

# Sustainability Toolkit 2023

## for Artists' Residencies



The Nordic Alliance of  
Artists' Residencies on Climate Action



# GETTING STARTED



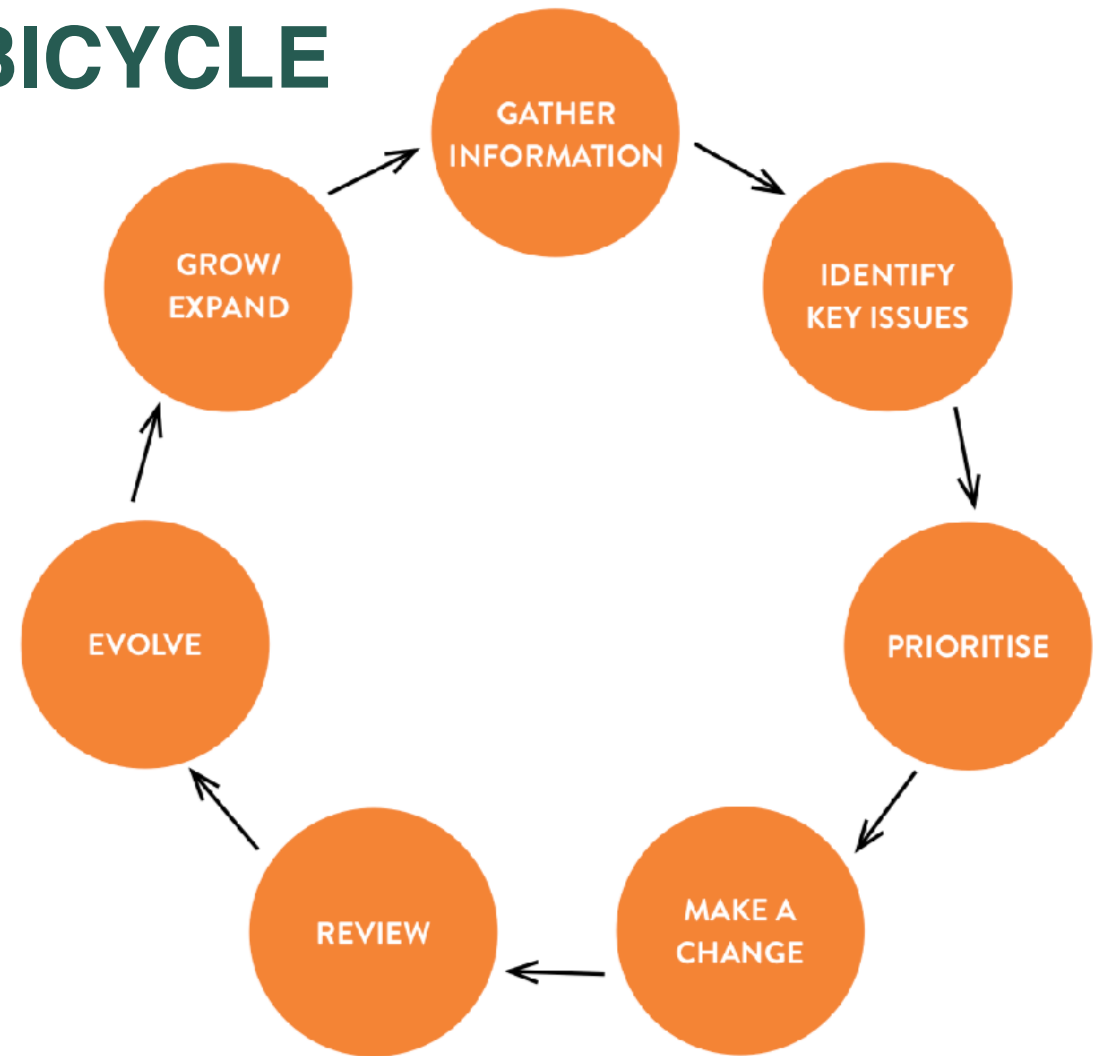
# GETTING STARTED

1. Define your values and your goals
2. Engage your team
3. Gather information
4. Identify key issues
5. Prioritise
6. Make a change



