

Graythwaite Adventure's Sustainability Policy

Date written: 13th February 2022

Date of review: 3rd February 2024

Policy Author(s): Tim Green and Sara Young



Sustainability policy

Graythwaite Adventure recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. We will encourage customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

Responsibility

Tim Green is responsible for ensuring that the environmental policy is implemented. However, all employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

Policy aims

We endeavour to:

- Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness and training.

Paper

- We will minimise the use of paper in the office.
- We will reduce packaging as much as possible.
- We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible.

Energy and water

- We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.
- Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing.

Office supplies

- We will evaluate if renting/sharing is an option before purchasing equipment.
- We will evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- We will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.
- We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

Transportation

- We will reduce the need to travel, restricting to necessity trips only.
- We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.
- We will make additional efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles.
- We will train and implement sustainable driving techniques when operating 4x4s in an off-highway environment.

Maintenance and cleaning

- Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Materials used in office refurbishment will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- We will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.



Monitoring and improvement

- We will comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- We will continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- We will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- We will incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- We will increase employee awareness through training.
- We will review this policy and any related business issues at our management meetings.

Culture

- We will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.
- We will update this policy at least once annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary.
- We will provide staff with relevant environmental training.
- We will work with suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance.
- We will use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.

Practical examples

4x4 Off Road Driving

In terms of the vehicles, the first element is the preventative maintenance. The most damaging element to the environment would be the engine fluids leaking or escaping and entering the water course and so we have a robust maintenance schedule including daily checks to ensure they are in good working order. If you visit our site, you will see that there are no oil drips or marks where the vehicles have been parked which can be synonymous with 4x4s. The second element is the type of vehicles; we use Land Rover Defenders, between 14 and 16 years old. Whilst we appreciate that using older vehicles on sustainability grounds is counter intuitive, we are avoiding the huge carbon footprint of the manufacturing process by unnecessarily replacing them with new vehicles. Something the Land Rover has in its favour is its longevity. A tough and robust vehicle built to last, the Land Rover is a stranger to built-in obsolescence, and it's said that up to 66% of all Land Rover Defenders ever built are still being driven today. If loyal Land Rover owners stick with their vehicles and don't buy a second car, that's a lot of energy saved in car manufacture, not to mention the waste that is saved from landfill. But is it necessarily good for the environment to drive an older vehicle? New cars are endowed with the technology to reduce fuel consumption, so they might seem a more environmentally friendly choice. The calculations are complicated, but one carbon footprint expert claims that sticking with your older car is overall the best option for the planet. We do, of course, keep an eye on new technology and the release of 'environmentally friendly 4x4s' but have specific reservations including the use of rare metals for battery production, the huge levels of emissions produced in the manufacturing process and the fact that they are only as green as their power sources which is often electricity generated by non-renewables. The current thinking is, therefore, that using our current vehicle stock, is the most environmentally friendly way of providing 4x4 driving.

Secondly, sustainable driving styles. We are not a pay and play site where you come and spin your wheels endlessly in a vast mud bath. We instruct sustainable driving techniques, as per the codes of conduct from the British Off Road Driving Association, based on minimising the loss of traction and the resulting damage to the environment. In addition, our vehicles each drive less than 5,000 miles a year and mostly with the revs around 1,500. This is roughly 30% of the national average for UK vehicles in terms of mileage.

Lastly, the environment. Our BORDA accredited course is based on a private Estate where we have autonomy regarding our course's maintenance. Our tracks contain a good amount of bed rock and so don't deteriorate significantly with use. We aim to tread lightly on the landscape and indeed it is not unusual for us to see red and roe deer, birds of prey, adders, squirrels and other wildlife whilst on our tours.



Graythwaite
ADVENTURE



Clay Pigeon Shooting

Current UK legislation will ban lead shot from being used on clay pigeon shooting grounds sometime in the five years following the government's 2023 review www.basc.org.uk/new-consultation-launched-on-lead-ammunition/. At Graythwaite Adventure, however, we are ahead of the curve and, supply chain allowing, we have already moved to using steel shot exclusively through our 12G shotguns. Not only do we use steel shot, but we also use ecofriendly cartridges. For clarity, there has always been an over eagerness to use terms like ecofriendly, environment friendly and eco in the shooting industry as they are not governed by any European regulations or certification and can therefore confuse the consumer. We use Bio-Ammo cartridges who guarantee that their wads and their hulls are biodegradable, compostable, environmentally sustainable, totally free of plastic and are non-polluting. Simply put, we can claim that the cartridges are eco-friendly and compostable as the materials used in their manufacture can be consumed by naturally occurring organisms under normal conditions, therefore turning it into biomass. Bio-Ammo are the only manufacturer to be supplied with biopolymers that have their respective certifications guaranteeing that they are compostable and biodegradable.

We also moved away from the use of coal tar pitch clays on our shooting ground. We exclusively use the eco-clay from market leading manufacturer CCI International. After 8 years of research and development, experimenting with different binders, CCI opted for a modified natural resin that will revolutionise the sustainable credentials of clay pigeon shooting. The Eco Clay has been independently certified by Bureau Veritas as PAH free as verified by Exeter University providing all Eco Clays with ECHA-REACH Classifications. Our shooting lodge at the shooting ground is off grid and the small amount of electricity we require is provided by solar panels.

The above measures have resulted in increased costs; however, we have reduced our margins to provide the shooting experience in the most sustainable manner possible.

Watersports

Our watersports site at Grubbins Point is off grid and the site office uses solar power. Our hire craft are all paddle craft including canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. The paddleboards we use are RED Paddle Co, arguably the best brand on the market and we strongly advise that our guests who take up the sport not to opt for the cheap boards available from the supermarkets that don't have the same longevity. We still have boards that we bought over 12 years ago, and we sell our ex-hire stock to ensure that they are used for many years without becoming landfill.

Our safety boats are petrol outboards and currently there is no solution that meets our environmental aspirations without compromising safety. We drive the safety boats as little as possible and keep them at low speeds whenever we are not responding to a situation where we are concerned about the safety of a lake user.

We take bio security extremely seriously and as well as having our own strict cleaning procedures we actively educate other lake users about the unintentional spread of algae and invasive species between our inland waterways.

Cleaning and general

The vast majority of our soaps and cleaning products are eco-friendly and have the following characteristics:

No phosphates.

No chlorine.

No artificial fragrances.

No artificial colors.

Biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

Organically grown ingredients using sustainable farming practices.

Again, we are committed to making this 100% by the end of 2025

- Our coffee cups are vegware and are plant based compostable foodservice packaging.
- Our secondhand boats and equipment are sold so that their lifespan is extended as long as possible.
- Our firewood is almost exclusively from windblown and fallen trees sourced locally.