

Go Behind the Scenes of “Legion” and Learn How the First Two Seasons of the Hit FX Show Went Green on Set



Season 1

FX’s [Legion](#) drew praise from critics and audiences alike for its ambitious storytelling and visual style, and fans can now check out an exclusive video and case study detailing how the cast and crew brought that same level of ambition to going green behind-the-scenes. All departments made a concerted effort to save energy, reduce the show’s carbon footprint, and overall make the production as environmentally sustainable as possible, even piloting new technologies that could advance sustainability for the entire industry. The initiatives came as part of 21st Century Fox’s broad commitment to minimizing its environmental impacts, growing sustainably, and inspiring others to take action.

“This is the first production I’ve worked on where the conversation [about sustainability] started during our first production meeting,” said Kim Goddard-Rains, Production Coordinator. “I hope that it inspires people when they see the results and that they’re reminded of the little things we can all do. It feels good.”

Before shooting began, Fox once again hired Zena Harris of [Green Sparks Group](#), who previously oversaw green initiatives on *The X-Files* event series in 2016, as Legion’s sustainable production consultant. Harris worked directly with each department throughout the nearly six-month shoot to review best practices from the [Green Production Guide](#), which Fox developed in collaboration with peer Hollywood studios, as well as identify opportunities to innovate new techniques for energy saving, such as partnering with [Portable Electric](#) to pilot their new mobile power stations.

“The studio was very supportive as we trialed battery power stations to replace the smaller generators that are diesel powered,” Harris said. “It reduces greenhouse gas emissions from generators and helps eliminate noise.”

These strategies, combined with every department’s goals to save energy and reduce waste, resulted in significant cost and energy savings across the board. The crew managed to divert 55% of the waste from landfill, avoid 252 metric tons of CO2 emissions, and collectively save nearly \$47,500 USD, as well as purchase 70% [Forest Stewardship Council](#)-certified lauan plywood for set construction.

These achievements build on a long history of pioneering green production practices at 21CF. The company regularly works with production crews across its film and television projects to ensure environmental responsibility is integrated into each department’s daily operations, with previous series 24:

Live Another Day and *The X-Files* event series each breaking new ground for the industry at large on lumber sourcing and recycling.

Season 2

The first season of *Legion*, which premiered in March 2017, diverted more than 55% of its waste from landfill and avoiding 252 total metric tons of CO₂ emissions. The production staff of Season 2 of the hit show set out to top these numbers in the second season and after five months of shooting, they managed to increase the waste diversion rate to 75% and emit 45% fewer total metric tons of CO₂ than during the production of the first season. These achievements comprise efforts by the entire Legion crew and represent another step forward in the green production field.

In greening Season 2, Legion's producers drew on the [Green Production Guide](#). The team implemented a wide-ranging sustainability strategy on day one of pre-production, with every department contributing to goals around waste management, energy efficiency, and sustainable purchasing:

- Set Construction purchased 95% lauan/meranti plywood certified by the [Forest Stewardship Council](#).
- The production office replaced single-use plastic water bottles with refillable ones, avoiding the use of 26,320 plastic bottles.
- Set Decoration and Hair & Makeup rented and purchased used items as much as possible.
- 30% of all paper used on set was made from post-consumer recycled material.
- The crew piloted new solar charging stations from [Solar On Set](#), a company that manufactures portable WiFi systems combined with solar charging stations for mobile devices.

Early on, Fox made a number of key decisions that proved invaluable to the second season's sustainability strategy. The production relocated from British Columbia, Canada, to Los Angeles, which significantly reduced the amount of fuel devoted to air travel. The team were also able to plug into house power on the studio lot, eliminating the need for portable diesel generators, which are often high carbon emitters. In addition, 21CF hired [BSI](#) to oversee sustainability efforts day-to-day. BSI representatives regularly visited the Legion set, tracking each department's progress and helping address new sustainability challenges as they arose during filming.

The Legion crew also sought out innovative ways to give back to the communities where the show filmed. Over the course of the five-month shoot, the show donated 2,800 pounds of edible, leftover food to the [Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition](#), providing more than 3,000 meals to the city's homeless and hungry. The production also supported [Five Acres](#), an LA-area childcare agency and one of the city's oldest nonprofits. The crew took part in the organization's annual toy drive, which grants holiday wishes for children and families in crisis.