



# CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE SCOUT CAMPSITE





# Welcome to BP Scout Camp

When I was a Boy Scout in the 1970s, we didn't learn about recycling or climate change or sustainability. But we did learn to leave the environment in a better condition than we found it, to leave nothing but footprints, and to take nothing but pictures.

A half-century later, I still remember the Outdoor Code, and I still return from hikes with pockets full of litter I have picked up along the many beautiful trails of our country.

Much has changed since I was a Scout, both in Scouting and in the larger society. Today, sustainability is critically important as a growing population taxes our planet's limited resources. In Scouting, many of us are intent on helping our members move from leaving no trace to becoming more sustainability literate and in doing so, developing the next generation of environmentally responsible leaders.

With this in mind, we have worked hard with the redevelopment of BP Scout Camp to integrate sustainability at every level, setting an example of what is possible for Scouts to manage their properties in a more responsible and sustainable way.

I believe we have what must be the first for a Scout campsite in the country, by having introduced an environmental management plan towards achieving a significantly low environmental footprint to become even more environmentally sustainable.

We also wanted BP Scout Camp to be a 'living' environmental education classroom where young scouts can learn the benefits and see the future of living an environmentally responsible and sustainable lifestyle.

Today, as this short report detailing how BP Scout Camp has gone about reducing its environment footprint towards a more environmentally sustainable model, we are moving into a new era of Scouting for sustainability.

I invite you to join us on our journey at BP Scout Camp as we work towards a more environmentally sustainable future at one of Scouts South Africa's premier campsites.

Yours in scouting



**Steve Camp**

Chairman: BP Scout Camp Committee

# Introduction

We challenge all Scouts and Scout leaders who visit BP Scout Camp to leave an environmental legacy, and we ask them these questions: What will your environmental legacy be? What environmental impact will you have upon others? How will you encourage environmental leadership into Scouting? Will you take the sustainability examples at BP Camp and implement them back at your Group?

But we are not just asking those questions. We are also perhaps attempting to answer them for our Movement.

This report presents our first attempt at BP Scout Camp to define what sustainability means for our Scout campsites and Group properties in KwaZulu-Natal. In order to develop a vision for the future, we must first understand the present and come to a mutual understanding of our goals and philosophies.

By defining new methods of environmentally evaluating our Movement, we can expand the focus and intention of our environmental work at BP Scout Camp, while leading our KwaZulu-Natal Scouting communities toward a more sustainable future.

In the years to come, we will build on this foundation to make on-going meaningful and measurable environmental improvements in every area of our operations at BP Scout Camp, which we hope will be extended into the wider KwaZulu-Natal Scouting community.

This document represents an important step toward achieving that goal.

# 5YR TL

## Five-Year Sustainability

For Scouts South Africa, 2019 was a watershed year in sustainability at their campsites as with pioneering initiative, we designed and revamped BP Campsite applying state-of-the-art environmental sustainable methods in not only the construction of the infrastructure but also drafting an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the camp site.

It is the intention that the work undertaken at BP Scout Camp will assist in a national policy in the way national Scout camps and properties are managed promoting environmentally sustainability.





# 5 YR TL

## Five-Year Sustainability Timeline

- **2020:** We are defining what sustainability means for Scouts South Africa campsites and properties, using BP Scout Camp as a working model and establishing the scope for our sustainability efforts at BP Scout Camp.
- **2021:** We will gather data to establish a sustainability baseline, define our systems for metrics, and set goals for the future. It is the intention of the BP Scout Camp committee to publish a campsite and scout property sustainability resource guide to help Scout Groups to continue to evolve towards best practice.
- **2022:** We will measure and report on our achievements at BP Scout Camp and launch new initiatives.
- **2023:** BP Scout Camp will serve as a living laboratory for testing our new initiatives that will benefit other scout campsites and properties around the country.
- **2024:** We will gauge our five-year progress and redefine our vision for future environmental sustainable success at BP Scout Camp.



# Defining Sustainability

To be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed. The word comes from the Latin *sustinere*, meaning “to hold up,” but what does it really mean?

Is it all about ecology? Does it go beyond recycling and energy efficiency? How does it apply to youth-serving organisations like Scouting? As big as Scouts South Africa is, what can we do to address global issues like climate change?

In defining sustainability, it is generally accepted that “sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

We embrace that definition, but we would add, that it goes hand in hand with being a good Scout.

Sustainability means the ability to endure. Conserving the land, forests, air, water, wildlife, and limited resources we all share is everyone’s responsibility. Reducing what we consume and recycling, repurposing, restoring, and repairing what we own all are parts of being thrifty, a key point of the Scout Law.

Today, we are taking those words to heart and developing a comprehensive, multiyear strategy to adopt principles of sustainability at every level at BP Scout Camp. Rather than create another programme, initiative, or emphasis, we are adopting a sustainability mind-set that will guide the way in which we environmentally operate and manage our national scout campsites and properties.

