



## WSB-ERO Environmental Action Plan

13<sup>th</sup> June 2008

### Justification

"Humankind is now in the first truly global crisis that concerns our survival as a species, the terms by which we might survive, and what it means to be human. No problem mentioned by the scientists is unsolvable in principle, if we have the wit and will to act with intelligence, foresight, and dispatch."<sup>4</sup>

Just as the tag line of WOSM is "creating a better world", so we must ensure not to cause any unnecessary harm. The WSB-ERO must seek to do these two things through our work and through our actions. We will never completely be totally sustainable and non-damaging in what we do, but we can commit to trying.

Scouting empowers young people to be the architects of their educational experience and actors for their positive participation in their community, local, national, global. In all these communities climate change, the loss of bio-diversity and degradation of our seas and fresh water is a looming impediment to their participation. While the predicted effects<sup>2</sup> will impact less on Europe, as custodians of Scouting's values and practitioners of its educational method we, the World Scout Bureau-European Regional Office, are concerned by the threat posed. Despite being a small team we will respond to this and act to minimise the threat.

Since 1971 the World Scout conference has accepted thirteen resolutions concerning the environment. In particular 12/93:

*... calls on National Scout Organizations, the World Committee and the World Bureau to examine their methods of operation and management to reduce their use of consumable materials, increase the use of recyclable materials and avoid using materials harmful to the environment.*

### Actions

#### Office

The WSB-ERO will pursue three actions in response to environmental concerns:

1. In co-operation with Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) and the WSB-CO we will develop an environment criteria to be met in the planning and executing of events by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. They will include an element of non-formal environmental education and awareness raising for participants. The criteria could include:
  - Minimising waste – less paper, less gifts, minimising waste and consumption;
  - Maximising efficiencies – as many participants as possible, sharing resources with other events, exhausting the use of remote solutions.

The agreed criteria will become an integral part of the eventual environmental statement.

2. All WSB-ERO offices will aim to be carbon neutral<sup>3</sup> by 2011. The first step in achieving this is for each of the WSB-ERO offices to conduct an audit (template attached). This audit should be informed by relevant local statutory bodies or agencies and should include, amongst others, consideration of:

<sup>1</sup> *Worldwatch, State of the World 1992*

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/nobel-peace-prize-2007-12/wg2\\_presentation\\_martin\\_parry.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/presentations/nobel-peace-prize-2007-12/wg2_presentation_martin_parry.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\\_offset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_offset)

- Leaving machines on stand-by;
- Thermostat and air-conditioner use;
- Printers and ink;
- Lighting;
- Water usage;
- The 3rs (reduce, re-use, recycle).

In conducting the audit establish baseline measurements to be able to indicate whether there has been a reduction in consumption. The benefit of such an audit is both environmental and economic;

3. Aviation contributes a disproportionately high level of climate changing emissions. Staff and volunteers travel a great deal by air. We will explore all ways to reduce the amount we fly. This will include doing a cost benefit analysis of a number of randomly chosen flights so as to identify any pattern of un-required travel and at a minimum we will calculate the total Co2 emissions for a twelve month period<sup>4</sup> for all Region air travel;
4. We will clearly communicate the environmental actions we take in order to encourage others to do likewise;
5. Consideration of environmental awareness will be included into our environmental processes.

### **Personal**

1. In the meantime, while it is impossible to un-burn the fuel that is consumed in our flights it is possible to calculate carbon emissions. [myclimate.org](https://myclimate.org) ([https://myclimate.org/calculate\\_flight?locale=e3-CH](https://myclimate.org/calculate_flight?locale=e3-CH)) provides the facility to calculate the Co2 emissions of a flight. A line has been included in the travel request form to include the emissions tonnage. Volunteers will similarly be invited to record their emissions;
2. We will personally try and reduce the amount we consume and waste in the course of our work. In the same way that each office will conduct an environmental audit so to we will try and constantly review and reduce our consumption and waste.

In addition, as an educational and learning organisation we will explore how we can include environmental aspects into our regular staff meetings. We will introduce an environmental topic in each of the regular staff meetings and one practical activity at each SMC.

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<sup>4</sup> In line with what is being carried out in the WSB-CO and as part of the environmental planning for the Korea Conference.