



**BECTU**

**Camera Branch**

**Working Sustainably within Camera**

[www.camerabran.ch.org.uk](http://www.camerabran.ch.org.uk)

# Introduction

This document was created by working camera assistants within the BECTU Camera Branch for guidance in developing sustainable practices within the industry. Crew members may use it as inspiration for building their own set of practices, which will naturally adapt between each job and team.

---

*The unique situation faced during the current Coronavirus crisis will undoubtedly pose both challenges and opportunities to shift our working practices to more sustainable methods. Priority should be given to all health and safety advice. However, we hope this document can begin to encourage both action and dialogue.*

---

When working within high pressured and demanding environments, we often find it difficult to change practices, attitudes and behaviors in relation to sustainability.

However, recent developments in understanding the Climate and Ecological crises has been fuelling change worldwide. It is vitally important that our industry take active steps to mitigate that risk through collective action.

Change can happen if we unite as crew. We must challenge out-dated and wasteful practices to encourage sustainability throughout the industry.

Attention should be given to share new responsibilities amongst all members of the camera team, in order to develop department-wide awareness and action.

# Pre-Production

Pre-Production is fundamental to establishing key sustainable practices. The procedures developed before entering the test room set the scene for the shoot ahead.

Before prep you can begin to discuss best practices for the job ahead. Share this document and attempt to create a Green Manifesto for the camera department. We suggest all members of the camera department complete albert training. <sup>\*AP4</sup>

## Discussions with Production Department

**Enquire** Make production aware that your camera team is acting to reduce it's environmental impact. Request information on production's environmental policies. <sup>\*AP2</sup>

**Consumables** Inform Production that you would like to order reusable items for your stores. The initial order may be slightly higher but subsequent top ups will be much lower. Alternatively if providing some personal reusable stores, initial order will be lower. <sup>\*AP1</sup>

**Digital Paperwork** Discuss possible workflow and distribution of digital paperwork for the job. <sup>\*AP1</sup>

**Dietary Choices** Meat production is a heavy emitter of greenhouse gases, and a huge drain on resources. Consider requesting vegetarian meals. Perhaps support meat-free days or similar initiatives to reduce the amount of meat purchased.

**Water Bottles** If production are supplying reusable water bottles, only order water bottles for crew members that need them.

**Blue Shoe Covers** If shoes covers are required to protect locations, ask if more durable alternatives to single-use plastic covers can be supplied. If not, maybe you can keep some clean indoor shoes on the camera truck.

**Recycling Bin** Request a recycling bin for your truck and enquire about the production's recycling procedures.

## Discussions with Rental House

**Enquire** Ask about the rental house's sustainable initiatives.

# Camera Prep

**Packaging** Discuss with the rental house whether they package their cables and filters etc in plastic or paper. If plastic is the norm, request kit is supplied unpackaged.

**Recycling** Request recycling bins for waste in prep room.

## Reduce

**Paperwork** Digitise your paper work. For example, digital report sheets, Ins & Outs, etc. Perhaps create a shared digital folder for ease of access for all members of the team. *\*API*

**Tape** Minimise excessive use of tape and plastic label makers by being more flexible about what truly requires waterproof and printed labels. Perhaps the boxes that will largely remain on the truck only need simple colour coding and stencil labels. Use non-plastic eco-tape or half-inch tape as much as possible.

**Personal Snack Packaging** Consider ordering items with minimal plastic packaging/in large quantities for long jobs. This can save time, money and is also great for running a 'Snack Kitty'.

**Mobile Charging Station** Devise a mobile charging station (perhaps a junior Magliner). Hook up to mains power as much as possible to reduce generator emissions and fuel consumption.

## Re-use

**Consumables** Order reusable consumables as much as possible. *\*API*

**Wet Weather Cover** Create reusable waterproof covers for cameras and accessories that will last for years by using glass tarps or another tough material. Buy long lasting shower caps for the job.

**Runners & Riders** Create a clear plastic pouch for your paper R&Rs to live in on the side of camera to save using waterproof tape every morning.