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & ACTION PLANS – JULIE'S BICYCLE

Environmental policy and action plans are an ongoing, iterative process that should be monitored and adjusted as needed





# DEFINE YOUR VALUES AND GOALS

- The key for success is having a **mandate** and support for the sustainability work from the **senior management**.
- Consider hiring an **eco-coordinator** to guide you through the process (or hire a part time eco-coordinator in partnership with another arts organisation).
- Develop sustainable residency actions by **testing, experimenting and learning** together.
- **Ecologically-sustainable operating models** should be developed as an integral part of the residency operations.
- The long-term goal of the sustainability work should be a **holistic** understanding of ecological sustainability and a **paradigm change** within organisational operations.
- To reach these goals, the residency needs to have a **committed team** who shares the core values and goals of the programme.



# ENGAGE YOUR TEAM

- Allocate enough **resources for staff** to integrate sustainability work into their everyday work: working time, training & budget.
- Support **continuous learning**: organise talks and discussion days for staff and the artists in residence.
- Organise **ecological workshops** with staff to deepen their knowledge of ecological issues and to gain mutual understanding of the shared values and the goals of sustainability work.
- Encourage staff to freely participate in **webinars and sustainability training** of their own choice.
- Recognise the **existing knowledge** within staff – not all the expertise needs to be hired outside of the organisation.



# ENGAGE YOUR TEAM

- The change of the institution **starts from inside**: the programme is as strong as the members of staff who least believes in the work you do.
- **Ongoing discussions** and understanding of your shared goals are important: everyone needs to be able to **commit** to the core principles of your sustainability work.
- Example: adhering to "workplace vegan" and committing to shared values at work – understanding and **contributing to a shared goal** (*i.e. only plant-based food is offered at the residency in order to reduce CO2 emissions*)



# ENGAGE YOUR TEAM

## RECOMMENDED READING:

[Julie's Bicycle Practical Guide:  
Team Engagement](#)



# GATHER INFORMATION

## ESSENTIAL READING:

[Julie's Bicycle: Environmental Policy and Action Plans: An Overview](#)

### Guides you through:

- > How to develop an environmental policy
- > How to develop an environmental action plan
- > How to embed change
- ✓ Includes an extensive list of resources and guides



# GATHER INFORMATION: CALCULATE YOUR CO2 FOOTPRINT

- Residency organisations should **calculate their carbon footprint**, analyse the results and key contributors, and then take ambitious measures to **reduce their emissions**.
- Calculating your CO2 footprint is a useful first step, but the actual **environmental work** starts only after that.

# CO2 CALCULATORS

- [Julie's Bicycle Green Tools](#) (CO2 calculator)
- [GCC Carbon Calculator](#) (Gallery Climate Coalition's calculator tool)
- [Creative Green Tools Denmark](#) (targeted at the Danish arts and culture sector, developed in collaboration with Julie's Bicycle)
- [EcoPassenger](#) (for comparing CO2 emissions between different modes of travel)



*"Climate change endangers the well-being of people and the planet. **Delayed action** risks triggering impacts of climate change **so catastrophic** our world will become unrecognizable.*

***The next few years** offer a narrow window to realize a sustainable, livable future for all.*

*Changing course will require immediate, ambitious and concerted efforts to **slash emissions, build resilience, conserve ecosystems**, and dramatically increase finance for adaptation and addressing loss and damage."*

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, 2022

A blue rectangular road sign with white text and a small circular icon on the left. The sign is mounted on two metal poles. The background of the entire image is a snowy, arctic landscape with mountains in the distance and a clear blue sky.

Longyearbyen

# IDENTIFY KEY ISSUES



# ENERGY

1. Switch to renewable energy
2. Reduce energy use
3. Support the development and production of sustainable energy

- Switching to **renewable energy** and prioritizing actions that **reduce emissions** are essential to implementing environmental program that follows 1.5°C pathway, the goal set by the Paris Agreement.
- Setting **net zero** targets, protecting **biodiversity** and addressing the **overconsumption** of natural resources should be at the heart of the sustainability work of each residency organization.

