base (or a supervisor during low-traffic periods) is always active, ensuring effective communication with all departments and external stakeholders.
- A series of training sessions is conducted ahead of the event to ensure that dispatchers can respond appropriately to all types of situations, including emergencies.
- Each security staff post is equipped with a radio, allowing for quick communication with the communications base or the security supervisor.
- Security perimeters are established during both the setup and teardown phases of the installations.