

OBS Environmental Policy

We recognise that breastfeeding is not only important for its short and long-term impact on the health of mothers and babies, but is the sustainable form of infant feeding that minimises impact on the environment.

When babies need to be fed formula milk, there is significant environmental impact, including:

- Rearing of cattle for milk production
- Processing, packaging and transportation
- Water and energy for feed preparation
- Earlier resumption of the mother's menstrual cycle, necessitating the use of hygiene products
- Smaller interval to next pregnancy
- Increased risk of morbidity for both mother and child, leading to increased use of healthcare resources

In addition to our goal of maximising breastfeeding and breastmilk feeding for babies in Oxfordshire, OBS will seek to reduce environmental impact by:

1. Siting drop-in sessions in locations that can be reached on foot and by public transport
2. Encouraging use of sustainable forms of travel for trustee and team meetings
3. Facilitating remote attendance at trustee and team meetings
4. Reducing use of electricity and water to the minimum required for comfort and hygiene at drop-in sessions
5. Providing recycled bottles with our pump loans where possible (making clear to parents the need for careful hygiene) and autoclaving used pump kits.
6. Using Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance certified tea and coffee where possible
7. Ensuring all plates, cutlery and cups used for events are reusable or biodegradable (and that biodegradable products do not go to landfill)
8. Maximising paperless working for trustees and team
9. Working towards paperless sign-in at drop-in sessions
10. Where we cannot take donations of used baby equipment (including for feeding), we will encourage their donation to local reuse/recycling groups, with appropriate safety information about feeding equipment where necessary

Further information

Benefits of Breastfeeding for the Environment and Society (10 Steps)

<http://www.tensteps.org/benefits-of-breastfeeding-for-the-environment-society.shtml>

International Baby Feeding Action Network resources

<https://www.ibfan.org/environmental-awareness/>

Breastmilk - a World Resource (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action)

<https://www.waba.org.my/resources/activitysheet/acsh1.htm>

Breastfeeding and the Environment - La Leche League GB

<https://www.laleche.org.uk/breastmilk-and-the-environment/>

Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support

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