# ENERGY: RECOMMENDED READING

**Mustarinda Artist Residency:  
A holistic approach to  
energy system planning:**

[Earth, wind, but not much fire –  
the low-emission energy  
system of Mustarinda house](#)





# SLOW TRAVEL – FACTS

- Train travel emits around **66 to 80 percent less carbon** than planes and cars. For instance, travelling by plane from London to Paris emits around 122 kilograms of carbon dioxide per passenger, compared with 48 kilograms by car and only 8.3 kilograms by train.  
**EcoPassenger** is a useful tool for comparing the emissions of plane travel and train travel in Europe and it assist you to choose the most ecological means of transport: [ecopassenger.org](https://ecopassenger.org)
- The amount of CO2 emission of a train journey depends whether the train is fuelled by **diesel or electricity**, and whether the electricity is coal-powered or powered by renewables.
- Currently, around **50 percent of trains in Europe are now run on electricity**. Switzerland has the highest percentage (100%) of electric trains, whereas only 5.3 % of trains in Ireland run on electricity (statista.com).

## Travel Times (in hours)

Travel times are subject to changes and updates. Search for train times and travel information with our Rail Planner app or check out the timetable of the respective train carrier.



## ARTIST & STAFF TRAVEL

- Slow travel routes within mainland Europe
- Planning your travel
- Useful links

Map: [www.eurail.com](http://www.eurail.com)



## SLOW TRAVEL – FUTURE

- European **overnight train connections** are improving rapidly and new routes are being added as train companies are investing in new sleeping cars after a steep decline in European night train network since 2016.
- The European night train network is expanding and new train cars are being introduced to some routes.
- European night train network map in 2023: <https://back-on-track.eu/night-train-map/>



# PLANNING YOUR TRAVEL

- The main rail routes in mainland Europe are presented in this [map](#). When you start planning your route, websites [www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com), [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com), [www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com) and [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) help you to find the best connections and tickets between big European cities.
- If you are planning early and know the exact dates of your travel, purchasing single tickets directly via [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com) or from national rail companies' websites can be the most affordable option. If you plan you travels further ahead and want to reserve flexibility in your travel dates, an Interrail pass is a great option and can save you money. Interrail passes vary from 4 day passes to multi-month passes, more info can be found [here](#).
- When travelling with an Interrail pass, you can book your seat reservations [www.eurail.com/en/book-reservations#](http://www.eurail.com/en/book-reservations#) or, in most cases, directly through the rail companies' websites.

# RAIL COMPANIES WEBSITES FOR BOOKING TICKETS

- [www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com) (connections in Germany and all over Europe)
- [www.sj.se](http://www.sj.se) (Stockholm-Malmö/Copenhagen)
- [www.nightjet.com/en](http://www.nightjet.com/en) (ÖBB NightJet)
- [www.dsb.dk/en](http://www.dsb.dk/en) (Copenhagen-Hamburg)
- [www.lner.co.uk](http://www.lner.co.uk) (London-Glasgow)
- [www.sleeper.scot](http://www.sleeper.scot) (Caledonian Sleeper, London-Garelochhead)

# SUPPORT FOR SLOW TRAVEL

- By setting up support mechanisms like [Saari Residence's slow travel support](#), residencies can provide artists and staff a testing ground for low-carbon modes of travel.
- Residencies can facilitate the transition to more sustainable modes of travel by **providing information about routes** and supporting artists in planning and booking their travels. Additional **travel grants** makes slow travel a more attractive option and available for everyone. Travel time to residence should be considered as part of the residency period, as a slow entry to residency period.
- In order to also support **slow travel for staff**, travel time should be considered as working time and there needs to be a clear policy in place for per diems for the travel days (as slow travel requires more time compared to flying). Working on trains is easy and long-distance trains most often offer peaceful time to focus on work without disruptions. It is good to note, however, that WiFi connections aren't always reliable on all trains and internet connection speed varies greatly between different trains and countries.