**Floor Marks** Clean and revive old floor marks with soap, water and fresh tape.

**Filter Tabs** Order relevant reusable filter tabs for the job to save more tape and time.

**Batteries** Order rechargeable batteries (AA, AAA, 9V) and chargers from stores. Dispose of any old non-rechargeable batteries responsibly.

# During Production

As shooting begins, the practices we have now formulated during prep lay a firm foundation for maintaining a sustainable on set environment.

The environmental values we hold at home should naturally follow into our working lives. We should not be led to feeling ashamed of making changes where needed to help tackle our climate and ecological crises. We must endeavour to share new ideas and practices amongst crew members and other departments.

---

**Travel** Carshare, cycling and use of public transport have many advantages such as saving expenditure, gaining health benefits and a large reduction in CO2 emissions. (Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions on a production) (Coronavirus dependent) <sup>\*AP3</sup>

**Reusable Containers & Cutlery** Bring with you reusable food containers, crockery, cutlery and drink containers. <sup>\*AP1</sup>

**Coffee** Consider buying filter coffee in bulk during prep. Single-use coffee pods have a high environmental cost and should be avoided entirely. Even recycling these products correctly can be harmful due to high energy usage and environmental impact of plastic production and recycling.

**Batteries** Prioritise mains power where possible. Take batteries off charge once they're at full capacity in order to reduce power consumption and decrease carbon emissions. Use the portable charging station developed in prep. Certain manufactures (e.g. PAG) allow users to set their batteries into sleep mode once fully charged. This will prevent self-discharge as well as using excess power on the charger.

**Dailies Crew** Inform all dailies in advance that your department is maintaining a sustainable working policy (perhaps share this document as a starting point). Share your digital paperwork so that they can familiarise themselves with any relevant apps and remind them to bring any reusable food/drinks containers and wet weather gear to minimise waste.

**Poly Bags** If occasionally giving poly bags to other departments as a favour, ask them to label it, clean and reuse it as much as possible in line with your department's low-waste initiatives.

# De-Rig

Once production is over, it is important to carry through your ethical practices whilst de-rigging and cleaning equipment at the rental house. On longer jobs, this may seem almost effortless after months of practice.

---

**Velcro** While in de-rig discuss with your rental house whether or not they would prefer velcro and Dual Lock to be left on, minimising waste.

**Cloths** Use washable non plastic cleaning cloths as much as possible to save wasting blue roll. Lens clothes can be re-used for monitors and similiar alternatives, you can wash these with your TBA's in a small cloth bag.

**Aerosols** Clean kit with soapy water to minimise use of toxic aerosols and chemicals where possible. Less excessive labelling in prep will be additionally rewarding at this point.

**Consumables** As well as unused consumables, keep (or give back to Production) any partially used consumables.

**Labels** Keep and re-use any particularly neat and hardy labels for other jobs where appropriate. (eg. reusing labels for 'Wide Primes', 'Tight Primes' and 'Viewfinder' for commercial jobs)

---

Through becoming a more sustainable industry we are doing our part in reducing the earth's carbon emissions and attempting to avoid the most devastating impacts of the climate and ecological crises.

This document was produced by active members of the camera department and will continue to evolve with our collective practices. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding this document, please contact us at [camerabranchclimate@gmail.com](mailto:camerabranchclimate@gmail.com)

# Appendix 1: kit and consumables part 1

Sustainability covers more than just environmental concerns and therefore we encourage purchasing items through local and independent business where ever possible.

## Reduce and Re-use In-depth

### Eco gaffer tape

<https://www.lemark.co.uk/gaffer-tape/magtape-ultra-matt-gaffer-tape>

(When ordering from Lemarks be sure to ask for all tape to be free from plastic packaging. We've known them to individually wrap each roll of eco tape in single use plastic, defeating the purpose. We also would like to note that they don't currently stock the colour Red, when making the order add a request for making this available in the future.)

