



Environment and Sustainability Policy

Woodventurers is a local alternative education provider in Cambridgeshire. We run alternative provision programmes in a range of locations including woodlands and school sites. Children learn through interesting, enjoyable activities in a woodland setting. We recognise that our activities can have an impact on the environment, most significantly in our woodland spaces. This policy provides the guiding framework for that system and details actions we are taking. Working in the environmental education sector we also have a responsibility to demonstrate best practice to our learners and their families, schools and the wider educational community.

Our aims are:

- To educate our learners on sustainable practices.
- To protect the woodland spaces we use.
- To use natural resources in a sustainable way so as to protect them for future use.

We do this by:

Education:

- Tutors help learners identify flora and fauna around them, increasing their awareness and interest in ecology and nature. There are positive long term benefits for ecology due to increased awareness and passion for nature as interested and aware children are more likely to become adults who are active in preserving and managing woodlands in the future.

Woodland management:

- An ecological impact assessment is done annually and any changes made as advised.
- Tree management: Weekly checks are carried out and pre session checks to monitor for an immediate danger which is acted upon. eg. Hanging deadwood is removed.
- Our woodlands are monitored termly. Any dangerous trees or diseased are removed or demarcated and mitigating measures put in place to avoid injury. Non native/invasive/protected species: We monitor and remove any non native invasive species such as Rhododendron. Replanting of native species and preservation of any endangered or at risk species is a priority.
- Footfall: Paths are maintained with wood chips to reduce the amount of wear and tear in wet weather. Woodlands are rested in school holiday times and paths/ routes are also rotated as appropriate.
- Fires: Wood fires are burned either in a fire bowl raised off the ground or in a specific area of the woodland site to limit the damage on soil ecology and invertebrates. Firewood collection is monitored to ensure we retain a balance between what we take and what we leave. When necessary we import firewood to lessen our impact.
- Habitats: We include piles of deadwood within the woodland to create habitats for fungi and invertebrates. We create new habitats to encourage birds and bats to visit the woods with bird and bat boxes. We ensure we don't use all areas of the woods with awareness of the fact that it is important to retain some wild areas.
- Foraging -Wood and plants: Natural resources need to be managed to ensure sustainability. Wood, plants, herbs and edible berries used directly from the woodland are taken only where there is abundance. These will be foraged on a 20%/80% basis - harvest 20%/ leave 80% and taught by tutors to learners.
- Drainage: The woods is prone to flooding. Next steps are to install drainage to effectively manage excess water. If possible we are also considering installing a borehole. The added benefit of a bore hole would mean there would be running water on site too.

Energy

- Office lights and equipment are switched off when not required and heating controls accurately set.
- Wood and kindling used for woodland fires is sustainably resourced or is donated from individuals.

Waste

- We remove any litter or dog faeces found during our learner sessions. Waste from the woodland toilet is removed and composted.

- We operate a 'leave no trace' policy and leave nothing behind in the woodland which may affect biodiversity including food and materials used for activities. Tutors/employees are encouraged to recycle waste at home.
 - We communicate, invoice, do our banking and store documents electronically.
 - We print only where 100% necessary. Stationary and scrap paper are re-used
 - Waste from our office is recycled/composted.
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- **Travel**
 - When travelling to meetings we aim to car-share and coordinate meetings online to minimise the number of journeys required.
 - Employees have the option to and are provided with the equipment to work from home.

Procurement

- We select products made from recycled materials, including paper,
- We aim to keep our carbon footprint low and advocate vegetarian food.

Review July 2026

Version Number	2	
Review Cycle	Annual	
Date of ratified policy	July 2024	Signed: <i>Toni Rogers</i>
Date of Next Review	July 2026	
Related Policies	Environmental Impact Assessment Plan Risk Assessment policy Use of fires policy Use of tools policy Hygiene policy	
Other Relevant Documents	Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE): Annual update Working Together to Safeguard Children: July 2018 Education Child Protection Record Keeping Guidance Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings: Oct 2015 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) The Children Act (2004)	