# SLOW TRAVEL: USEFUL LINKS

- HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme’s information pack about slow travel and connections to/from Finland: [www.hiap.fi/ecotravel](http://www.hiap.fi/ecotravel)
- [EcoPassenger](#) – for calculating the CO2 emissions of your travel
- For more info about travelling via land, local Facebook groups for slow travel are great sources of information (use the search tool to find answers for your questions concerning where to book your tickets and when, best routes and other tips for travelling via land).
  - In Swedish: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tagsemester/>
  - In Finnish: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/867083580048037>
- [DB Navigator app](#) gives you real time information about train arrival and departure times, departure platforms, expected delays, construction works and interruptions on the route.

# TRANSPORT

## STAFF TRAVEL AND DELIVERY SERVICES:

Most of the NAARCA partners are located in rural areas, and depend heavily on private car use. Recommended reading on how to reduce fossil fuel dependency and CO2 emissions in staff travel, daily commuting and delivery services: [Julie's Bicycle's Practical Guide: Business Travel, Commuting and Delivery Services](#)

## AUDIENCE TRAVEL:

### [Julie's Bicycle Practical Guide: Audience Travel](#)

Relevant especially to audience intensive sectors (festivals, events etc.) where audience travel forms a significant part of the CO2 footprint

# TRANSPORT: AUDIENCE TRAVEL

## REDUCE AUDIENCE CO2 FOOTPRINT

- Encourage **public transport** use (bundle tickets including public transport / organise a shuttle bus transportation to your event).
- Support **walking and cycling** (choose locations that are easily accessible by bike and by foot, provide enough safe bike parking spaces).
- Encourage a **higher car occupancy** (provide info about car sharing services).

## COMMUNICATE DIFFERENTLY

- Present sustainable forms of travel as first choice, flying and other CO2-intensive forms of travel as last option.





# DIGITAL FOOTPRINT - FACTS

- A substantial share of the global digital footprint is caused by **video streaming** due to large data sizes of videos.
- In comparison, using a search engine or sending text-only emails has a **minor impact**.
- It is difficult to estimate precisely how large the global digital CO2 emissions are, but various studies estimate them to be between **2.3 – 3.7 percent of global CO2 emissions**, equivalent to the emissions of the entire aviation industry.

Source: [theshiftproject.org](https://theshiftproject.org)

# HOW TO REDUCE YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

- **Reduce streaming** – video streaming causes approximately 75 percent of global data traffic. By comparison, downloading is much less energy-intensive.
- Play songs as **audio files** rather than streaming them as a video on YouTube or watch the video at a lower resolution.
- **Use devices for longer** and dispose of old devices correctly.
- **Empty your e-mail box regularly** to reduce data storage.
- **Store data locally**, use the cloud as little as possible (applies to private individuals, for companies with server structure "on premise" rather vice versa).

Source: [www.myclimate.org](http://www.myclimate.org)

# DIGITAL FOOTPRINT – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Julie's Bicycle: Environmental Sustainability in the Digital Age of Culture](#)
- [The Networked Condition: Environmental Impacts of Digital Cultural Production](#)
- [IHME Helsinki: The digital carbon footprint of an artwork](#)



# FOOD

Approximately a third of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions is linked to food.

The largest share of food-related greenhouse gases comes from agriculture and land-use, including:

- Methane from cattle's digestive process
- Nitrous oxide from fertilizers used for crop production
- Carbon dioxide from cutting down forests for the expansion of farmland
- Other agricultural emissions from manure management, rice cultivation, burning of crop residues, and the use of fuel on farms

