



Going to School Sustainability Policy

Go Green | Think Regeneratively | Act on Climate

1. Introduction

At Going to School (GTS), we believe that climate action and sustainability are core responsibilities—not just environmental concerns, but matters of educational inputs for us all, climate change actions, solutions, intergenerational equity, and program integrity.

This policy sets forth our commitment to making sustainable, ethical, and climate-positive decisions in every area of our work: from the stories we tell to the way we travel, print, procure, and engage.

Children today inherit the decisions we make now. As storytellers, educators, and creators, we aim to lead by example, ensuring that sustainability is woven into our culture, curriculum, logistics, and leadership.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Define GTS's sustainability values and climate-conscious priorities
- Guide operational, programmatic, creative, and procurement decisions
- Promote regenerative practices
- Educate children and communities on sustainability through lived experience and storytelling
- Monitor, evaluate, and reduce our carbon and environmental footprint

3. Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to:

- All staff, partners, freelancers, vendors, interns, and volunteers
- All program sites, offices, schools, field visits, events, and productions
- All processes and decisions related to content development, production, printing, travel, food, logistics, and procurement
- All GTS stories, toolkits, and educational content shared with children and youth



4. Core Principles

4.1 Environmental Climate change actions, solutions

Children in vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. Our work must reduce harm, redistribute voice, and build resilience.

4.2 Low-Carbon Operations

We strive to reduce emissions, waste, and pollution across all our systems—fieldwork, office, travel, and logistics.

4.3 Sustainable Storytelling

We integrate sustainability and climate change actions, solutions into our media, messages, and content frameworks.

4.4 Education for Planetary Futures

We view climate literacy and green skills as essential to 21st-century education and entrepreneurship.

5. Key Sustainability Commitments

5.1 Content and Education

- Communicate the potential of young people to design solutions to Climate Change by starting sustainable enterprises and creating jobs for low-income communities while solving for the biggest challenge of our time for everyone around them.

5.2 Green Procurement

- Source materials from recycled, compostable, or sustainable origins wherever possible
- Select local vendors and low-footprint alternatives to reduce transport emissions
- Avoid single-use plastics, PVC packaging, and non-recyclable materials in all deliveries and productions
- Require vendors to adhere to GTS's Green Procurement Guidelines and sign an eco-commitment form

5.3 Print and Production

- Print only what is essential
- Use recycled or FSC-certified paper, vegetable-based inks, and eco printers



- Design for reuse and upcycling: content kits, bags, and displays made from durable and natural materials
- Eliminate foam boards, vinyl banners, and laminated merchandise

5.4 Travel and Logistics

- Prioritize public transport, trains, shared mobility, and non-motorized travel when feasible
- Use teleconferencing and digital collaboration as primary options
- Pack and deliver project kits using recycled, minimal, and biodegradable packaging

5.5 Office and Infrastructure

- Reduce electricity usage by turning off lights, ACs, and devices when not in use
- Reuse stationery, storage materials, and electronics
- Encourage waste segregation, composting, and refill systems for office supplies
- Source cleaning materials that are non-toxic and environmentally safe

6. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

- GTS will measure its environmental footprint annually (paper usage, travel emissions, plastic output)
- Programs will track environmental impact metrics alongside education and skills outcomes
- Annual impact reports will include green practices, challenges, and success stories

7. Responsibilities

| Role | Sustainability Duties |
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| All GTS Staff | Follow sustainability practices daily; reduce waste; offer feedback |
| Content Teams | Integrate environmental themes and avoid unsustainable visuals |
| Procurement Team | Apply green criteria in vendor and materials selection |
| Program Teams | Model eco-choices in community and school settings |
| Vendors & Partners | Sign sustainability commitments and align practices |



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| Children & Youth | Learn, question, innovate, and act on climate through participation |
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8. Partnerships and Collaboration

GTS commits to partnering with

- Schools and governments promoting green campuses and eco-clubs
- Innovators in sustainable technology, farming, and education
- Creators who design content for planet-positive learning

9. Policy Review and Evolution

This policy is:

- Reviewed every 12 months
- Updated based on feedback, field learning, and climate developments
- Revised in consultation with climate scientists, child-rights advocates, and community voices

Going to School will continue to learn, evolve, and lead by making climate-positive choices that honor the earth, respect the future, and empower the next generation to inherit a livable planet.