



## environmental policy

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### why care?

We in the travel industry have a huge obligation to do whatever we can to protect the environment. The environment is our workplace, or home, our *passion*. It is the reason there is tourism in New Zealand.

Read on to find out how we minimize our environmental impacts, and manage what we can't eliminate.

***The moral and practical imperative to be socially and ecologically responsible is overwhelming. We owe it to ourselves and our future generations.***

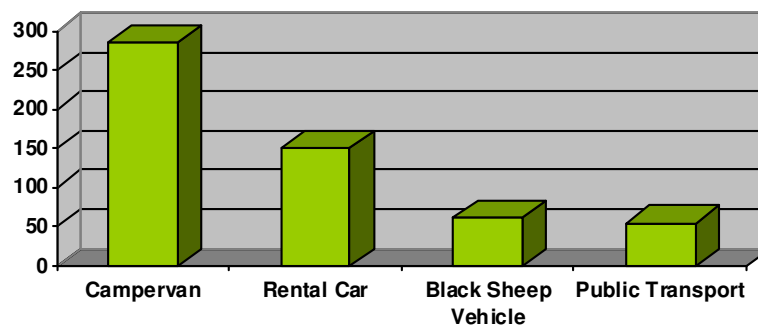
### why small group travel?

We at Black Sheep believe small group travel is the best compromise between flexible, personalized travel, and environmental responsibility.

When we conceived small group travel 14 years ago, global warming was not even in the public consciousness. Back then, we believed small group travel was the perfect solution to combining flexibility and personalized service, with the enrichment and ease that travelling with a guide can bring. Being in a small group affords us the luxury of interacting with smaller communities, meeting locals, and utilizing small-scale low impact facilities.

It is now clear that small group travel also has great environmental sensitivity. The following graph compares the amount of carbon dioxide generated by various forms of tourism transport:

### **Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> generated for one person travelling from Auckland to Queenstown by road:**





Notes:

1. Black Sheep Tour Vehicle data based on 1999/94/EC standard and 7 people occupying the vehicle.
2. Rental car and Campervan data based on the carboNZero Travel and Tourism emissions calculator, with two people occupying the vehicle. (<http://www.carbonzero.co.nz/emissionscalc/tourismeditor.aspx>)
3. Coach figures based on the carboNZero Travel and Tourism emissions calculator, with a typical loading factor.
4. Figures based on a total travelling distance of 1534 km (959 miles).

## what to do about global warming?

Almost all human activity directly or indirectly produces gases responsible for global warming. This is unavoidable.

We can, however, greatly diminish the impact of our activities by **minimizing** the gases we generate, and then **offsetting** those that we cannot avoid generating.

## minimising production of global warming gases

Black Sheep minimizes production of greenhouse gases in the following ways:

- Use of the latest, most efficient tour vehicles. All diesel tour vehicles comply with Euro IV emission standards. All petrol vehicles meet Euro V emission standards.
- All office spaces are heated with a high efficiency heat pump.
- All office hot water is solar heated.
- Our new high-tech office building features high specification insulation, multi-pane glazing, and energy efficient lighting.
- All of our electricity is supplied by New Zealand's only 100% certified carboNZero electricity supplier ([www.meridianenergy.co.nz](http://www.meridianenergy.co.nz)).



black sheep touring co.  
NEW ZEALAND

Off-setting global warming gases produced

Through our participation in the carboNZero programme, Black Sheep measures our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint, and purchases certified carbon credits to offset this CO<sub>2</sub> generation. Learn more at [www.carbonzero.co.nz](http://www.carbonzero.co.nz)

***The cost of this offset is already incorporated into your tour price.***

Many of the international airlines now provide the option of purchasing carbon offsets for your international flights. We strongly encourage you to participate in these programmes when joining a Black Sheep tour.

environmental impact management – explore or exploit?

Tourism walks the tightrope between exploring and exploiting local conservation estate and culture. We cherish the splendid isolation and serenity New Zealand offers and yet diminish it each time we visit. Careful stewardship of our conservation land estate is critical for its sustainability.

In New Zealand, the Department of Conservation ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) oversees this process through their Concessionaire programme. This programme controls the use of the conservation estate and ensures that impacts from the use of the land are minimized and kept within reasonable levels.

Black Sheep is proud to hold a Department of Conservation Concession (PAC 10-06-229).

resource management – minimize...reuse...recycle

Black Sheep follows the minimize – reuse – recycle credo in managing the use of resources. This is manifested in the following ways:

- Re-use of office consumables
- Re-use of some drinking bottles
- Re-use of office paper
- Re-cycling of used paper products
- Recycling of packaging