

Indian Dance Festival 2017 goes Climate Neutral

"We at Indian Dance Festival association think that no one can do everything but everyone can do something. It is important to act now and act together towards climate neutral future. With our indian dance festival this year we wanted to raise awareness of climate change and do our best to make the festival climate neutral. We want to encourage people to stay positive and do everything they can for the environment. Dancing can be a way to express natures suffering caused by climate change but it can also be a way to spread joy of working together towards a greener world."

-Indian Dance Festival Core Team

<http://climateneutralnow.org/Pages/Events.aspx>



Measuring, reducing and offsetting

With the help of Myrskyvaroitus ry and UNFCCC we estimated the climate footprint of the event to be around 9 tons of CO2 caused mainly by flights and other traveling of participants. We measured the flights emissions on this page:

<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>

We thought of ways to reduce emissions by offering eco-friendly food at the festival, booking near-by places for our guests to stay and recommending people to use green ways of traveling. We also found out that the energy used in Pakkahuone was 100% renewable Finnish hydroelectricity. We had a fund raise for offsetting our emissions and got 40,65 euros. With that amount we bought offsets for different projects in India from this site:

<https://offset.climateneutralnow.org/>

In total we bought 26 tons which covered the emissions caused by organizing the festival and also by many participants traveling.



Raising awareness

In the festivals opening ceremony we brought up green values together with Danny's Bollywood Dance Crew, Embassy of India to Finland and Estonia, City of Tampere and Myrskyvaroitus ry. There was a dance flashmob, speeches and a tree planted in the center of Tampere in honor of green values and the environment. We had a video made of it by Actun Osk and the video with an article was also published in UNFCCC Newsroom:

<http://newsroom.unfccc.int/climate-action/un-helps-makes-indian-dance-festival-climate-neutral/>

Video of the flashmob: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ND1mxExdPO8>

