

# TOWARDS A GREENER NPA

**Interreg**



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# Why should you strive for sustainability?

Climate change does not recognize borders. It impacts all of us – our homes, cities, regions, jobs, and environments around us. By the definition, all the NPA projects must be promoting sustainable development and considering the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and “Do no significant harm principle”.

This guide is designed to **inspire** you and **motivate** you to implement new working practices that will help your project to ensure that its activities are carried out in an environmentally friendly manner, contributing to sustainable development in the NPA areas, and avoiding or reducing negative effects on the environment.

Interested in reaching a greener NPA? Start by asking yourself, and your project team a question:

**How to decrease the project’s carbon footprint, how to use resources, materials, services, and equipment more responsibly and cost-efficiently, how to limit waste and make the events and activities greener?**

The cover picture has been taken by the Interreg NPA 2014-2020 project SHAPE in Finland.

The project explored the possibilities of ecotourism in Koitajoki area in North Karelia and linked cultural and natural assets into tourism products.



## Green & strategic procurement

During the project implementation, if specific equipment is needed, the project partners are encouraged to investigate rental options and second-hand purchase possibilities, before purchasing new equipment. The Programme Manual outlines the conditions under which [second-hand equipment can be an eligible cost](#). For more information and examples of green public procurement, please visit European Commission's website, [here](#).

## Nominate a Green ambassador

Look at your partnership and ask who has the most experience with integrating sustainability into work practices, or who is interested in learning more about it, and would like to oversee the project's progress towards the Sustainability horizontal principle. Make it a fun and interesting role!

## Communicate your efforts towards sustainability

Be proud of your achievements and share your progress with the partnership, but also with the public and your Desk Officer. We would like to hear about your success!

## Add sustainability as a standing point on the meeting agenda

At regular project meetings, include Sustainability as a standing point to monitor how the project or individual partners are including sustainable practices in their daily work, what worked well, and what on the other hand requires more focus. Try not to skip this agenda point!

## Calculate your event's carbon footprint

Are you interested in knowing the estimated carbon footprint that your workshop, conference, meeting, or other activity produced? Check out some of the carbon footprint calculators that are available online for free like [MyClimate tool](#), for example! Challenge yourself and try to reduce the emissions produced for the next meeting!



## Check out how to make NPA events / activities greener and more inclusive!

NPA secretariat collected various good practices and ideas how to make programme and project meetings, events and / or activities more sustainable and inclusive. Check out our **Checklist - Towards greener and more inclusive events and meetings** and let us know if you find it useful!

**If you have any other suggestions or best practices, please contact the JS Secretariat and we will add them to the list.**