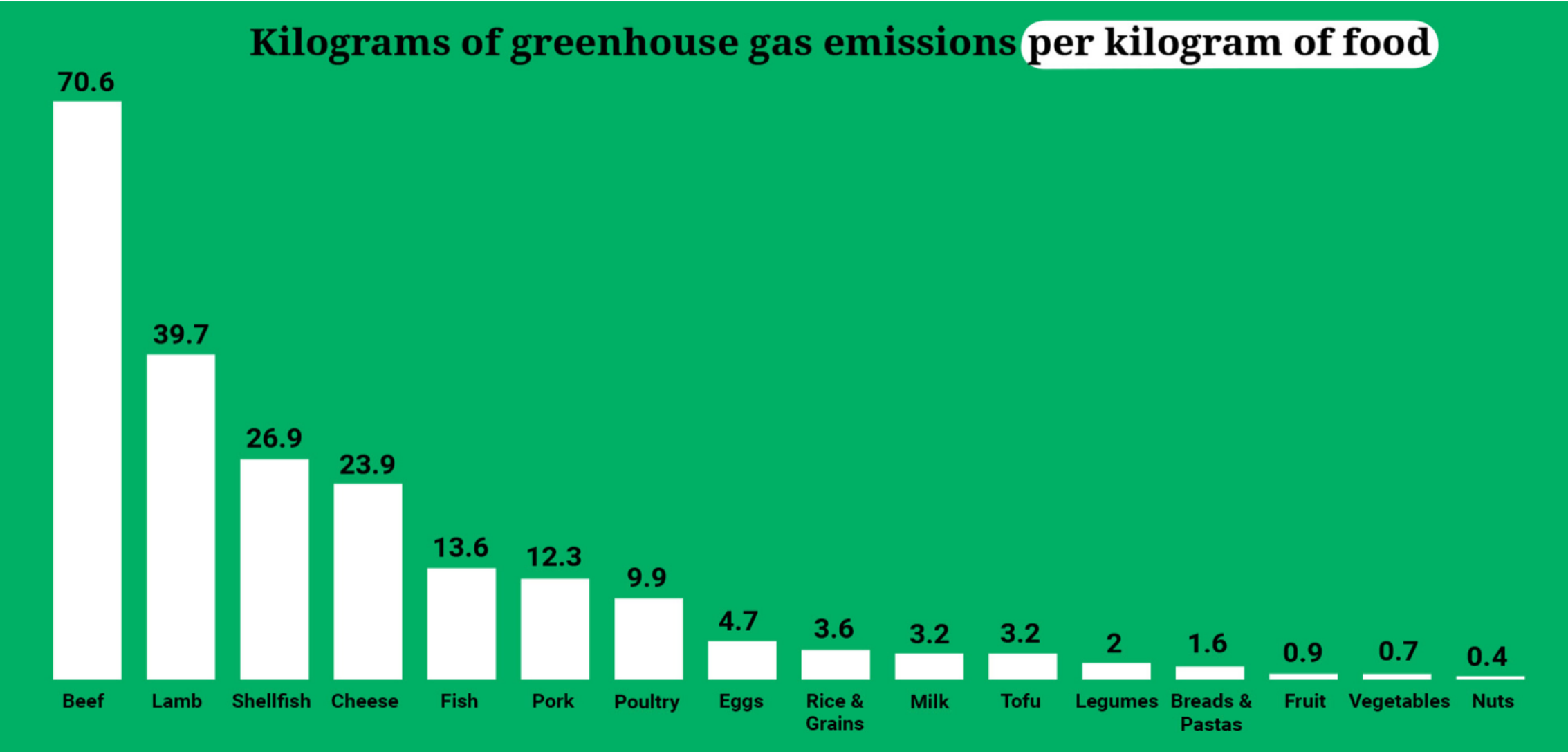
# FOOD

A much smaller share of the greenhouse gas emissions of food are caused by:

