



**The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco
Sustainability Highlights
Producer: Gigi Boyd
March-June 2018**

Prepared by Green Spark Group for Reel Green



The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco Sustainability Highlights

About the production:

Name: The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco (“Bletchley”)

Co-Production: United Kingdom's World Productions and Canada’s Omnifilm Entertainment

Type: TV Series

Directors: Gary Harvey (2 episodes), David Frazee (2 episodes), Alexandra LaRoche (2 episodes), Mike Rohl (2 episodes)

Producer: Gigi Boyd

Production timeline: March – June, 2018

A primary focus of the provincial program, Reel Green, is engagement. While this takes many forms, Reel Green was pleased to provide on-production support to the British and Canadian co- production of The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco (“Bletchley”), airing on ITV in the UK, and CityTV in Canada this fall, with streaming distribution on BritBox in the US and internationally on Netflix. The series is produced by Canada's Omnifilm Entertainment, in association with United Kingdom's World Productions and was shot principally in Greater Vancouver, British Columbia.

To further its mission of enabling the evolution and implementation of sustainable practices in the motion picture industry, Reel Green engaged in a new pilot program to provide production support to Canadian productions to encourage best practices in the areas of waste management, sustainable supply chains, and energy and fuel use – areas identified as the largest contributors to negative environmental impacts related to film production.¹ Working with Reel Green Partner, Canadian Motion Picture Association of British Columbia (CMPABC), Bletchley was the first production to receive this support.

Process

In recognition of the limited budgeting and manpower needed to fully integrate sustainable practices into a series production, Reel Green representatives, Julie Bernard, Manager of Production Services at Creative BC and Jennifer Sandoval, Green Spark Group consultant, met with Bletchley producer Gigi Boyd and Unit Manager Lucy MacLeod during the first week of production to discuss their goals with the aim of trying to simplify the process and emphasize the areas where they could have the most impact. After discussion about available resources and top recommended practices, the areas they chose to focus on were: waste management/reuse/recycling, idling and communication and education with crew regarding “green goals.”



Waste Management: Reuse and Recycling

At the initial meeting with Gigi and Lucy, we were pleased to learn that the Art Department had sourced reusable set materials from the [Sustainable Lockup](#) to create the 1950's period set. Sustainable Lockup is a collaborative space designed to enable sustainable production in the entertainment sector. Sustainable Lockup accepts reusable materials from productions in the Vancouver area and then recirculates and redistributes these materials back into the film and TV industry as well as to local charities and community groups. The purpose of this service is to reduce the amount of set waste going to landfill. Since its opening in 2017, the Lockup has diverted over 100 tons of set materials from the film industry.

The Bletchley crew sourced 3 tons of shelving units from the Sustainable Lockup and at wrap, they dropped off two tons of materials, including desks, windows, and flats.

Shot mostly on stage, Bletchley crew also noted significant contamination of their recycling and compost bins. They identified the main problem as confusion by crew members who were unsure of how to sort the materials into the bins. Despite signage on the bins, this uncertainty is often a common issue with productions where crew members often do not have the time to figure out what materials go in which bin.

To address this problem, Reel Green provided 3-D signage to the production office which was placed above the bins. Matthew Santoro, the Production Coordinator and main point person for sustainability efforts, later reported that the signage seemed to be effective in helping crew to place materials in the proper bins.





Idling

Another area of focus was the enforcement of the no-idling laws. In Vancouver, it is illegal to idle a vehicle for more than three consecutive minutes in a 60-minute period or if the vehicle is unattended and unlocked.² **It is recommended that if you are waiting for more than ten seconds, that you turn off your engine.** Idling for just ten seconds actually wastes more gas than restarting the engine. For every liter of gasoline used, a vehicle produces about 2.3 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is the principle greenhouse gas linked to climate change. One of the most simple and effective ways to reduce CO₂ emissions is to eliminate unnecessary vehicle idling.³

Enforcing this policy, especially on a film set can be challenging. There are circumstances when shutting off the engine is not a viable option. However, there are times when idling is simply unnecessary. Some productions find it effective to place dash cards in vehicles or signage on the lot to help serve as a reminder to obey the no idling laws. Bletchley chose to do both. Having reminders such as dash cards/signage can be effective in reducing the amount of idling.





Communications

Perhaps the most effective strategy for integrating sustainability into any production is communicating with and educating crew on the reasons for taking actions that will reduce impacts and then providing some practical solutions to support these efforts. This strategy is the focus of the [Reel Green Carbon Literacy courses](#) which are available for free to all members of the film industry in BC. Information regarding these courses was shared with the Bletchley production office and some crew members stated their interest and intention to attend upcoming courses.

