



Scouting Irelands - National Events Team Environmental Charter

Preamble

As members of Scouting Ireland, let us not forget our promise; to serve our community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law, from which a Scout respects nature and the environment

“A Scout should not act as if climate change and the environment is someone else's problem, the problem is ours, but, if we act together, so too is the solution.”

Our Home

Our home whether it is Ireland, Europe or the Earth, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but our home has provided the conditions essential to life. The resilience and the well-being of humanity depends upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The Earth's environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust, a trust that all scouts must identify with as we strive to respects nature and the environment

The Challenges Ahead

The choice is ours: fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment.

Our Responsibility

We need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for Scouting in Ireland within the emerging environmentally sustainable community whether it is in Ireland or the rest of the world. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all scouts respect for nature and the environment is to be guided and assessed.

1. Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all scouting activities and initiatives.
2. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment as a result of Scouting Irelands activities
3. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used as part of Scouting Ireland activities, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.
4. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.
5. Adopt scouting activities that emphasise the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.
6. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being.
7. Empower every scout with the knowledge and resources to ensure sustainable scouting.



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8. Ensure that all Scouting Ireland procurement supports sustainable resource use, and environmental protection.
9. Honour and support the young people of Scouting Ireland, enabling them to fulfil their essential role in creating sustainable societies.
10. Strengthen ties with local communities, to help them to care for their environments.
11. Recognise the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological challenges.
12. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.

From the Scout's and Scouter's Point of View

WE will

1. Protect and conserve OUR environment
2. Prevent pollution of any part of OUR environment through OUR activities
3. Reduce, reuse, and recycle any resources WE use
4. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy
5. Safeguard the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to protection of OUR environment and OUR well-being
6. Strengthen ties with OUR local communities, to help them to care for their environment
7. Recognise the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living
8. Enjoy Nature quietly so that OTHERS may enjoy it too
9. Protect OUR countryside, roads and beaches while keeping them free of litter
10. Learn about environmental dangers to the soil, water and air, and strive to protect OUR global home
11. Act TOGETHER for a sustainable environment.

This Charter was developed as part of the National Events Team Carbon Neutral initiative. The National Events Team of Scouting Ireland want to set a new standard for youth programme events by looking at the effect the events being run are having on our environment with a view to reducing the carbon footprint of Scouting Ireland.