

IMG Green Practices

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.” – John Muir (Our National Parks - 1901)

Taking people into the wilderness is our business so it is no secret that we're inherently vested in its protection. There are a lot of ways businesses, and individuals, can lessen their impact on the environment, both in the front country and the backcountry. Below you'll find the ways International Mountain Guides actively participates in the protection of our immediate surroundings here in Washington State. You'll also find some ways that we lessen our impact on the global environment.

Mt. Rainier may be our home, but we have 'offices' in dozens of countries, on scores of mountains and on all seven continents.

Around Headquarters (Ashford, WA)

- We [recycle our batteries](#). Using batteries in the backcountry is a necessary evil. Headlamps and avalanche beacons are non-negotiable in most of the environments we encounter around the world.
 - We've taken it one step further and are committed to using batteries made from recycled materials. [Energizer's EcoAdvanced](#) All paper and plastic is recycled.
- Despite the local refuse company's refusal to recycle glass we've committed to recycling any glass used at IMG by taking it to Seattle to be recycled.
- All soaps & detergents used at IMG are eco-friendly.
- We use an organic enzyme based boot cleaner.
- We use compact-fluorescent & LED light bulbs.
- The heat source for our office & shop are [clean burning propane](#) stoves.
- We purchased a water dispenser to eliminate the use of plastic bottles.
 - Instead of purchasing water or using a water jug delivery service we refill the 5-gallon water jugs with some of the best water on the planet – Ashford tap water.
- In 2006 when the IMG grounds were being landscaped we contracted Terry LaFrance, a well-known local landscape designer, who specializes in local vegetation which virtually eliminated the need to water the shrubs, bushes and trees.
- If you've climbed with IMG you've probably never noticed, but you've never received any mail from us over the years. We do not print or mail any marketing materials, ever. All our focus is on the website and [e-newsletters](#).
- We used post-consumer paper & eco-friendly ink in our printers.
- We try not to print but when we do we print double-sided.
- We turn the lights off.
- Several employees work from home to minimize the commute thus minimizing fossil fuel consumption.



Inside Mt. Rainier National Park

- All IMG Vans are fueled by clean burning propane.
 - We've taken it one step further and have installed our own propane fueling station at IMG.
- Our IMG Vans are driven by IMG Guides at parked at the trailhead eliminating 50% of the fuel consumption of drop-off & pick-up by a driver.
- We cook on clean burning propane at Camp Muir and are working on ways to cook on propane at our high camp at the Ingraham Flats.
- Before any team enters the park we minimize all packaging of the group food to reduce the amount of unneeded plastic or cardboard packaging.
- We use biodegradable soaps ([Campsuds](#)) for cleaning on the mountain.
- When washing dishes we use a strainer to strain out & carry down even the smallest bits of food.
- As part of the Leave No Trace practices all IMG groups travel & take breaks on snow whenever possible.

Additionally

- All guides are required to maintain a [Leave No Trace](#) certification
- All IMG Climbers are taught the Leave No Trace Principals and are expected to uphold them.
- Gear that might have lost its use on Mt. Rainier is trickled to other countries for continued use (ropes, tents, etc.).

The items listed above are what we're doing now. We're committed to expanding on this list. Should you see an opportunity that we're missing we encourage you to let us know. Please contact us at office@mountainguides.com with your suggestions.