Bletchley Production Coordinator Matthew Santoro was the liaison for the show and communicated regularly with the Reel Green consultant about how best to communicate information to crew. Reel Green met with Matthew and together they coordinated a schedule for the memos to be distributed to the crew and chose sustainable production topics that would be relevant for the production. In addition, Reel Green provided “Green Tips” to the show to be distributed regularly on the daily call sheets. (See attached Appendix for Memos and Green Tips)

Conclusion and recommendations

Overall, Bletchley should be commended on the efforts to reduce waste, enforce no idling laws and communicate their green efforts to the crew. As the pilot for Reel Green’s on-production support program, the crew on Bletchley demonstrated enthusiasm and effort on their sustainability journey.

Thank you, Bletchley crew, for showing that it is possible to integrate sustainable production practices on smaller productions.

As Reel Green continues working with productions, goals are to: 1) engage as early as possible in pre-production to ensure the production is informed of sustainable production, and 2) track fuel use, waste, recycling, reuse/donations, water and more. This is part of our effort to measure impacts to inform and prioritize reduction strategies going forward for continual improvement in the motion picture industry.



ENDNOTES

¹Data and information to Reel Green regarding sustainability trends in film and television production was provided by [Green Spark Group](#), a Vancouver-based consultancy, providing on-production consulting to productions and organizations that want to save money and lower their environmental impacts.

²Section 2.7 of the City of Vancouver's Motor Vehicle Noise and Emission Abatement Bylaw 9344

³<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/idling/4463>. In fact, if Canadian motorists avoided idling for just three minutes every day of the year, CO2 emissions could be reduced by 1.4 million tonnes annually. This would be equal to saving 630 million litres of fuel and equivalent to taking 320,000 cars off of the road for the entire year. Eliminating unnecessary idling is one easy action that Canadians can take to reduce their GHG emissions that are contributing to climate change.



APPENDIX



MEMO

Date:

To: All Crew

Subject: Sustainable Production – **GREEN TIPS**

Green Tip: Please do not idle. Turn off your engine, Save fuel, save \$, lower emissions

Green Tip: Plastic looking or "CPLA" biodegradable cutlery is NOT accepted at Metro Vancouver compost facilities. If using plastic, please put CLEAN plastic cutlery in the HARD PLASTIC recycle bin, NOT compost bin.

Green Tip: Please take that extra second to put items in the properly labeled bins - Organics/Compost, Recycling... and lastly - Trash/Landfill.

Green Tip: Did you know that approx. 80% of what we discard is either recyclable or compostable? Choose a blue recycle bin or green compost bin for your waste.

Green Tip: Please reuse materials if you can before you recycle them. This helps us cut down on our volume of waste or recycling.

Green Tip: Put your name on your water bottle or cup so you don't lose it and so you can reuse it!

Green Tip: Please turn off your electronics (computer, monitor, power strip) at the end of the day.

Green Tip: Fabric scraps can be recycled - Contact [Keep it Green Recycling](#) to set up textile bin.

Green Tip: BYOB - please bring your reusable bottle for water.

Green Tip: Please recycle your cardboard! Cardboard recycling can go in the MIXED PAPER bin on the lot or a blue recycling bin on location. Did you know, most corrugated boxes manufactured in Canada are 100% recycled content. Cardboard is one of the easiest material to recycle into new products.

Green Tip: Sort it out - Please put recycling and compost in the correct bin. Organics are banned from the landfill in Metro Vancouver - please compost.

Green Tip: Wood in the North Star 30-yard bin goes to Urban Woodwaste Recyclers to be sorted and recycled.

Green Tip: Plug in and use house power. This is cleaner than fossil fuels in generators.

Green Tip: Use compostable materials (Food, paper napkins & cups) - Oil and natural gas are the major raw materials used to manufacture most plastics.

Green Tip: Please recycle any E-Waste. FACT: e-waste is banned from waste disposal facilities in Metro Vancouver.

Green Tip: Hazardous waste does not go in the landfill. Hazardous wastes are those wastes that are potentially hazardous to human health and the environment - these require special handling and disposal techniques to eliminate or reduce the hazard. Hazardous Wastes include oils, fuels, and solvents.

Green Tip: Please recycle the plastic cup lids and eating utensils! These go in the blue bins labelled HARD PLASTIC.

Green Tip: Please use clear/transparent bags for waste and recycling. Please do not use black garbage bags. Black bags, regardless of content inside, are assumed to have organics and we will incur a surcharge.

Green Tip: Donate cleared assets for reuse.

