

Grand Circle Corporation/Overseas Adventure Travel Climate Action Plan 2022 -- November 1, 2022

I. Introduction: Our Climate Action Plan

Grand Circle Corporation, including Overseas Adventure Travel (O.A.T.), Grand Circle Travel and Grand Circle Cruise Line, is committed to lessening our impact on the planet, while encouraging our suppliers and customers to do the same. As the recognized leader in travel for Americans 50 and older, we strive to be stewards of the environment at home and abroad through the efficient and sustainable use of natural and economic resources, and practices such as energy conservation and preservation of biodiversity.

Grand Circle Corporation is proud to be a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism.

As a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration, we commit to deliver plans aligned with the Declaration's five pathways to cut tourism emissions in half over the next decade and reach Net Zero emissions as soon as possible before 2050.

The five pathways include: Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, and Finance.

II. Measure (*Measure and disclose all travel and tourism-related emissions.*)

Scopes:

- **Scope 1** (Direct emissions – from sources owned or controlled by Grand Circle)
 - *Offices*
 - *Ships*
- **Scope 2** (Indirect – emissions from generation of purchased electricity)
 - *Electricity for offices*
- **Scope 3** (Other Indirect – emissions from sources not owned or controlled by GCC that occur due to our activities)
 - *Travelers' flights, Business Travel, Employee commuting, Employee work from home, Waste generation, Promotional materials*

III. Decarbonise (*Set and deliver targets aligned with climate science to accelerate tourism's decarbonisation. This includes transport, infrastructure, accommodation, activities, food & drink, and waste management.*)

- Grand Circle Corporation will use 2022 as its base year and set goals from there.

IV. Regenerate (*Restore and protect ecosystems, supporting nature's ability to draw down carbon, as well as safeguarding biodiversity, food security, and water supply. As much of tourism is based in regions most immediately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, ensure the sector can support affected and at-risk communities in resilience building, adaptation and disaster response. Help visitors and host communities experience better balance with nature.*)

- **Grand Circle Foundation – Supporting Environmental Issues**

Grand Circle Foundation was established in 1992 as a means of giving back to the world. Grand Circle Foundation helps support projects focused on water, conservation, and renewable energy.

Projects such as the Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (W.A.S.H.) initiative help improve the well-being of the local people in the areas to which Grand Circle travels. The W.A.S.H. initiative ensures that all schools and communities we visit have an adequate supply of clean water and toilets that meet or exceed local standards. To date, 95 percent of schools and 75 percent of villages have reached this goal. Access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene education can reduce illness and death, and increase socio-economic development leading to a reduction in poverty.

Renewable energy initiatives—installing solar lights in villages around the world, from Costa Rica to Zimbabwe, impacting over 36,000 people, for example—reflect our desire to protect the planet we share. Grand Circle Foundation supports alternative energy sources, especially solar energy, as a way to reduce carbon emissions and dependency upon fossil fuels. When possible, schools we support add solar panels to provide an alternate source of electricity and reduce operating expenses.

In many communities, the solar lights we provide replace the need for kerosene, helping to reduce illness from the soot and smoke, and offer a chance for students to study at night, improving their chance for a better education.

V. Collaborate (*Share evidence of risks and solutions with all stakeholders and our guests, and work together to ensure our plans are as effective and coordinated as possible.*)

Grand Circle Corporation is a member of and collaborates with these organizations:

- Future of Tourism, Tourism Declares, Glasgow Declaration

- IAATO, Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO)

VI. Finance *(Ensure organizational resources and capacity are sufficient to meet objectives set out in climate plans, including the financing of training, research and implementation of effective fiscal and policy tools where appropriate to accelerate transition.)*

- Year 1: Create Climate Action team to outline needs and next steps
- Year 2: Secure financial support to enlist third-party consultant to determine Average Trip Emissions/Passenger/Region/Day (kgCO₂e) for selected trips/regions

VII. Other Actions We're Taking

- **Recycling and Pollution Reduction in our Boston Headquarters**

Grand Circle's policies and initiatives in this area are guided by the Three R's: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." With this in mind, we seek an efficient and environmentally sensible workplace. Our Boston office has taken the lead on the initiatives detailed below.

A. Reduce & Reuse in the Workplace

- Where possible and practical, we purchase office papers, packing and packaging materials made from recycled materials with post-consumer content.
- Utilize online systems for reports, projects and monitoring to reduce paper generation.
- Encourage use of multiple-use items. No plastic utensils or single-use beverage cups are provided.
- Reduce the need for plastic water containers and delivery by using filtered city water.

