



Self-assessment tool

Promoting sustainable practice in or through Outdoor Education

Future Footprints: Promoting sustainable practice in or through Outdoor Education

The goal of **Future Footprints** is to develop an understanding of, and desire to achieve, a sustainable future environment on our planet through engagement in outdoor education.

Three core principles support this goal and form the basis for action:

1. The necessity to reduce an organisation's **environmental footprint** in all aspects of its operations and supporting the move towards **carbon neutrality**.
2. A desire to establish **long term positive behaviour and environmental responsibility** in adults and young people through engagement in **systematic, effective education**.
3. To encourage the relationship between **active environmental engagement** and **positive mental health and wellbeing**.




Future Footprints encourages...

- Everyone involved in outdoor education; visitors, staff, suppliers, partners and stakeholders to see and understand the actions an organisation is taking to move towards an environmentally sustainable future.
- Everyone to engage with and understand those actions and to transfer and integrate this understanding into future personal attitudes and behaviours.
- Everyone to make the link between the outdoor education experience and the lives to which they return. This is the critical **'What Next?'** factor.



Future Footprints outlines a mechanism for improving environmental practice, management and education within the outdoor sector with the target of being Carbon Neutral by 2030. This can be adapted and amended to individual settings and priorities.

	Future Footprints First Steps... Initial review and starting point.	Not in place Being implemented Embedded / sustaining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify and explain your Red Amber Green rating. Identify your starting point? How ready is your organisation for beginning Future Footprints action planning?
1	Does a desire exist? ...for outdoor education to develop young people’s environmental understanding and positive engagement.		
2	Is there a recognition? ...Of the relationship between a happy mind and a healthy environment.		
3	Ready to make a promise? ...to each other and the planet, to move toward a sustainable future.		
4	Identify existing targets ...Anything that is already in place		
5	Identify existing ideas and initiatives ...to achieve the above targets		
6	Communicaton ...how well are existing targets and initiatives known and understood?		
7	Identify existing review processes ...Anything that is already in place		



	Future Footprints Next Steps... Bringing in others and putting things in place.	Your notes	Date achieved
1	Establish a lead member of staff for the Future Footprints project.		
2	Introduce Future Footprints to all members of staff in the organisation and obtain their agreement to playing their part in its success.		
3	Sign the Future Footprints promise on behalf of everyone in the organisation. This formalises an ethos of shared responsibility and is a commitment to working towards an environmentally sustainable future for all.		
4	Conduct and record a full and honest review of all aspects of centre operations using the Action Plan headings provided, with input from all centre staff. This will recognise current good practice and the areas and priorities for improvement.		
5	Action plan. Use the findings of the review to establish a series of goals or targets that your organisation needs to achieve to improve its environmental position in each of the focus areas. This will help you to develop a structure for developing ideas and systems that will enable you to achieve those targets.		
6	Establish a structure for regularly reviewing goals, actions and initiatives so that they can be adapted or developed where necessary.		

The Future Footprints Promise

**We agree to take part in the future
footprints project**

**Our ambition is to develop an ethos of shared responsibility.
So that individuals involved on our organisation actively engage with
and contribute effectively towards achieving environmental sustainability
for the future of our planet.**



Future Footprints: Annual Action Plans

The headings are suggested titles for you to use as a guide. You do not have to include actions in all sections, your plan needs to reflect your priorities.

It is suggested you keep actions specific and not stretch yourselves too thinly.



To help you:

Future Footprints is building up a 'Bank of Proven Practice' and methods of calculating carbon savings and offsetting from outdoor education settings.

Future Footprints encourages a continuous cycle of improvement, so as one action plan concludes, the process is reviewed and a new action plan developed.

Consider how you will measure progress either quantitatively (e.g. numbers or amounts) or qualitatively (e.g. descriptive judgements, anecdotal evidence and verbal feedback). This will help you review your actions more effectively.

Consider for each key task/action how you might maximise educational links and communicate with others; to make that link between the outdoor education experience and the lives to which they return.

1. Waste management

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
1.1						
1.2						
1.3						

2. Transport

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
2.1						
2.2						
2.3						

3. Active conservation of our natural environment

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
3.1						
3.2						
3.3						

4. Energy consumption / conservation

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
4.1						
4.2						
4.3						

5. Water consumption / conservation

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
5.1						
5.2						
5.3						

6. Purchasing

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
6.1						
6.2						
6.3						

7. The environment and mental health & well being


	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
7.1						
7.2						
7.3						

8. Community Engagement

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
8.1						
8.2						
8.3						

9. Other - Your Choice and/or Priority

	Key Task/Action	Who's leading?	Who can help us?	Target Date?	Achieved? Dates and notes	Education links / Communication Strategy?
9.1						
9.2						
9.3						

Key Task	Not in place Being implemented Embedded / sustaining 	To be carried forward into next Action Plan?	Key learning points