



Environmental Policy for Ice Guardians

Ice Guardians aims to be a responsible adventure tourism business and continually strive to improve our environmental performance through reducing impacts in the areas of energy use, waste production, chemical use and imported product use. Outlined below are the procedures adhered to limit said impacts.

Operations and Management

This Environmental Policy is publicly displayed to staff and guests on the Ice-Guardians.com website. Ice Guardians is also always open to suggestions from stakeholders on how to further reduce impacts on the environment.

By design the company was founded upon sustainable principles which are operated in practice. The following environmental initiatives have been implemented:

Energy

- Fuel consumption in company vehicles will be minimised to essential travel in order to operate trips and for logistical purposes.
- Carbon emissions from the company vehicles will be calculated and offset with tree planting by staff and by the funding of tree planting via the Kolviður – the Iceland Carbon Fund.
- Company clothing will be washed in cold water and air dried naturally as much as possible.

Waste and Recycling

- Recyclable items (cardboard, paper, plastic, glass, metals, food waste, etc.) are collected separately and taken to recycling centres and/or designated recycling bins.
- Clients will be asked to empty any trash they have on their person to the guide who will sort and dispose of appropriately in order to reduce the chance of littering in the areas of operation.
- Guides will strongly encourage the 'leave no trace' principles and also pick up litter and take back for waste disposal or recycling.
- Frequent inspections of equipment will be carried out to reduce the need for disposal and buying new equipment.
- Every effort will be made to repair/re-purpose equipment first to maximise the life of the product before deciding to dispose and purchase new equipment without ever compromising on safety.



Cleaning Products

- Purchasing of cleaning materials will focus on those with lower environmental impacts whenever possible. Using where possible Swan eco-labelled products ([Um Svaninn | Svanurinn – Norræna umhverfismerkið](#)).
- Using as little detergent in the cleaning of company clothing whilst maintaining good hygiene.

Staff and Customer Outreach

- Guests are encouraged to eat, stay and buy locally to support the local and regional economy.
- Staff will be encouraged to participate in local environmental causes I.e. beach clean ups, trail maintenance to reduce damage off-trails.
- Any practices carried out in the national park area will involve consulting the park management first.
- All staff will be required to complete at minimum the Leave No Trace- Awareness Course (Centre for Outdoor Ethics), in order to practice and become knowledgeable about it's principles.

Other

- Purchase company supplies locally where possible, We encourage guests to eat, stay and buy locally to support the local and regional economy.
- Coffee/tea/hot chocolate provided to clients will be Fairtrade- certified or produced in Iceland.
- Where possible guides will be encouraged to take skills courses in Iceland in order to reduce air travel.

Future Initiatives

In the next five years we plan to:

- Become carbon negative by carrying out carbon reducing activities and/or participating in carbon reducing programs.
- Contribute to the maintenance of any trails used for trips.
- Planting of trees for the local forestry association ([Skógræktarfélag A-Skaftfellinga - Skógræktarfélag Íslands \(skog.is\)](#))