

Music Groups Try Making Performances Better for the Environment

好きなアーティストのライブに行くとき、あなたはどんなことを楽しみにしますか。音や演出だけでなく、会場の雰囲気や一体感も印象に残るかもしれません。一方で、そうしたイベントのあり方に目が向けられることもあります。最近では、環境に配慮した「エココンサート」の取り組みも見られるようです。あなたはこうした変化をどう感じますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The music group Coldplay plans to use their fans' energy to help provide power for their musical performances and to help the environment.

The band has promised to use methods that are **sustainable**. This includes using energy that does not add carbon gases to the atmosphere. The band hopes to cut the amount of carbon dioxide, or CO₂, released by its business activities by 50 percent.

The music stars have added special dance floors and energy-storing exercise bicycles to their latest world tour. The goal is to get fans to help power the show as they dance or spin by producing electricity.

Bassist Guy Berryman suggested music fans will be more likely to accept changes to the concert experience if it is “a kind of opportunity to do something fun.”

Each special dance floor, called a kinetic dance floor, can support many people. The floor creates electricity when people move on it. The band even has competitions before its performances to find out which group of fans can create the most power.

Each of the bikes can create an average of 200 watts of energy, captured in batteries that run parts of the show.

“Being green...is a good business model. That’s what we’d like to show,” said Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin.

Entertainment industry

Coldplay is just one music act working to [reduce](#) the effects of its tour on the Earth’s climate.

Other famous musicians and bands are also taking such steps, including Billie Eilish, Harry Styles, The Lumineers, Dave Matthews Band, Shawn Mendes, Maroon 5, John Mayer, Lorde, The Chicks, and The 1975.

The music artists are part of an effort by the entertainment industry — from sports teams to toy manufacturers — to reduce carbon gas [emissions](#).

Adam Gardner is with Reverb, a nonprofit group that helps bands make their concerts better for the environment. He is not involved with Coldplay’s tour.

But Gardner said, “The relationship that musicians have with millions of their fans is unlike any other relationship of any other public figure. It can be a walking, talking example.”

Musicians are providing more plant-based food choices. They are not using single-use plastic containers. And they are trying to change the transportation they and their fans use.

Eilish has promised to eliminate an estimated 35,000 single-use water bottles from her tour. She also only serves vegetarian food, or food without meat, backstage. The band Massive Attack is traveling by train.

Shawn Mendes has promised to reduce his tour’s effects on the environment and cut emissions by 50 percent for each show. He says he will use sustainable materials in tour clothing, stay at hotels that promise to cut emissions, and not use single-use plastic. He has even promised to use sustainable aircraft fuel.

Coldplay has taken other steps to reduce the environmental effects of its tour.

The “Music of the Spheres” tour stage uses recycled steel. The band hopes to deploy the world’s first tour battery system, made from 40 repurposed BMW electric car batteries. The hope is to power the entire show with batteries.

“We are very blessed that we have the [resources](#) to be able to do it because it’s very expensive to try these things for the first time,” said Martin. “We’re so privileged that we’re in a position where we can change.”

Martin suggested that all of these changes are meant to bring a sense of belonging to music fans.

“Everything in our show is really designed to bring everyone into the same group, singing together and wearing the wristbands. And this is just an extension of that. It makes us feel alive. It makes us feel part of a [community](#),” he said.

Mark Kennedy reported on this story for the Associated Press. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.

Source: [Music Groups Try Making Performances Better for the Environment](#)

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. sustainable (adj.) able to continue without damaging the environment

The farm uses sustainable methods to grow tomatoes.

2. reduce (v.) to make something smaller or less

Most people want to reduce traffic noise in the city.

3. emissions (n.) gases or chemical materials released into the air

The internet search company is changing its data center designs to lower emissions.

4. resource (n.) a material or supply that can be used

Canada has many natural resources, such as forests and farmland.

5. community (n.) a group of people who live in the same area and are socially connected

The high school is an important part of the local community.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How does Coldplay plan to use its fans to help power their concerts?
2. What are other artists doing to reduce environmental impact?
3. What kind of materials does Coldplay use for its stage?
4. Do you think concerts should use new technology to protect the environment?
5. How can fans help reduce environmental damage at events?