

Fota Island Adventure Sustainability Policy 2023

This document will be reviewed annually



1. Vision/mission/company ethos

- At Fota Island Adventure, our core values are to create a fun, confidence building adventure for all of our customers.
- The Fota Team believes in creative, informative interaction with our customers. This interaction will illustrate our mission to build a fun-filled, sustainable environment.
- Fota Island Adventure has a long history of creating an engaging, confidence building environment. Our vision moving forward is to focus on and elevate our positive sustainable impacts within the Adventure Industry.
- At Fota Island Adventure we are aware that our business activities impact upon the environment. Our mission is to alleviate those negative impacts with a sustainable vision in mind.

2. UNWTO definition

- At Fota Island Adventure, we believe “... *sustainable tourism is tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities ...*” (UNWTO, n.d.). We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects and increase our positive impacts.

3. Continuous improvement

- Sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement. Our team is fully invested in furthering our knowledge of sustainable tourism. We provide our employees with the time and opportunity to learn and

grow. This year we attended Sustainable Travel Ireland's "Inspiring Sustainable Tourism 2022" web conference. We gained great insight for our on-ground employees to create a sustainable environment for both our team and customers. With that, we have created a learning centre in the woodlands of Fota Island Resort, which has an existing zero impact ethos.

4. Measuring and reducing negative impacts

4a. Energy consumption

- We currently do not measure our electricity use as we only have three sockets which power our kettle, walkie talkie charging station and undercounter heater for hand washing. We reduce consumption by turning off the breaker when we are not on site. Off-site we have a small office for our business management team. A team of two work here manage their consumption by ensuring all electronics and lights are fully off before leaving each day. Unfortunately, energy is immeasurable in our office at present. Our office/warehouse is shared with 3 other companies. There is only one bill. Also, there is 3 phase being used in the warehouse and being exported to a neighbouring. There is a repair garage and a timber workshop sharing the single phase electricity. There is no way of measuring our energy consumption without fully rewiring the warehouse/office. This is currently not a feasible option for us. In the future we hope to measure our energy consumption. Proving with proper energy management a sustainable work environment can be created. Our current energy provider is Bord Gáis, but that contract is up for renewal this year upon which we will research the best options available for everyone involved.

4b. Water consumption

- To reduce our water usage, we have only one tap for supply. This supply is used for refilling drinking containers and hosing down clients boots/shoes during the winter months. We ensure there is zero waste by attaching it to a powered hose and making sure the tap is turned off upon completion of the task. We use barrels to collect rainwater which are intended for dipping our Obstacle Course helmets. Our Restrooms are limited as we provide four Portaloos for both our employees and customers. This is a result of lack of space and permission for permanent restroom facilities. We hope this will change in the future. With regards to our office we own a plumbing company. This allows for repairs to be instant. We have water displacement features in the cisterns and the rain water for the building is harvested for the water tank. This supply is used for the shower and toilets.

4c. Waste production

- To reduce our waste production, we request that our customers do not bring single use plastics to the centre. We regularly (weekly) measure and review our waste bins and aim to reduce the consumption from 3 bins to 1 bin by 2023 through education and enforcement. This information is illustrated on our Eflyers as we no longer use print

media. Our Eflyers are tailored to each customer base educating them on how they can make their visit sustainable.

5. Ethical purchasing

- At Fota Island Adventure we are committed to purchasing products that are fit for purpose, that can be sourced as locally as possible and are as ethical as possible in terms of origin, shipping and reusability. All of our on site equipment is sourced from within Ireland with exception of our Archery bows originating from the UK. We purchase second hand equipment where possible. We have made our Safety Management System and our booking system entirely paper free (There are some exceptions with groups, in which waivers are reduced to 1 page). We don't supply tea or coffee to customers. Our employees source coffee beans from a local roaster located less than 30 KM from our centre. We use local suppliers for food catering events.

6. Carbon Offsetting

- At Fota Island Adventure we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint as much as possible and to offsetting the remainder with a trusted partner. We are not yet working with an off setting partner, but plan on finding one within the next 12 months. We prioritise reducing our impact first by reducing our direct waste, our direct energy usage and direct water usage. Currently our biggest carbon footprint is commuting to work, which we reduce by car pooling.

7. Responsible sustainability marketing

- At Fota Island Adventure we commit to marketing our products ethically by no longer using printed material for collateral. We are in the process of creating physical picture frames for transferring information via photographs for our customers. Thus far, we have switched exclusively to Eflyers and focused our efforts on our Social Media Marketing. We are aware of the dangers of greenwashing and commit to educating ourselves and communicating our efforts honestly.

8. Social responsibility

- We support our local community by providing social inclusion schemes to disadvantaged children in our county. Also our end of season lost and found items are donated to local charity shops. We are also members of Sustainable Tourism Ireland (STI), Leave No Trace (LNT) and Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism (IAAT).

9. Supporting Biodiversity

- We support and conserve Irish biodiversity by maintaining the 22 acres of woodlands that we are based on. We keep it in its original state and do not use chemicals of any type. We are under the golf club's woodland management system. This includes bee hives throughout and areas set aside for woodland restoration.

Signed by:

27.10.21

27.10.21

Managing Director Date

Head of Sustainability

Date