### Rechargeable Torches

<https://peliproducts.co.uk/torches/rechargeable>

<https://www.ledlenser-store.co.uk/>

<https://www.mightybrighteurope.com/collections/book-lights>

### Rechargeable Batteries

<https://www.batterystation.co.uk/energizer-extreme-aa-hr6-2300mah-pre-charged-rechargeable-batteries-4-pack/> - Info: <https://energizer.eu/uk/blog/product/energizer-recharge-extreme-aa/>

<https://www.batterystation.co.uk/energizer-1-hour-battery-charger-inc-4-x-2300mah-aa-rechargeable-batteries/>

### Hand Warmers (Zippo or USB powered)

<https://www.healthandcare.co.uk/raynauds-disease-and-raynauds-syndrome/zippo-heatbank-6-rechargeable-hand-warmer-with-blister-packaging-6-hours.html>

### Protective shoe covers

<https://www.safetygloves.co.uk/yuleys-tpr-reusable-rubber-over-shoes-yxxgry>

<https://www.toolstation.com/yuleys-reusable-shoe-covers/p49986>

<https://shopshoeguard.co>

### Protective shoe cover alternatives

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B075GW3514/ref=pe\\_3187911\\_189395841\\_TE\\_dp\\_1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B075GW3514/ref=pe_3187911_189395841_TE_dp_1)

<https://www.allbirds.co.uk> - Indoor shoes, slightly costly though good wearing and comfortable

# Appendix 1: kit and consumables part 2

## Blue Star Eyepiece Covers

<https://www.panastoreonline.co.uk/eyepiece-covers/bluestar-eyepiece-cover-large-oval-psc-bsteye-lo-red-group>

Buy enough eyepiece covers for the week, rotate and wash these on a regular basis. Discuss possibilities of including these in laundry with wardrobe, if this isn't possible then these can be washed at home in a cotton bag with your clothes.

## Filter Tabs

<https://www.instagram.com/4130photography>

## Wet weather gear

<https://tinyurl.com/y3re2yav> - Osprey Waterproof Sacks 6l & 12l

<https://tinyurl.com/y3l5lncr> - Eastpak Raincover

<https://eu.patagonia.com/gb/en/product/backpack-rain-cover-15-30-liter-packs/48935.html>

<https://www.boots.com/boots-shower-cap-charcoal-10228067>

<https://www.paperdry.com/products/paperdry-waterproof-clipboard?variant=15499398709311>

<https://uk.iherb.com/pr/EcoTools-Shower-Cap-Case-1-Set/48504>

<https://tinyurl.com/y5fp84rs>

<https://www.summits.co.uk/product/trekmates-map-case/>

Make simple rainproof covers for video transmitters and receivers with reusable materials. Structure should be simple so that they can fit a variety of models. A square envelope style design with velcro or a bongo tie at the bottom usually works well. **(suggested materials & how-to's to be available in the future)**

## Non Toxic Cleaning materials - Eco Sponges / Scouring Pads / liquids

<https://ecovibe.co.uk/products/new-improved-coconut-fibre-scrub-pad>

<https://www.wearthlondon.com/eco-cleaning-products/biological-multi-purpose-cleaner>

Replace 3M wipes with Rubbing alcohol and lens cloth. Purchase and decant into refillable spray bottle for use on set.

<https://www.thesoapkitchen.co.uk/aluminium-bottles-and-closures>

<https://www.ocean-saver.com>

## Silicone Sandwich Bags

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Reusable-Food-Storage-Bags-Freezer-Proof/dp/B07NL92W45/ref=sr\\_1\\_8?keywords=silicon+sandwich+bags&qid=1563372368&s=gateway&sr=8-8](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Reusable-Food-Storage-Bags-Freezer-Proof/dp/B07NL92W45/ref=sr_1_8?keywords=silicon+sandwich+bags&qid=1563372368&s=gateway&sr=8-8)

<https://www.boroughkitchen.com/stasher-reusable-silicone-bag-aqua-1-9l>

<https://www.lakeland.co.uk/73374/Russbe-Reusable-Freezer-Bags-%E2%80%93-Pack-of-8>



# Appendix 1: kit and consumables part 3

## Reusable silicone ear pieces

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01JDYWOJ8/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o08\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01JDYWOJ8/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o08_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

<https://www.earpieceonline.co.uk/118-earplugs>

## Hardy and padded zip cases (to replace larger PVC plastic pouches for small accs & monitors)

<https://tinyurl.com/y57m5x27>

<https://www.freelanceratwork.co/products/bubm-accessories-storage-carry-bag-cable-case-travel-organiser-3-sizes>

