

Environmental Impact Policy

As an outdoor activity provider we are proud to be able to help provide high quality, safe and enjoyable experiences for all of our clients in some of the UK's most beautiful landscapes. When done responsibly this provides numerous economic, social and educational benefits to the clients and communities that we work with. However, without due care, outdoor activities can also have a negative impact: including the erosion of the landscapes we are seeking to enjoy, destruction of natural habitats, emissions of damaging greenhouse gas emissions and unnecessary disturbance to communities.

We take this very seriously and acknowledge that it is **one of our primary duties** as a responsible outdoor activities provider to ensure that we do all we can to minimise our impact on the environment and where possible maximise our positive effect on local communities and environments. **With this in mind we aim to operate to the best standards in the industry and to minimise the impact of our challenges on the environment within which we operate.**

We will take the following proactive actions commit to achieve the above aims and will regularly review this policy in conjunction with our staff, clients and other stakeholders:

Planning and Delivering Events

- All of our experienced staff and carefully selected freelancers take this responsibility very seriously and we train staff to consider our environmental impact from the early stages of planning events all the way through to delivery.
- We will endeavour to monitor and minimise our carbon emissions associated with the delivery of our events by minimising travel distances for our staff and leaders.
- All of our Mountain Leaders carry rubbish bags and will encourage participants to take a proactive approach to 'leaving no trace' on the hill.
- We refuse to undertake certain types of events which are known to have a negative impact upon environments and communities. For example we do not operate the National 3 Peaks Challenge in 24 hours. This time restricted format has been widely criticised by various environmental and community groups including the British Mountaineering Council.
- When we operate events we take into account the advice set out in the *BMC Green Guide to the Uplands* and adhere to the relevant mandatory and where possible the best practice sections of *the Institute of Fundraising Code of Practice* (Section 15).
- We have maximum group sizes for all of our events with an appropriate ratio of leaders to participants depending upon the nature of the event. This allows us to effectively manage our impact on the environment throughout the event and also believe this provides the participants with a significantly more enjoyable experience.

Empowering and Educating Our Clients

- Before every event all clients and participants will be made aware of this policy and will be briefed as to the importance of taking individual responsibility for their actions. Including:
 - Briefing for all participants to educate them what they need to do to minimise their impact in terms of erosion, water quality, litter, wildlife and disturbance.

- We will actively encourage all participants to minimise greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by using public transport (where practical) and encouraging car sharing.

Minimising Our Impact on Communities

- We will plan all of our events to have the minimal disturbance on the local communities around where we operate. This includes considering aspects such as traffic and car parking, noise and light disturbance, respectful use of local amenities and litter.
- Where we consider there is a possibility any route of event may have an impact upon specific individual (e.g. farmers or local landowners) we will where possible engage with them in advance of any event.
- Where we operate events larger in scale we will seek to engage with appropriate contacts within local authorities to ensure our events are operated in a way that aligns with their local specific needs and requirements.

Supporting Groups and Organisations

- As our business grows we will actively support, engage with and seek advice where appropriate from the following organisations which we think do some excellent work which align with our own ethos and aims:
 - **The British Mountaineering Council (BMC)** - we will support the BMC as members of this organisation, financial support of the EMS Access and Conservation Trust and where possible through contributing to local events arranged through the BMC local area meetings.
 - **UK Mountain Rescue Teams** – We financially support the fantastic voluntary UK mountain rescue teams through their 'Basecamp' scheme.
 - **Friends of the Lake District** – We are supporters and corporate members of this charity that is wholly dedicated to protecting Cumbria's landscape for the future.
 - **National Trust** – The national trust own large areas of our national parks and undertake important maintenance, management and conservation activities on behalf of the public.
 - **Snowdonia Society** – We are supporters and business members of this charity working to protect, enhance and celebrate Snowdonia, its wildlife and heritage.
 - **Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs** - We are business supporters of this conservation and heritage charity working to protect, promote and provide for this special part of Scotland.
 - **John Muir trust** – The John Muir Trust do invaluable work in Scotland and further afield managing the human impact on the landscape.