For more than 110 years, Scouts have answered the call to serve their communities. Through this BP Scout Camp environmental project, we want to set an example, for our Scouts, our communities, and ultimately our country.

Sustainability is a journey, not a destination. It is a call to action. What can a single Scout do? A family? One community? It’s time to find out! This is a journey that begins with you.

Our journey began more than 110 years ago with an emphasis on conservation. In time, we deepened our commitment to environmental stewardship. Now, our focus is on environmentally sustainability.

We invite you to join us at BP Scout Camp as we embark on and define our environmental journey.




## Teaching Sustainability

It is Scouting's mission to educate young people to help build a better world. A better world with better lives for all – and Scouts can offer a strong contribution to this agenda. This objective offers powerful tools to help young people, as well as adults, organisations, communities and so many other actors in KwaZulu-Natal, to

move in the same direction in making life on earth better for all.

During the 41st World Scout Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, Resolution 2017- 08 (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) requested the World Scout Bureau actively to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Scouting, as the central plan to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Of course, learning about sustainability is not unique to Scouting. Today's teens recycle as a matter of course and learn about sustainability at school. But Scouting's classroom is the outdoors, where the connections to the environment are emotional, not just intellectual. In the outdoors, young people see first-hand the positive impact of what they are doing, and they are inspired to do even more.



At BP Scout Camp, for example, Scouts experience hands on about being energy efficient and water wise, to turning camp waste food into compost, in which they contribute to growing vegetables for a local informal community.

BP Camp has been designed to be a 'living' environmental education classroom teaching about environmental sustainability, not only for Scouts but also in partnership with like-minded organisations such as the eThekweni Municipality, who make use of the facilities during the week to run a variety of environmental education workshops for the youth in the greater Durban region.

Aligning BP Scout Camp to the Sustainable Development Goals is seen as an opportunity to:

- Show Scouts how their actions impact a bigger cause outside of scouting in order to continue inspiring young people to be more environmentally sustainable, thus creating a better world.
- Offer new learning opportunities to young people and equip them with the competencies they need to find lasting solutions to the environmentally sustainable issues that affect them the most.
- Ensure Scouting's continued relevance by answering the current environmentally sustainable needs of young people.
- Help achieve Scouting's vision to be the leading non-formal educational youth movement by being

a local role player that contributes to the global agenda for sustainable development.

- Promote Scouting to new audiences in KwaZulu-Natal by showcasing Scouting's impact on sustainable development that goes back for more than 110 years.
- Strengthen partnerships and improve fundraising opportunities by being part of the Sustainable Development Goals – partnerships for the SDGs, and collaborating with other partners such as the eThekweni Municipality, who want to see the SDGs achieved.



# The Planet

Planet Earth is our common home and provides us with the fundamental natural resources for survival. These resources are limited, however, and can be depleted if we don't manage them carefully. Moreover, protecting the planet's biodiversity and ecosystem is critical to the survival of our species. BP Scout Camp, for example is situated in the middle of the 15 hectare Burman Bush Nature reserve, which is the last virgin coastal dune vegetation in Durban. By thinking globally and acting locally, we do our part to reduce humanity's impact on this coastal dune vegetation.

That includes conserving available resources, preserving critical environments, and regenerating the resources and environments required for a healthy planet.

In Scouting terms, looking out for the planet means making outdoor ethics a given for every outing, whether it takes place in the bush, berg or a suburban nature reserve. But it also means cutting carbon emissions by improving the efficiency in the way in which we operate and manage our campsites and properties, such as BP Scout Camp.

We believe Scouts South Africa should lead by example, and at BP Scout Camp have implemented steps to both reduce our impact and improve the environment.

# Creating Sustainable Properties

The outdoors and at our Scout halls is where Scouting mostly happens. So it makes sense to put our environmental values in action at our campsites and Scout properties.

As we designed and re-built BP Scout Camp, being the only scouting campsite in the country in many decades that has had the benefit of a complete facelift, we wanted to embrace environmental sustainability from the start and ultimately be a show case for sustainability.

BP Scout Camp is completely off the grid, making use of solar energy, we have used rainwater tanks for grey water recycling, the building materials used have a low environmental footprint, we have recycled old pavers and bricks, repurposed old light fittings, installed dual flush toilets, and low flow showers, and replaced the asbestos roofing with galvanised sheeting, just to mention a few sustainable initiatives.

It is our hope that the Scouters and parents who visit BP Scout Camp can see these working examples of sustainable living and take these practical ideas back to their Groups to encourage the upgrade of the mostly older facilities to embrace sustainability technology, such as installing solar panels, motion sensors to lights, converting to low energy LEDs and other such sustainable ideas to lower the collective environmental footprint of Scouting in KwaZulu Natal.