## Food containers, cutlery and flasks

<https://elephantbox.co.uk/>

<https://sigg.com/uk/>

## Digital Paperwork

### Camera Report Sheets

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rvlySqoPraBWvUnPg1UH89QoerBffEae/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/17kO1PZvb7RebDKMLz\\_B98aOp6mscpH4y/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17kO1PZvb7RebDKMLz_B98aOp6mscpH4y/view?usp=sharing)

### Mobile and Tablet Applications

<http://zoelog.io/>

<https://pocketac.com/>

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Covid19 working environments

<https://delphiseco.com> - Reusable masks, Hand sanitiser, UK made and eco.

<https://www.instagram.com/evemadethingies> - Focus Puller making masks

---

Where sourcing products from independent suppliers is not possible and you are having to purchase items from Amazon, please be aware of : <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> - It works as a way to shop through Amazon whilst donating 0.5% of the products value to a charity of your choice. To use this site you must always go via the SMILE page before choosing and purchasing your Amazon item. - Options for hundreds of charities including The Climate Coalition

# Appendix 2: Letter part 1

This template has been curated by assistants to send to productions before a job begins. It outlines how your department intends to proceed sustainably through the production ahead.

Ideally, this letter should be sent by a more senior member of the team to your line producer. This letter is only a template. Do make sure you read through this thoroughly and adapt it wisely to your production.

---

Dear (Insert production name),

Please find the 'Working Sustainably Within Camera' document attached which is supported and advocated by this Camera Department. This document was created by working camera assistants for guidance in developing sustainable practices within the industry. As an environmentally conscious team concerned with the effects of the Climate and Ecological crises, we will be using it as a template to develop our own sustainable practices across the duration of this production.

With this pledge, we also hope that we can encourage (*insert production name*) to consider similar solutions in their decision making. Understandably, there will be some difficulty being 100% sustainably focused with the services productions are required to offer. However, with this commitment, we offer a collaborative effort to create sustainable solutions together to face the issues of waste that our department is responsible for.

We are striving to be a minimal waste department and with that in mind, we would request your assistance with the following:

**Consumables** – In order to minimise waste, we guarantee to only order what is absolutely necessary and will prioritise the use of our own stores and kit. This will in turn reduce the cost on production. However, in order to encourage the use of reusable and less wasteful products, we may request production's support in the purchasing of certain items. The initial cost may be higher than that of the traditional throw away alternative, however, we do believe that across the duration of the production this reuse of items will save on costs.

**Digital Paperwork** – We would ask production's collaboration to ensure all paperwork is digital rather than paper (where possible). We are happy to discuss templates, workflow and any other practicalities to be considered.

**Dietary Choices** – As a team we are aiming to reduce our meat consumption to reduce the associated environmental impacts. We would give our support to any discussions of reduced meat consumption on set, or a specified meat free day per week (as has already been trialled with great success on other jobs such as The Crown).

# Appendix 2: Letter part 2

**Water Bottles / Reusable Coffee Cups** – If reusable water bottles or coffee cups are to be supplied, please let us know so we can calculate the correct amount (many of our team already have them so do not need new ones).

**Reusable Food Containers and Cutlery** – We would ask production to consider supplying individuals with reusable items (for those who do not already own them). This will reduce waste and amount of disposables needed which will save money across the duration of the shoot.

**Blue Shoe Covers** – If Blue Shoe covers are required, we would request reusable alternatives which we will take responsibility to look after.

**Recycling Bin** – We would request a recycling bin for the truck and advise on best procedure for returning recyclables.

**Crew Gifts** – If crew gifts are to be provided, we would request the opportunity to opt out or reduce, in order to minimise waste. Additionally we would kindly request that production consider sustainable/ ethically produced gifts or the option of making a donation towards carbon offsetting (*e.g. organisations such as Ecologi or Mossy.earth*).

