



HOW TO WRITE AN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A GUIDE FOR BOATING CLUBS AND BUSINESSES

WHAT IS IT?

An Environmental Policy is a clear statement of objectives which outlines an organisation's commitment to minimise its negative effect on the environment. It demonstrates commitment and provides a starting point for action.

Once written, the Environmental Policy should become a working document which the organisation refers to regularly in all of its activities. The policy should be reviewed annually.

An example environmental policy for boating clubs and businesses can be found at the end of this guide. For further examples you can also view the following existing environmental statements and policies:

- [The RYA Environmental Policy Statement](#)
- [Royal Cork Yacht Club](#)
- [Emsworth Sailing Club](#)
- [Marlow Ropes](#)

WHY HAVE ONE?

Having an Environmental Policy demonstrates how an organisation will reduce its negative impact and can create good PR. It shows that an organisation cares about its environmental impact and wants to limit it as much as possible; it will also provide a steer when discussing future developments. It will be well received by members, customers, visitors and stakeholders and could even help you attract new members, sponsorship and funding.

You may also be asked for an Environmental Policy from;

- Potential sponsors
- Potential clients
- Investors/banks
- Harbour or River Authority
- Landlord

HOW TO WRITE ONE

Writing a policy needn't be overwhelming and don't forget that you can always add to it as your activities change or expand. What's important to remember is that this will become a public commitment and therefore should be realistic and achievable.

1. To begin with, jot down some of the environmental impacts your organisation has and pick five or six that your organisation can control. These could be;
 - Compliance with legislation
 - Energy efficiency
 - Water efficiency
 - Waste, Recycling and Hazardous Waste
 - Pollution control including, oil, fuel, antifoul and cleaning products
 - Biodiversity including invasive non-native species prevention, wildlife and habitat protection
 - Hosting events including regattas, socials, cruises
2. Next write down a simple statement/aim for each of your chosen impacts stating how the organisation will manage and improve these areas. Include specific targets.
3. Sign and date the policy.
4. Display it in a prominent place, circulate it to your members and upload to your website.
5. Remember to refer to it regularly and keep all of your stakeholders engaged and informed.
6. Support your environmental policy by developing an action plan.

An example Environmental Policy can be found on the next page.



The Green Blue Yacht Club **Example Environmental Policy**

The Green Blue Yacht Club is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment. This policy statement sets out the following aims to achieve this:

- meet the environmental legislation that relates to the operation of the clubhouse and boat park, and where possible identify opportunities to adopt best practice over and above the minimum legislative requirements.
- ensure the club manages all potential pollution risks to protect our local watercourses.
- minimise the use of energy and water in all of our activities.
- manage all waste generated by the club through a hierarchy of reduce, re-use and recycle before responsible disposal.
- ensure specialised waste including electrical and hazardous are disposed of correctly.
- endeavour to take a sustainable approach to running events.
- publicise our environmental commitment and encourage sustainable best practice amongst our members and visitors.
- take the environmental credentials of our suppliers into account when procuring new products. By doing so we wish to encourage other organisations to integrate sustainability into their own operations.
- measure our progress and review this environmental policy on an annual basis to ensure continual improvement.

Signed/Dated by Commodore of Club