



Sustainability Framework

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Subsequent to the approval of the Strategy for Scouting and the draft objectives of the World Triennial Plan 2024-2027 at the 43rd World Scout Conference in August 2024, the World Triennial Plan 2024-2027 was approved by the World Scout Committee in November 2024. It introduces 11 key Areas of Work to address the 3 Impact Statements, namely “A Peaceful and Inclusive World”, “A World Shaped by Youth” and “A Sustainable World”, and the Strategic Priorities.
- 1.2 “A Sustainable World” is one of the Impact Statements:
“Scouting will work to build resilient communities by educating and empowering young people to adapt, mitigate, and take action on climate change, pollution, and biodiversity conservation, balancing economic development, social improvement, and the environment. Scouting will lead by example and advocate for environmental, economic and social sustainability; climate and environmental resilience and positive impact, locally, and globally.” (World Triennial Plan 2024-2027)
- 1.3 The 11 Areas of Work are designed to advance the aims of the Strategy for Scouting. This integrated approach ensures Scouting remains a dynamic force for good, fostering inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability in an ever-changing world (*World Triennial Plan 2024-2027*). The Area of Work number 3 is Environmental Sustainability:
 - 1.3.1 Scouting will advance an agenda for sustainability and embed it into all aspects of operations.
 - 1.3.2 Scouting will raise awareness and implement measures to prevent and offset its environmental impact, such as tracking greenhouse gas emissions, developing climate adaptation tools, and integrating sustainability practices at Scouting events.
 - 1.3.3 Through strategic partnerships and advocacy for climate policy change, Scouting will drive global impact and adopt Scouts for SDGs initiatives, enhancing their contributions to climate action and environmental sustainability.
- 1.4 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the strategies of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027 of Scout Association of Hong Kong (“the Association”) released in February 2024. The Strategic Plan consists of 4 objectives (A to D) and 10 strategies (1-10). SDGs is under Strategy 7 of Objective B: Whole Person Development and Education. This objective provides direction to promote SDGs in Scouting events in Hong Kong, which includes reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, protecting biodiversity, promoting energy-saving development, strengthening environmental protection, and enhancing sustainable education and awareness.

2. Effective Date

This framework came into effect on 1 August 2025.

3. Principles

- 3.1 Every human activity including any sizes of events in Scouting has an impact on our community in terms of social, economic, and environmental perspectives. A sustainable event takes these elements into account and aims at minimizing the negative impact, while also working towards increasing the positive one. (*WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events*)
- 3.2 The Sustainability Framework outlines common principles or guidelines that contribute to assess the sustainability of the Scouting events in Hong Kong and minimize their environmental, social and economic impacts on the community. To achieve the objectives, the Association makes references to the following guidelines/principles:
 - 3.2.1 Area of Work number 3 of the World Triennial Plan 2024-2027;
 - 3.2.2 WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events;
 - 3.2.3 Strategy 7 of the Strategy Plan 2024-2027 of the Association.

4. Directions

- 4.1 The framework provides directions of organizing Scouting events in Hong Kong:
 - 4.1.1 Research and Development
 - (1) Establish a mechanism to support the implementation of sustainable practices at all levels of the Association;
 - (2) Apply climate adaptation tools in research and development.
 - 4.1.2 Environmental Sustainability at Scouting Events

Streamline environmental sustainability practices and requirements in Scouting events, including youth-focused events and institutional events, in line with the WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events.
 - 4.1.3 Advocacy and Policies

Enhance contributions to climate action and environmental sustainability through strategic partnerships and advocacy for climate policy change.
 - 4.1.4 Support to Scout Groups, Districts and Regions

Enhance the visibility and adoption of the Scouts for SDGs initiatives, enabling Scout groups, Scout Districts and Scout Regions to lead impactful climate action in their communities through tailored support.
- 4.2 To ensure the implementation of sustainability measures, the Association adopts the principles promulgated by the WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events. The principles provide a step-by-step guide for incorporating measures on assessing and minimising impacts on the environmental sustainability into the event management process from the beginning to the end, to ensure the event is as environmentally sustainable as possible:
 - 4.2.1 Plan Ahead
 - (1) Sustainability measures are an integral part of event planning, such as venues and vendors selection, measurement on baseline carbon dioxide emission, etc.
 - (2) Appoint a team of members with sustainability mindsets.
 - (3) Consider local legislative requirements on sustainability.
 - (4) Establish a commitment on sustainability with collection of feedback.

4.2.2 Reduce First, Compensate Second

Exhaust all options of minimising usage before thinking of compensate the usage.

4.2.3 Think Local (and Seasonal)

Choose local (and seasonal) resources before considering remote ones.

4.2.4 Raise Awareness and Empower

- (1) Provide clear explanations about the measures to make the events sustainable; and empower participants to take responsibility for contributing to their successful implementation.
- (2) Events are considered as a great educational opportunity.

4.3 The document “WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events” provides a good example of the division of work to incorporate sustainability into event management.

4.4 The Association is committed to strengthening the environmental sustainability through the adoption of the World Triennial Plan, which includes:

4.4.1 *“Young people in the Scout Movement have developed better competencies to minimise environmental impact, promote sustainable living models and become change-makers for environmental sustainability.”* (1c, World Triennial Plan 2024-2027)

4.4.2 *“The Scout Movement will be prepared for the impact of climate change on our organisations and implement climate sustainability actions across all operations.”* (5c, World Triennial Plan 2024-2027)

4.5 To assess the progress towards the Strategy for Scouting and the triennial plan, and to promote collaboration and quality assurance, Scout Regions and the Headquarters Branches are advised to integrate environmental initiatives, including but not limited to Earth Tribe, into the Youth Programme, as the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Environmental Sustainability. Key performance indicators provide measurable data and insight into progress towards objectives and strategic priorities. They focus on practical, reliable data collected through existing channels, such as membership census, survey and GSAT.

5. Evaluation and Revision

To cater the changes in the society, this framework will be reviewed at least every 5 years or as required.

6. References

- 6.1 WOSM 2018. Scouts for SDGs.
- 6.2 WOSM 2021. WOSM Guidelines for Organising Sustainable Events.
- 6.3 WOSM 2024. World Triennial Plan 2024-2027, World Scout Committee, Strategy for Scouting.
- 6.4 Scout Association of Hong Kong 2024. Strategic Plan (2024-2027).

7. Enquiry

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