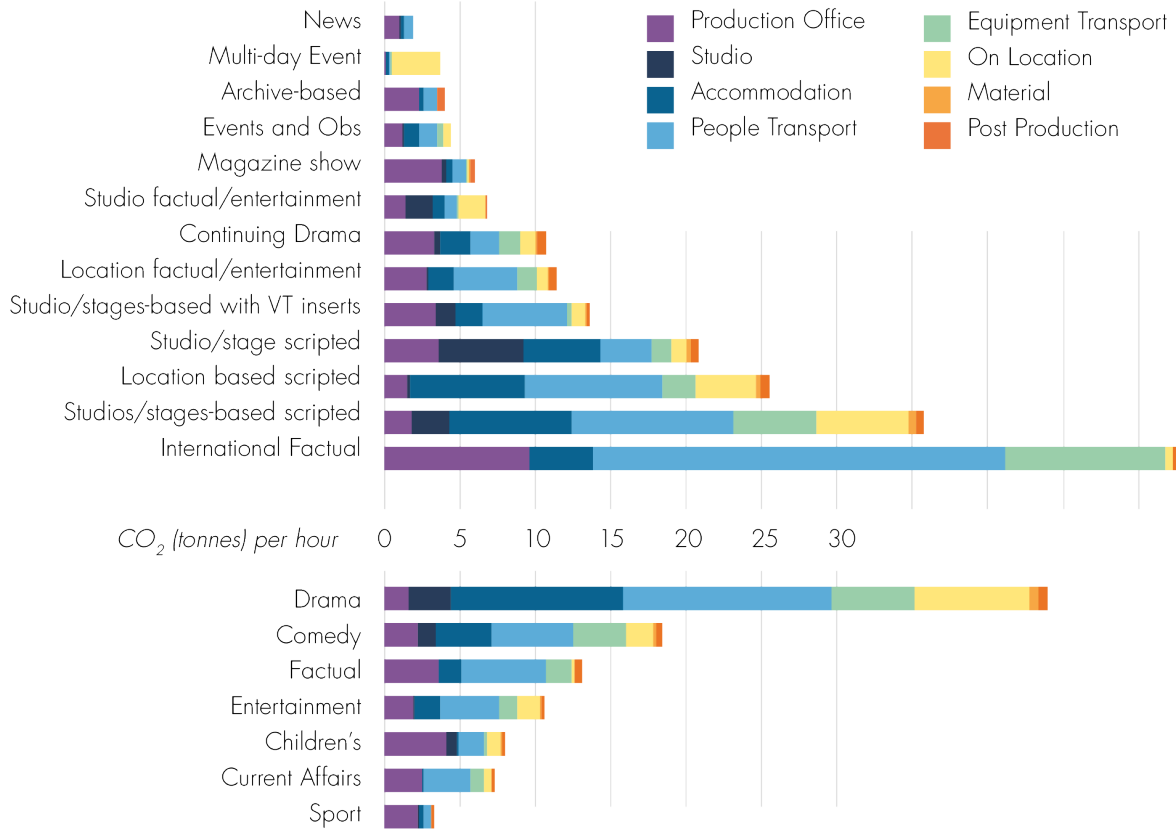
It is our belief that a beneficial change can happen if we unite as crew. To do this, we must challenge out-dated and wasteful practices to encourage sustainability throughout this industry. Over the duration of this production, it is our hope that we can all work together to effectively minimise our impact on the environment. We can provide assistance in sourcing these items so please don't hesitate to ask.

We look forward to discussing this collaboration further and are eager to develop this sustainable relationship together.

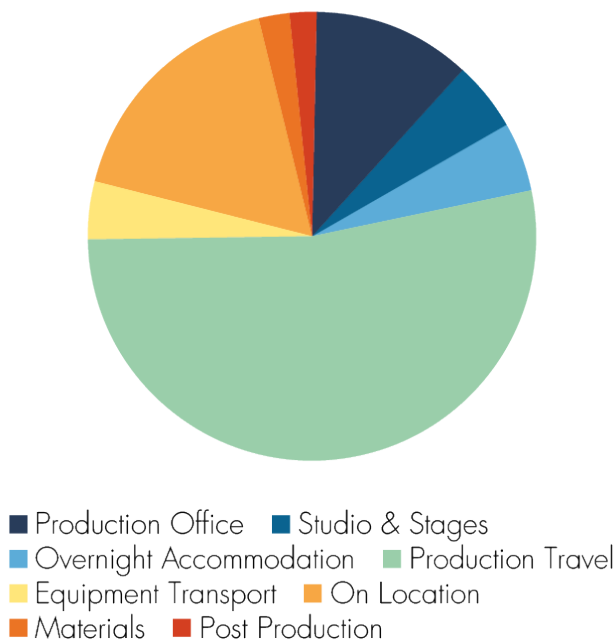
Many thanks,

# Appendix 3:

## Graphs and data



Predicted (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per hour) 58.0



Information supplied by albert, a leading industry body working to improve environmental standards within the film and television industry.