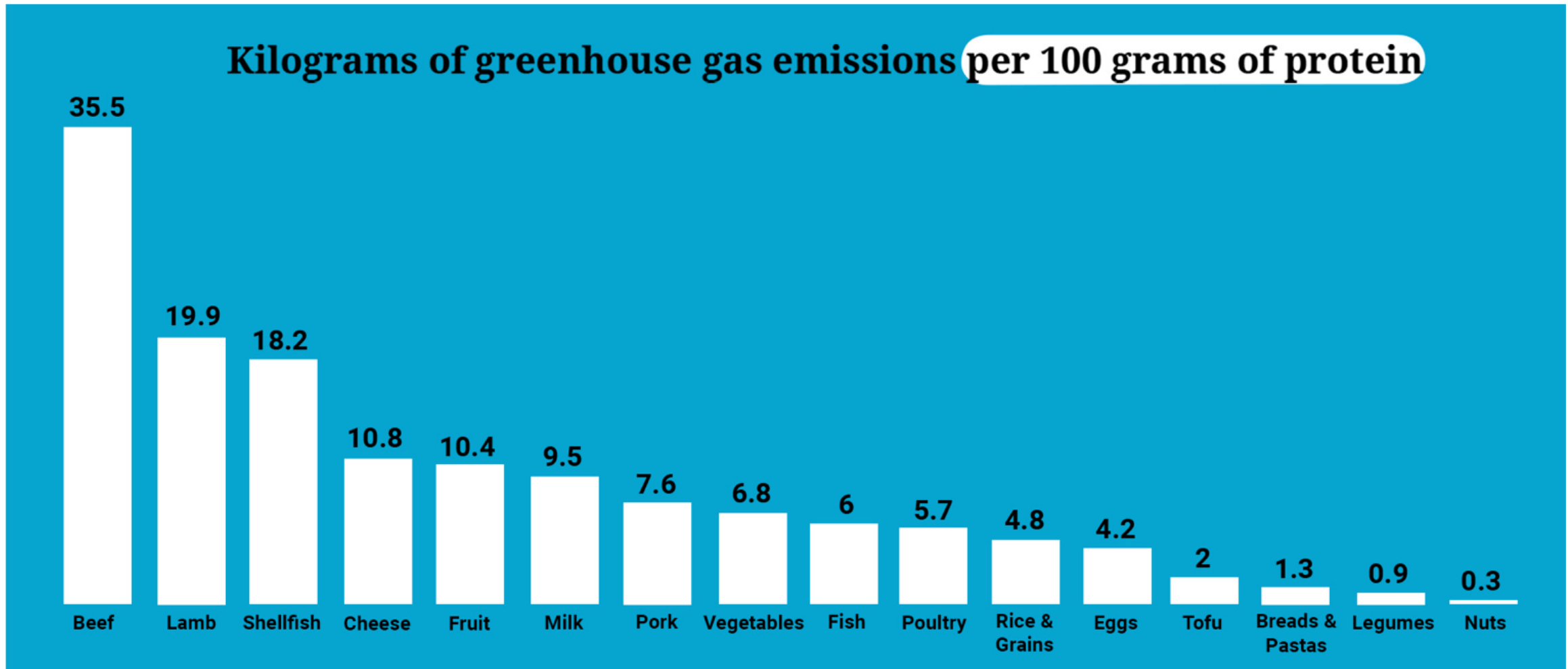
- Refrigeration and transport of food
- Industrial processes such as the production of paper and aluminum for packaging
- The management of food waste



*Switching to a plant-based diet is the most efficient way to cut your CO2 emissions: packaging, transport and food waste have much smaller reduction potential.*



<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/food>



<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/food>



# PLANT-BASED FOOD AS A DRIVER FOR CHANGE

## SAARI RESIDENCE

- 🌱 Residency garden
- 🌱 Introducing REKO (local farmers' market) to residency artists
- 🌱 Vegan Tuesday lunches by chef Sami Tallberg

## COVE PARK

- 🌱 Unexpected Gardens project
- 🌱 Vegan Summer Dinner programme
- 🌱 Foraging workshops as part of local engagement programme

## SKAFTFELL

- 🌱 Supporting local organic farming
- 🌱 Gardening projects for local children

## ARCTICA SVALBARD

- 🌱 Future Community Gardens project
- 🌱 First Friday Coffee Club



# GROW – EXPAND



# GROW – EXPAND



Review

Evolve

**Grow – Expand**

*Sustainability work should be based on a principle of continuous improvement.*



## [Recommended check-list for art organisations' sustainability work](#)

(Alma Heikkilä, Pauliina Leikas and Antti Majava, Mustarinda, 2017)

# GROW – EXPAND: NEW NORDIC INITIATIVES

[Green Producers Tool](#), developed by a Norwegian member of the IPCC panel in collaboration with the television, film, festival and performing arts sector in Norway - useful for all types of events, ranging from webinars to large conferences.

