



TechNEXT

THE **TECH** FESTIVAL FOR THE **NORTH EAST**

Good Festival Ambition

The festival will be planned as a Good Festival with 'for good' being a core value that will run through everything we are planning. This will ensure we always focus on quality, inclusivity, diversity, accessibility, and sustainability. We will work on a diverse programme, encouraging all people and organisations to get involved and be part of it. We have an ambition to make the programme of core events truly accessible and will consider those with different protected characteristics and how to meet their needs, with the aim to make the events as welcoming as possible.

We will also be offering several funded and supported places for the Main Stage conference and the party, to allow those who may not usually get access to such events a chance to be part of it. We are looking at creating a buddy system for curated events where an organisation or person can be allocated to those attendees who would like one, to help them make the most of the festival experiences. Funding is available to several fringe events too.

We are committed to minimising the impact of our events on the environment. We work closely with our clients, venues, suppliers and delegates to reduce the impact of our activity wherever possible. We will also encourage our festival partners and fringe programme hosts to consider the accessibility and sustainability of their events, offering guidance and a code of conduct to follow.

In year 1 the festival's carbon from curated events was 35 tCO₂e and we decided, as an ethical offset, to donate the equivalent carbon credit value to a North East environmental charity, Groundwork North East & Cumbria for their nature-based solutions programme. We plan to introduce more measures to reduce the impact this year, tracking the festival's carbon footprint once again, leading us to further reduce our impact and become carbon neutral in future years.

TechNext is underwritten by Dynamo North East CIC, which is co-organised by Sunderland Software City. The festival is a collaborative festival, working with partners across the North East and delivered by BeaconHouse Events.

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