# Appendix 4: Links part 1

## More useful links

**Carbon Offsetting** <https://mossy.earth>

**Ecologi** <https://www.ecologi.com>

**BECTU Sustainability Campaigns** <https://bectu.org.uk/sustainability-campaigns>

**Climate Solutions** <https://drawdown.org/>

**Future Free Plastic** <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/>

**Bank checker** <https://www.banktrack.org>

**BFI Green Practice** <https://www.bfi.org.uk/sites/bfi.org.uk/files/downloads/bfi-green-matters-uk-screen-sector-report-2020-v1.pdf>

**albert** <https://wearealbert.org>

**albert training** <https://wearealbert.org/online-training>

**Green Voltage Generators** <https://getgreenvoltage.com>

**Codex Media power saving** - <https://x2x.media/codex-hde>

**Green Shoot** <http://www.greenshoot.com>

**Adgreen** <https://www.adgreen-apa.net>

**CUT IT** <https://www.cutit.org.uk>

**Ecosia Search** <https://www.ecosia.org/>

**Extinction Rebellion** <https://rebellion.earth>

## Documentaries

**David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet** (2020 Silverback films/Altitude/Netflix)

**The Story of Plastics** - <https://www.storyofplastic.org>

**Before the Flood** (2016 Disney Plus / National Geographic) - <https://www.beforetheflood.com>

**Climate Change - The Facts** (2019 BBC IPlayer)

**Panorama Climate Change - What Can We Do?** (2019 BBC IPlayer)

**An Inconvenient Truth** (2006 Amazon)

**An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power** (2017)

**Trashed** (2013 Amazon)

**The Game Changers** (2018 Netflix)

# Appendix 4: Links part 2

**War on Plastic with Hugh and Anita** (2019 BBC)

**Chasing Ice** (2012)

**Our Planet** (BBC)

**2040** (2019)

**7 Worlds 1 Planet** (BBC 2019)

## Podcasts

**Screening Green** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/screening-green/id1515078756>

**So Hot Right Now** - <https://podcasts.apple.com/za/podcast/so-hot-right-now/id1513199677>

**Drilled** - <https://www.criticalfrequency.org/drilled>

**Outrage + Optimism** - <https://globaloptimism.com/podcast/>

**Force of Nature** - <https://www.forceofnature.xyz/podcast>

## Research

**Disposable mask** - <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Disposable-masks-can-be-reused-and-washed-up-to-10-times-says-French-group-UFC-Que-Choisir>

## BECTU Links

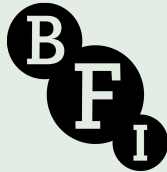
<https://camerabrand.org.uk>

<https://www.instagram.com/camerabrand>

<https://twitter.com/CameraBrand>

<https://bectu.org.uk/join>

# We are Supported by:



MANCHESTER  
LONDON  
BRIGHTON



# Support. Grow. Succeed.

# One Month Free With Ecologi!

---

We are delighted to celebrate the launch of the BECTU Sustainability website by announcing our partnership with Ecologi!

Ecologi are an organisation who work very closely with Gold Standard™, The Eden Projects and many others. Their aim is to help society become climate positive, by offering people a chance to offset their personal emissions.

We have lots of exciting things planned with Ecologi, but in the mean time you can start offsetting your life now, plus they're offering BECTU members their first month free!

**Scan here to  
sign up** →



**This scheme is  
in association with**



**in partnership  
with**



---

**Use code  
'BECTUSUSTAIN'**



Go to [bectu.org.uk](https://bectu.org.uk) to join the union



Visit [ecologi.com](https://ecologi.com) to start planting today!