## [Green Roadmap for Sustainable Cultural Experiences in the Nordic Region](#)

- Part of the program "Sustainable lifestyle in the Nordic Region" under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Secretariat for the work: Nordic House in the Faroe Islands
- The roadmap will provide tools for practical climate and sustainability work in the sector and is mainly aimed at cultural institutions in the Nordic region
- The roadmap will contribute to a concrete change in practice at cultural institutions in the Nordic region, and in measurable reductions in cultural institutions' climate footprint.
- Launch in Autumn 2023



# GROW – EXPAND: NEW NORDIC INITIATIVES

## Bæredygtigt Kulturliv NU

- Leads the green transition within the whole cultural sector in Denmark.
- In Autumn 2022, Danish Ministry of Culture granted Bæredygtigt Kulturliv NU 2 million DKK for establishing a center for sustainable culture in Denmark.
- The association works to develop tools for recording sustainable development, including CO2 reduction.
- More than 40 cultural institutions, municipalities, festivals and organizations in Denmark use their knowledge hub and carbon calculator specifically designed to the cultural sector.
- Visit website here: [Bæredygtigt Kulturliv NU](https://baeredygtigt.kulturlivnu.dk/)



# INFLUENCE & MAKE CHANGE





# LEADING THE WAY

Residency organisations are agile, resilient and adaptable and best equipped to test out new, more sustainable ways to work, travel, and live.

Residency organisations can be leaders in the path towards systemic change, leading the way towards a carbon neutral future that also protects biodiversity.





# FACILITATE CHANGE

The biggest potential of residency organisations lies in demonstrating change and facilitating space for imagining different futures.

We need to encourage institutional funders to allow grants to be used for infrastructure in support of change and not just 'creative outputs' or programming. For example, setting up a Strategic Climate Fund, rather than purchasing carbon offsets.

Funders need to financially support organisations with climate action and adaptation strategies on local, national and global levels.





The background image shows a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a patterned short-sleeved shirt and light-colored cargo pants, standing on a rocky outcrop. She is looking out over a vast, calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river. In the distance, there are several small, forested islands. The sky is blue with some white and grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

# GO BEYOND



# PODCASTS

- [NAARCA: Testing Grounds](#)
- [Julie's Bicycle: The Colour Green](#)
- [Saari Residence: Reviving the Wild](#)
- [Julie's Bicycle: Green Heritage Futures](#)
- [For the Wild – An Anthology of the Anthropocene](#)
- [The Climate Pod](#)
- [No Stone Theatre: Seeds](#)



# NAARCA ECOLOGICAL LIBRARIES

## SAARI

*'The Saari Residence's Ecological Library, which residents are welcome to use, contains literature that offers different perspectives, and residents can explore the special characteristics of the surrounding area, forest issues, biodiversity, and climate change and environmental and animal philosophy.'*

## ARTICA

*'Artica Writings is a curated series of disparate texts relating to the polar regions and their global influence. Published throughout the year online in dual language, this series supports the annual event Artica Listens.'*

<https://www.articasvalbard.no/artica-writings>





# NAARCA ECO-COORDINATION



This toolkit was developed through NAARCA's Eco-Coordination programme. Jaana Eskola, NAARCA's Eco-coordinator carried out in-person and digital research visits and exchanges between all partners. The visits helped harness the potential for co-learning and sharing practises and methodologies, finding solutions to the common issues that residencies face in relation to the environmental crisis.