



ARV Environmental Policy

July 2015

To be revised July 2016

At ARV, we strive to minimise our environmental impact, and to educate our volunteers and clients on how best to achieve this.

If you feel that ARV could be doing something more to further lessen our impact on the environment, or if you see something that causes concern and is not in accordance with our environmental policy, please advise the ARV secretary or president.

Below are some key ways we operate in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

Recycling

Recycling is one of the best ways we can minimise environmental harm. At monthly admin days, all paper should be recycled, and any rubbish leftover from preparing lunch should also be recycled where possible. Leftover food should not be discarded but rather taken by one of the admin day attendees for consumption or composting where possible. We try to print as minimally as possible, circulating relevant information digitally instead. Recyclable materials should always be utilised where possible, for example no Styrofoam food packaging.

At monthly program days, the admin team should be mindful of ensuring appropriate materials are recycled, and again food wastage minimised. Any opportunity to educate clients on the benefits of recycling should be taken advantage of – for example for emphasising the use of reusable materials for craft activities.

Minimising toxic emissions

At monthly program days we carpool with full cars where possible, so transportation is minimised. We try to plan programs as close to each other as possible with this also in mind.

At monthly admin days, we try to utilise as few rooms as possible, so that lights and air conditioning are only used sparingly.

Education

We aim to have at least one program per year for each client group with an environmental focus – ie learning about animals and how to protect their habitats, tree planting or other environmental education programs.

Food & Drinks

Each admin team takes turns providing lunch for the monthly admin days, and are encouraged to make food themselves that uses minimal packaging, travels minimal miles and can be composted.

The same principles are kept in mind when arranging food for the monthly program days.

Disposable plates, cups, cutlery etc should be avoided where possible, and items from STARTTS utilised.

On the monthly program days the admin team provides a large canister of water with reusable cups. Bottles of water and other drinks should be avoided where possible.