Jennifer Sandoval

Sustainability Consultant, Reel Green/Green Spark Group

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MEMO

Date:

To: All Crew

Subject: Sustainable Production Goals

Hello Everyone,

It is exciting to have production underway for The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco! On behalf of Creative BC’s Reel Green program, Green Spark Group is excited to be supporting green practices on this show. In talking to a few crew members, we’ve learned that the Bletchley crew is already implementing green practices on the show by obtaining repurposed set materials such as plywood and establishing a clear waste/recycling system on the lot.

To reduce our impact as a production there are a number of things we can do individually as well as in our respective departments:

- Keep everyone on production safe and healthy
- Minimize waste by properly disposing of items in their proper bins – organics, recyclables and landfill
- REUSE and/or RECYCLE materials in all departments
- Use REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES
- COMPOST ALL ORGANICS (this includes paper towels and compostable paper food products (bowls, cutlery, etc.)
- Choose “green” supplies
- Donate materials and supplies that you can
- Do **not** leave vehicles idling – we can save money and fuel, and keep air clean

Look for more communication regarding “Green Tips” throughout the next few weeks. Everyone plays a role to make this a sustainable production.

If you have any suggestions, questions or feedback regarding sustainable practices we would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you!

Jennifer Sandoval
Sustainability Consultant, Reel Green/Green Spark Group
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MEMO

Date:

To: All Crew

Subject: Sustainable Production – Waste, Recycle and Compost for a Sustainable Production

Hello Everyone,

DID YOU KNOW....A typical film or TV set generates up to 800lbs (363kg) of trash per day and 80% percent of most waste generated on set is recyclable or compostable.

Part of a sustainable production means practicing responsible waste management and diversion. This production utilizes convenient recycling and composting receptacles to help save tons of waste from going to the landfill. Here's what you can do to help:

REDUCE

- The best way to divert waste is to REDUCE - bring reusable water bottles, travel mugs, don't use straws, etc. and ask yourself "*do you need to use this?*"
- Do not request or take hard copies unless you actually need them.
- Look for items that might already be available before ordering new (e.g. office supplies).
- Remind your colleagues to do the same - sustainability is a team effort
- Check out [Sustainable Lockup's](#) inventory for reusable set materials

REPURPOSE

- Make plans to donate or reuse any non-asset items! Do not throw anything "away" that might be used again. Ask for help finding a second home for any item.

PLEASE TAKE AN EXTRA MOMENT TO PUT YOUR ITEMS IN THE CORRECT BIN.

COMPOST

- Containers labeled ORGANICS/COMPOST can be found at [_insert locations_](#). Look for the **GREEN bins./labels**. *COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC CUTLERY OR FOOD SERVICE PRODUCTS LABELED ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT METRO VANCOUVER COMPOST FACILITIES AND MUST BE PUT IN THE RECYCLE BIN.*



RECYCLE

- This production also has **mixed recycling** bins labeled RECYCLING – please read the labels and look for the **BLUE bins/labels**. Please place all clean paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum in these bins.
- Make sure that all recyclable materials are cleaned of food and liquid before you place them in the proper bin.

LANDFILL

- Items that do not go in the compost or recycling bins go in the landfill or **BLACK** waste bins/labels.

Thank you for helping to reduce waste!

Jennifer Sandoval
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MEMO

Date:
To: All Crew
Subject: Sustainable Production - PAPER

Hello Everyone,

Despite predictions that the digital revolution would make paper obsolete, many film and television production sets are still dependent on paper for on-set communication, scripts, call sheets, one liners and on-boarding documents. While omnipresent and seemingly infinite in supply, the impact of paper consumption and disposal is large and growing.

Some tips to reduce on-set paper use:

- **Use Erasable Boards:** For in-office information sharing, use dry-erase or chalkboards.
- **Use an Eco-Font:** If something needs to be printed, use a thin-lined eco-font to avoid wasting black ink. Examples of eco-fonts include: Century Gothic, Garamond, Courier and Times New Roman.
- **Print Letter-Size:** Format documents to print in letter-size instead of legal-size.
- **Reuse Single-Side-Printed Paper:** Use the backside of paper only printed single-sided for set communication or other personal uses. For example: print on the back of old script pages.
 - **Note: Do not use printed documents containing classified or private information for this application.*
- **Do Not Print with Banner or “Cover” Pages:** A small eco-font header will serve the same purpose as a banner or cover page.
- **Purchase Recycled and Responsibly Harvested Paper:** Buying paper made from recycled pulp diverts paper from landfills, maximizes the use of recycled materials and discourages the use of virgin tree fiber. If purchasing white copy paper, 100% post-consumer recycled content is widely available. In the case that a higher grade or colored paper is required, look for either PEFC or FSC certifications to ensure the paper’s pulp has been derived from responsibly managed forests.
- **Send emails instead of paper memos** whenever possible to get that message out – *this memo email saved approximately 65 sheets of paper.* All documents generated from the Production Office will have electronic versions. They will be e- mailed out to the crew.
- **Use waste paper** as scrap paper for jotting down notes, taping up petty cash receipts or making origami.
- **Place recyclable paper items in the designated bin for paper recycling** in the Production Office and/or on set.

