

# WILDERNESS

## FOUNDATION UK

### Environmental Policy

#### Statement

The Wilderness Foundation UK's (WFUK) principles are deeply embedded in the environment and wild spaces. The organisation works to inspire individuals and communities to engage actively with nature, both for its preservation and for the positive links with mental health. WFUK educates children, young people and adults, advocating sound environmental practice and management to facilitate local and national change.

WFUK acknowledges the organisation's own impact through its operational management and the urgency of the global climate emergency. Therefore, WFUK is committed to becoming a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.

In order to reach this optimistic target, we are committed to developing a thorough, realistic and considered environmental strategy. This will involve research into the organisation's current impact to produce a viable mitigation strategy. Through our own actions we will promote the beneficial impacts in order to convince others to do the same and by setting an example of good practice.

#### Environmental Strategy

WFUK Ltd and its staff will always operate with due regard to global and local environmental considerations and issues. Therefore, WFUK Ltd will conduct operations in a manner intended to improve the environment or ensure they minimise impact.

Employees will also maintain the policies in force at sites visited in the course of their duties.

WFUK, its staff and volunteers are required to commit to the following objectives:

- 1) Eliminate Carbon: We will reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. To help meet this target, WFUK will establish an ISO14001 Environmental Management System and ISO14090 Adaptation to Climate Change System.
- 2) Management of land and property: We will seek to maintain the land and buildings owned or rented by WFUK to the highest possible environmental standards. WFUK will only work in collaboration with third party property / landowners if their environmental policies and strategies adequately align with those of WFUK.
- 3) Water usage: We recognize the increasingly diminished supply of water and will seek to minimise the use of water where possible.
- 4) Conserve energy: We will minimise energy use and seek to generate renewable energy as part of the foundation's longer term land use strategy.
- 5) Minimise the impact of transport: Travelling for staff, volunteers, and participants, along with the transportation of equipment, forms an essential part of our service. However, where possible we will look to reduce the use of fossil fuels in undertaking these activities.
- 6) Control waste: We will reuse materials, recycle, eliminate unnecessary packaging, and aim to eliminate all waste going to landfill. We will also ensure equipment and facilities are provided to ensure the safe and correct handling and disposal of materials and waste products. If necessary, this will include the containment and safe

disposal and/or recycling of chemicals, liquids, solids, and gases in accordance with good operating practices.

- 7) Communicate: We will communicate this policy and the issues that drive it to all those who have an interest in WFUK, including staff, volunteers, visitors, trustees, clients, suppliers, contractors, other organisations, and the general public.
- 8) Monitor and evaluate: We will monitor our activities and services annually to evaluate their impact and encourage clients, schools, partners, and contractors to take a responsible attitude towards the environment.
- 9) Comply with legislation: We will comply with all legislation and any other standards that are relevant to the work of WFUK. We will continually monitor and update our practices to comply with the changes in legislation.
- 10) Events and fundraising: We will ensure that we minimise the overall carbon footprint of our own fundraising and marketing activities whilst also encouraging those that fundraise for us to do the same. We will ensure donations are properly audited to ensure donors ethical and environmental objectives adequately align with WFUK's.
- 11) Corporate partners: We will encourage our corporate partners to follow our ambitions towards a net-zero carbon organisation by 2030.
- 12) Finance: We will ensure our financial reserves are invested ethically and sustainably.
- 13) Food preparation: We will ensure staff involved in the assembly and/or handling of products to be used in a food environment maintain the highest standards of personal and operational tidiness, cleanliness and general health and hygiene, to prevent a health or safety hazard being introduced to the environment. We will ensure that packaging and food waste is kept to a minimum.
- 14) Education: We will advocate environmental awareness during all WFUK programs and will promote up to date environmental awareness through our education programmes, social media channels and collaboration with academic institutions. We will encourage staff to raise issues of concern and make recommendations and offer ideas to the senior management team to improve Wilderness Foundation UK Ltd.'s performance. We will continue to monitor and review academic research to ensure we remain up to date with developing schools of thought.
- 15) We promote Leave no Trace ethics in all of our work and programmes to all participants who attend or come into contact with the Foundation.

In addition, field staff will, at all times, observe the environmental policies and instructions issued by competent, recognised authorities when visiting customer sites and premises. If, in the event that such instruction would appear to contradict Wilderness Foundation UK Ltd policy statements, common good sense or create a potential environmental or safety hazard, staff are instructed to refer to the Chief Executive Officer or senior person in charge for advice before proceeding.

#### Staff Training

WFUK will educate, train, and motivate staff to work in an environmentally sustainable way - with particular attention to Leave no Trace ethics. Our staff and volunteers work closely with nature and conservation and may witness declines in nature and biodiversity that are distressing. We will support staff and volunteers affected by this or experiencing forms of - eco-anxiety, through the use of our therapeutic services.

#### Monitoring and review

WFUK will audit our environmental performance annually and review the policy document in line with this.

### Responsibility

The CEO and senior management team have overall responsibility for all environmental matters. However, all staff members, volunteers and trustees are responsible for upholding and adhering to the contents of the policy when undertaking work on behalf of WFUK.

Approved by board of trustees: 23/03/23