Green Storytelling Checklist* (Script Development)

*A tool from the Green Storytelling Initiative** for screenwriters, filmmakers, dramaturges, broadcasters, and other decision-makers to consider the environmental impact of their stories and productions.*

In the spirit of global eco-responsibility and the urgency of climate and environmental protection, the *Green Storytelling Initiative* stands for the promotion of sustainable, environmentally conscious and responsible film production. We recognize the importance of protecting our climate, species, biodiversity and ecosystems by adopting a more sustainable way of life.

The film industry has the responsibility and an opportunity to authentically portray urgent, current issues without reinforcing clichés, prejudices or conspiracy narratives.

With a clear focus on environmentally friendly practices, we want to raise awareness of the issue of sustainability. The film industry has a significant role model function and can thus raise awareness of environmental problems in our society, promote sustainable solutions and offer new structures in everyday processes.

By answering a catalog of questions, we want to encourage - **without touching on artistic freedom or legal matters** - a deeper engagement with the topic and critical examination of one's own actions, and to develop a better understanding of the extent to which the points formulated below may or may not be reflected in a given screenplay.

A Definition of "Green Storytelling"

Green storytelling is an approach within filmmaking that focuses on integrating environmental issues and sustainability practices into the narrative. It can be divided into three main components:

1. **Explicit Green Storytelling (Thematic Integration):**
   Topics such as climate change, species extinction, environmental protection and sustainability are *explicitly* integrated into feature films, series and other formats and creatively narrated.

2. **Implicit Green Storytelling (Character Behavior):**
   Integrating environmental and sustainability issues into stories without explicitly addressing or stressing these issues. The characters' actions are sustainable: they use environmentally friendly means of transportation, choose reusable materials, reduce waste, save energy, prefer sustainable food, advocate for nature conservation, and consume responsibly.

3. **Pragmatic Green Storytelling (Sustainable Script Decisions):** Script decisions, for example in respect to the choice of shooting location, time and season of filming, equipment and special effects, are made sustainably in order to positively influence the CO2 and energy balance of the production.

Green storytelling techniques can be applied to not only to raise awareness of environmental issues, but also to minimize the environmental impact of filming already at script-stage. It can also be used to create deep, complex, and though-provoking real-life characters that inspire.

Green storytelling in the narrative structure and elements of the story

This checklist serves as a tool for screenwriters, producers, dramaturgs, broadcasters and other decision makers to integrate environmentally friendly issues and practices into their work and consider the ecological impact of their stories.

Explicit Green Storytelling (Thematic Integration)

1. Is there at least one relatable character in the story who consistently makes environmentally friendly choices?   **yes / no**

2. Is there at least one character in the story who promotes environmental protection (climate activist, scientist, etc.)?   **yes / no**

3. Is the theme (or one of the main themes) of the story related to environmental issues such as climate crisis, species extinction, environmental protection or sustainability?   **yes / no**

4. Are scenes or dialogues presented in the narrative that address environmentally relevant topics such as climate change, sustainability, biodiversity, or environmental protection?   **yes / no**

5. Does the plot or fate of the characters directly or indirectly affect environmental problems or solutions?   **yes / no**

6. Does the story show the consequences of ignoring environmental problems?   **yes / no**

7. Is there a clear shift in narrative or character behavior toward more sustainable practices or attitudes during the course of the story?   **yes / no**

Implicit Green Storytelling (Character Behavior)

1. Do the characters use sustainable means of transport, such as (cargo) bikes, public transport or trains?   **yes / no**

2. Do characters choose reusable materials, such as glass bottles instead of plastic?   **yes / no**

3. Does the script show examples of waste prevention or recycling?   **yes / no**

4. Are the characters portrayed saving energy?   **yes / no**

5. Do characters opt for vegetarian or vegan meals and/or buy locally grown food?   **yes / no**

6. Do characters buy consciously, avoid unnecessary consumption or support environmentally friendly companies?   **yes / no**

7. Do characters use modern and environmentally friendly alternatives in their daily lives, such as green roofs or solar panels, and use tablets and flat screens instead of binders and stacks of paper?
                                                                                                                       yes / no

8. Do the characters operate in a society or story world that acknowledges environmental problems and/ or makes possible solutions visible, e.g. solar and wind energy, sustainable building methods or an extended public transport system?   **yes / no**

Pragmatic Green Storytelling (Sustainable Storytelling Decisions)

1. Does the script allow for the choice of easily accessible or locally available shooting locations to reduce travel and CO2 emissions? **yes / no**

2. Does the script limit the story to a small number of shooting locations? **yes / no**

3. Does the story take place at times of the year and/or day that allow for resource-efficient filming, such as the use of natural light, and no heating, etc.? **yes / no**

4. Does the script avoid or reduce the use of environmentally harmful special effects? **yes / no**

5. Does the script allow for the use of used and / or reusable costumes ? **yes / no**

6. Does the script allow for the use of existing filming locations with minimal equipment to reduce set construction and associated environmental costs? **yes / no**