In 2021, it is the intention of the BP Scout Camp committee to publish a campsite and scout property sustainability resource guide to help Scout Groups to continue to evolve towards best practice.



# Financial sustainability

Money is not the most important thing in life, but it is a primary influence in today's global economy and a critical component of our sustainability. To survive and thrive, we must identify sustainable sources of funding and incorporate financial sustainability into our long-term goals. In so doing, we will not only strengthen our financial position but also better serve our members and communities.

With this in mind, BP Scout Camp has developed a workable financial sustainable business model to ensure it is able to be self-funding and not be a financial liability to KwaZulu-Natal Scouts.

In Scouting terms, fostering prosperity means ensuring that our business model remains viable. To serve an ever-increasing number of young people making use of BP Scout Camp, we must have the financial resources to continue to invest in sustainability and the on-going maintenance at this campsite.

We have also identified and supported companies and businesses that are aligned with our Scouting values. As BP Scout Camp embraces a zero-waste plan

and renewable energy solutions, we also are able to save money while reducing our environmental impact.

As we diversify the user base at BP Scout Camp, we not only increase revenue but also expand our environmental sustainability influence raising the public profile of Scouting.

As we develop standards for energy efficiency and material sourcing, we have created a road map that we and the wider KZN Scouting communities we serve can follow into a more sustainable future.





# IT'S TIME TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING.

So how have we made BP Scout Camp more environmentally sustainable?

## **Building design and materials:**

Pioneer Hall and the BP Training hut were both designed with high ceilings which, since warm air rises, high ceilings assists to keeps the rooms cool year round in the warm Durban humidity.

Heat gain in buildings is largely through the roof structure. We used IsoBoard to insulate the ceilings of the rooms at BP Camp. This environmentally friendly insulation provides a barrier to heat transfer, which keeps heat energy on one side of the board and controls where heat energy should be, either inside or outside.

Windows and shading are the most critical elements in passive cooling. They are one of the main sources of heat gain, via direct radiation and conduction. All the windows are away from direct sunlight and have blinds to keep out any in-direct sunlight, contributing significantly to keeping the rooms naturally cool year round.

Direct sunlight onto a building will rapidly turn the building into an oven. The two main buildings both have deep verandahs, creating shade to keep the inside rooms cooler.

In the annex, we have used four fold-back windows to allow the free flow of air, thus keeping this room cool.



# IT'S TIME TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING

## Energy efficiency:

Use of solar energy has enabled BP Camp to be completely off the grid (22 solar panels with lithium batteries). The warden's cottage has its own independent solar energy system, with 12 solar panels and a lithium set of batteries.

LEDs have been used in all light fittings.

Movement sensors in high usage areas such as the ablutions allows power saving when not in use.

## Water efficiency:

Dual flush toilets in all ablution facilities.

Low flow shower roses.

Water conservation messages in all ablutions.

Rain water tanks installed for rain water harvesting.

## Recycling:

Old pallets have been used to make furniture (L-shaped couch and dining room tables in the annexure of BP Training Hut).

Old wooden (?) have been used to make a wall clock.

Bricks from a demolished BP Camp building have been reused for a library and garden retaining wall and to house two water taps on the parade ground.

Paving stones have been recycled from around BP Camp and reused for the warden's cottage verandah, as well as the washing up verandah of the ablutions and front of the Pioneer Hut.

# IT'S TIME TO GET THE CONVERSATION GOING

Old light fittings have been purchased from the local Kloof SPCA and upcycled for use in the Pioneer Hut, BP Training Hut and the annex there of.

The main door to Pioneer Hut was an old donated door that was refurbished and recycled as the main entrance door.

The dresser in the ladies Pioneer Hut toilet was an old dresser that was upcycled and turned into a feature dresser with a top mounted hand basin.

An old 44 gallon drum was recycled and turned into a couch for the Pioneer Hut verandah.

Recycled frames from the Kloof SPCA have been used as a feature on the wall in the annex using quotes from BP.

## Gas:

All the showers and hot water taps are on gas.

The stove in the small kitchen is also gas electric.

## Alien vegetation:

A huge effort has been made to clear the campsites of (name the aliens). This is an on-going programme.

## Planting indigenous:

Name needed has been used throughout BP Camp to create hedges.

Clivias have been introduced to replace alien ground cover at the Chapel and around the garden at the entrance to BP Training hut.

We have established a small nursery to grow clivia seedlings.

## Recycling area:

An area containing bins to recycle, organic waste, glass, tins, plastic and paper has been set up.

## Composting:

We have a compost pit into which all organic waste is disposed.

## Store Shed:

There is intentionally no power to this shed and have instead used clear roof sheeting for natural lighting.

Recycled frames from the Kloof SPCA have been used as a feature on the wall in the annex using quotes from BP.









## **KZN Scouts**

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