Thank you for doing your part to help reduce paper!

Jennifer Sandoval
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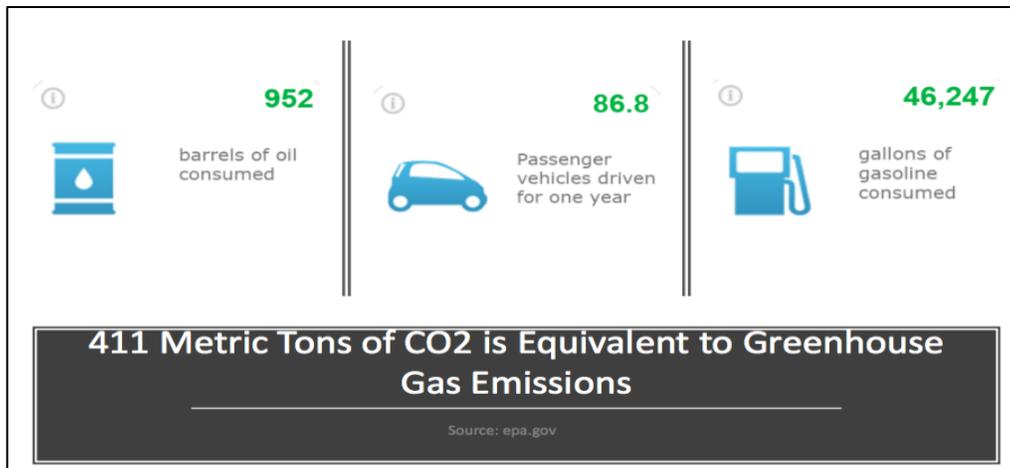
MEMO

Date:
To: All Crew
Subject: Sustainable Production – IDLING

Hello Everyone,

DID YOU KNOW.... An average vehicle with a 3-litre engine idling for ten minutes burns 300 millilitres (over 1 cup) of fuel and this produces 690 grams of CO₂. This may not sound like a lot but remember, millions of motorists have fallen into the trap of unnecessary idling. In fact, if Canadian drivers of light-duty vehicles avoided unnecessary idling for just three minutes every day of the year, we would collectively save 630 million litres of fuel, worth \$630 million (assuming a fuel cost of \$1 per litre) and, over the period of a year, we would prevent 1.4 million tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere. That's the equivalent of taking 320,000 cars off of the road! Clearly, individual actions, when taken by millions of Canadians, can make a difference. (Source: [Natural Resources Canada](#))

In the film industry, one hour-long TV show produces approximately 411 metric tons of CO₂!!



Benefits of turning off your engine:

- Lower fuel costs
- Lower maintenance costs
- Decreased emissions
- Lower health risks



What steps can I take to minimize idling?

It's easy – think about fuel efficiency every time you use a car. Try these simple steps:

1. If you're going to be stopped for more than 60 seconds, turn off the engine.
2. Drive the vehicle to warm it up, rather than idling the engine. (Usually no more than two to three minutes of idling is needed on cold winter days.)
3. Use a block heater on cold winter days to warm the engine before you start it. Use an automatic timer to turn on the block heater two hours before you plan to start the vehicle.
4. If you see other crew members idling, kindly remind them of the No-Idling policy.
5. And finally, use remote car starters wisely to avoid excessively long warm ups.

Thank you for efforts to reduce idling!

Jennifer Sandoval
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MEMO

Date:
To: All Crew
Subject: Sustainable Production Wrap

Hello Everyone,

A big thanks to everyone for pushing sustainable production practices! As you close out, please refer to appropriate resources indicating where to donate or recycle materials.

Please consider avoiding reusable or recyclable materials from being placed in the landfill. One great option is to donate any reusable materials to the Sustainable Lockup or other organization that accepts reusable materials. The Sustainable Lockup accepts any reusable materials including but not limited to Construction, Paint (with its original labels) Set dec, Props, Wardrobe. Please contact the Sustainable Lockup (contactus@keepitgreenrecycling.ca) to schedule a drop off of your reusable materials. All materials brought to the Lockup are redistributed FOR FREE back to the community (film/art projects, film/art schools, charities, etc.).

Also, please remember to dispose of any hazardous materials properly and safely. *As part of our efforts to promote sustainable practices, we would appreciate it if HOD's or other department representatives could take a moment to answer a few questions about some of the practices utilized on this production that will be sent to you via email by the production office.*

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