B. Deploy Recycling in Our Workplace

We investigate material usage and waste management procedures to reduce, reuse and recycle.

- Paper
- Corrugated cardboard
- Beverage cans and bottles
- Printing ink and toner cartridges

C. Promote/Advance Recycling

- Ensure that environmental labeling is clear with use of the recyclable symbol to identify paper and paperboard products made from fibers that, after use, are suitable for recycling.
- **Design, Production and Printing in our Mail, Marketing and Communication Materials**

We strive to design and print our marketing materials and other communications in an environmentally responsible manner, and we communicate our environmental expectations to our supplier(s). Wherever feasible, in designing and printing communications, we look at opportunities for source reduction. To this end:

A. Reduce Waste

- Adjust trim sizes of our publications and/or collateral to reduce waste.
- Test and use production methods that reduce print order overruns, waste allowances and in-process waste.
- Include overrun allowances in our contracts and specify that excess inventory be recycled.
- Work with our printers to explore using new printing techniques that help reduce chemical and paper waste, and emissions.
- Use of QR codes on promotional materials: Saved 1,860,000 sheets of plain paper
- Printing costs: 2022 projected to be 70 -75% below 2019

B. Communicate Environmental Principles to Suppliers

- Review supplier companies' environmental policies and practices, and encourage them to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Specify environmentally preferable materials to our suppliers.

- **Paper Procurement and Clean Production**

Grand Circle recognizes that improving forestry practices is an important component of environmental stewardship and sustainability. We strive to procure, use, and recover paper in a manner that helps to ensure the sustainable use of forests and other natural resources. In support of this principle:

A. Research & Invest in Sustainable Paper Practices

- We identify our "fiber supply chain" for forest products we use, such as paper for catalogs and other marketing materials, internal office paper, corrugated packaging, and wood used in retail products.

- Staff makes on-site visits to supplying paper mills to verify environment-related claims and to better understand related issues.

B. Respect Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity

- We require that our paper suppliers have made a commitment to implementing sustainable forestry practices that protect forest ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as provide the wood and paper products our company needs.
- We specify that paper suppliers use third-party, verified traceability or chain-of-custody so that we know the origin of fiber in our paper.
- Our largest supplier is "Tri-certified" with Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®), and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards. They undergo annual audits to maintain these certifications.
- We recognize the importance of preserving landscape integrity and encouraging forest restoration areas and forest landscapes that provide pathways for wildlife.

C. Encourage Sustainable Paper Procurement and Clean Production



- Where feasible, we require paper suppliers to provide annual reports on their environmental practices.
- Where feasible, we use vegetable-based inks. (Vegetable oils are considered a more usable raw material for ink production and are a renewable resource, unlike petroleum.)
- Recycled vegetable oils are biodegradable and release only 2-4 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) into the atmosphere.
- We give preference to suppliers who are committed to sustainable practices throughout the "life cycle" of paper production, from forest to recycling, including pulp and paper mill performance.
- We have partnered with ecologically-certified vendors for our inks and other print products, as well as companies who launder press rags and properly dispose of waste chemicals.
- Currently we adhere to standards maintained by:
 - FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
 - PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification)
 - SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative)

VIII. Additional Actions & Goals

For our Ships, actions to date include:

- New fuel in use for select ships
- Initial testing saved 2.5 metric tons of fuel per selected round trip
- New paint on select ships -- Bottom coating that is fully green; Intersleek 1100SR coating is biocide-free and saves up to 8% of fuel
- Elimination of plastic water bottles/straws on select ships
 - Saved 165,000 plastic bottles of water
- Provide ships fuel consumption data to International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) in 2022

Year 2 Goals:

- Enlist third-party consultant to assist with measuring carbon footprint
- Determine Average Trip Emissions/Passenger/Region/Day (kgCO₂e) for select trips/regions
- Review solar and renewable electricity options for headquarters

IX. Our Commitment to Action for the Environment

Grand Circle Corporation is committed to our mission of changing people's lives through travel. We acknowledge that change in how we deliver these experiences is mandatory in the wake of the impact of carbon emissions on our planet. We pledge to a continuous review and adaptation of our practices around the world. By doing this, we will help preserve the world we travel not only for today's travelers, but for generations to come.