



Shotley Point Yacht Club

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. WHAT IS IT?

The Club's Environmental Policy is a clear statement of objectives that outline our commitment to minimise our negative effect on the environment. It demonstrates commitment and provides a starting point for action. The Environmental Policy is a working document to which the Club should regularly refer in its activities. The Policy should be reviewed annually.

2. WHY HAVE ONE?

To quote Jane Goodall, the famous primatologist: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Having an Environmental Policy demonstrates how we can reduce our negative impact and can create good PR. It shows that we care about our environmental impact and want to limit it as much as possible; it will also provide a steer when discussing future developments. It should be well received by Members, visitors and stakeholders, and could even help us attract new Members, sponsorship and funding.

To save money – by managing our facilities more efficiently savings can be made.

To meet expectations – environmental awareness is now a hot topic and our existing and potential Members might expect us to have measures in place.

To lead by example – shout about the positive changes we are making to have a wider influence.

We might also be asked for our Environmental Policy from:

- Potential sponsors
- Potential partner organisations
- Banks
- Harbour or river authorities
- Local authorities
- Our home marina or event destinations

3. OUR POLICY

3.1 Compliance with legislation - We aim to meet the environmental legislation that relates to the operation of the Club, and where possible identify opportunities to adopt best practice over and above the minimum legislative requirements.

3.2 Energy efficiency - We will minimise the use of electricity and gas in our activities. For example, by turning off lights, replacing old light bulbs with energy efficient models, and by lowering/turning off heating as required.

Having been obliged to hold Committee meetings, training sessions etc virtually (in our case via Zoom) because of Covid-19 restrictions, we will endeavour to continue doing so where feasible, even when restrictions are lifted, to save travelling fuel and emissions.

When heating their boats, Members are encouraged to consider the relative merits and drawbacks of using shorepower electricity (when available) versus diesel or paraffin heating. In addition to considering relative costs, shorepower electricity is likely to be more environmentally friendly than onboard diesel or paraffin.

3.3 Water efficiency - We will minimise the use of water in our activities. For example, by encouraging Members to use hose trigger nozzles and turning off taps when not in use.

3.4 Waste, Recycling and Hazardous Waste - We will minimise the creation of waste. For example, we will only print and photocopy if essential and then print double-sided.

Where possible, we will use email, text, social media and our website rather than printed materials to communicate and promote our activities.

We will recycle as much waste as possible by using the appropriate bins and encourage our Members to do the same.

We will encourage our Members to use the appropriate containers for the disposal of hazardous waste streams such as used engine oil, contaminated fuel, paint, old batteries etc.

3.5 Pollution control including, oil, fuel, antifoul and cleaning products - Where applicable, we will encourage members to scrub down their boats and apply anti-fouling in a designated area, collect scrapings and dispose of them as hazardous waste.

We will encourage our Members to be careful to prevent fuel spills when refuelling, to use spill kits and to report any inadvertent spillages to the appropriate authority.

We will encourage our Members not to throw litter into the sea or along the coast.

We will encourage Members to use pump-out facilities for holding tank contents (black water) or when not available to discharge black water at the specified distance out to sea.

We will encourage Members to report pollution or other violations of environmental regulations to the authorities.

We will encourage Members to use environmentally friendly antifoul and boat cleaning products.

3.6 Biodiversity including invasive non-native species prevention, wildlife and habitat protection - See 'Hosting events'

We will encourage Members not to engage in forbidden fishing practices and to respect periods when fishing is prohibited.

We will encourage Members to protect animals and plants in the sea or on the shore, including not disturbing breeding birds, seals or other marine mammals.

We will encourage Members to prevent the carriage of invasive non-native species.

We will encourage Members to respect vulnerable and nature-protected areas.

We will encourage Members to avoid damaging the sea floor in the way that they anchor etc.

We will encourage Members not to use objects made from protected species or from archaeological underwater findings.

3.7 Hosting events including cruises and social events - We will endeavour to take a sustainable approach to running events.

We will promulgate relevant local environmental information to our Members such as the location of mandatory and voluntary no-anchor zones and sensitive habitats/species.

We will do our bit for the environment by stopping the use of single use plastic glasses, crockery and cutlery for Drinks & Nibbles, barbecues etc. Similar considerations apply to paper and card products. Event Organisers are requested to follow this policy whenever possible. Members are requested to assist by bringing their own reusable items to Drinks & Nibbles, barbecues etc. In the case of glasses, polycarbonate or similar is preferable to glass for safety reasons.

Event Organisers, when providing Drinks and Nibbles, are encouraged to source products with less packaging to prevent waste.

Cruises are to be planned at fuel-efficient/economical speeds for boats using engine power.

3.7 Suppliers and contractors - We will review the environmental commitment of our supply chain with the aim of ensuring that the Club uses suppliers that meet our standards.

4.0 References

The Green Blue – Making the environment second nature

Signed Commodore

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