



Environmental & Sustainability Policy

Our Mission

To create an environment of continuous improvement by considering our impact on the environment in all our decision making. A commitment to progress the sustainability performance of our Clubhouse and Sailing events.

Context

The UK Government has pledged that as many countries and organisations should join together to halt and reverse the loss of nature and protect at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA), as the sport's governing body, has set out its' Environment Policy and Sustainable Strategy which can be found at rya.org.uk/about-us/policies/environment-and-sustainability. The Island Sailing Club (ISC), as a member of the RYA, fully endorses this policy.

The ISC has a proud heritage of sailing and has had a shoreside presence at the mouth of the River Medina in the home of sailing, Cowes, Isle of Wight since 1889. We are a recreational and social club for people who enjoyed water-borne activity in the Solent. It is one of the largest of the sailing clubs in the area. The ISC organises the annual "Round the island Race", and numerous regattas and events throughout the year. It is a major destination for other sailing clubs and bodies when they wish to base their activities in the Solent.

Developing & Raising Awareness

During the covid pandemic, Club members noted that the sea around the Island, undisturbed for a while by human activity became clear again. Members are concerned by the continued pollution of the sea, and the Club supports the efforts of bodies like "Surfers against Sewage" to restrict what is dumped into the ocean.

Since 2021, the Club has sponsored and hosted the TEDx Cowes series of online talks, all on the theme of "ocean sustainability". This has been coupled with an emerging policy of reduction of the Club's carbon footprint, better and more economical use of resources, and a commitment to improve the local, national and international environment by providing a platform for ideas and initiatives.

The ocean covers 70% of the world's surface and generates more than 50% of the oxygen on the planet. Sailors who have reached the most remote parts of the planet have reported to the Club that evidence of human effluent and high levels of plastic can be found throughout the world. Scientists and eco-entrepreneurs who have spoken in the Club have set out ways in which the planets oceans can help restore the health of the environment if allowed and encouraged to do so. The interface between the land and sea is one of the productive parts of the planet in terms of carbon capture and regeneration of the oxygen supply. In the last century, however, oyster beds and sea kelp forests

(which absorb far more CO₂ than the tropical rain forests) have been depleted to an alarming degree. Oysters are capable of filtering large quantities of seawater and cleaning the water to a significant degree (more info needed). It is proposed that they be re-introduced along the coast of the island and around the Solent, where once they were plentiful. Seagrass is also critical to the health of the sea, and we will support initiatives to protect important sections of the local seabed.

The ISC Policy Objectives and Approach

We also recognise that running the Club has an impact on the environment. As part of our ongoing responsibility to protect the Club's heritage, this includes the immediate and future impact our activities have on the environments we use. In line with the RYA, we will take different approaches to furthering environmental impact and sustainability depending on our level of control. We will therefore look to:

- Control our own impacts.
- Manage the impact of events and activities that we organise.
- Influence our stakeholders.

In addition, as the owner of the Round the Island Race, the ISC will:

- Raise awareness within the race community.
- Become a Clean Regatta Community accredited clean regatta event.
- Engage with and target partners and sponsors with aligning values.

Controlling our own impact

The Club will:

- 1 Identify projects and initiatives for the conservation of energy and water consumption to reduce costs and burning of fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases.
- 2 Reduce the food miles of the produce used in our restaurant, and wherever possible source ingredients locally.
- 3 Create effective waste management processes and procedures to ensure all legal and moral responsibilities are met.
- 4 Eliminate single-use plastic altogether.
- 5 Ensure pollution control measures in place to prevent the potential damage to the environment from storage, usage, and disposal of hazardous materials.
- 6 Reduce the amount of water we use and avoid wasting it.
- 7 Ensure that Club RIBs are fuelled safely and responsibly to avoid spillages and pollution.

Managing the impact of events and activities we organise

The Club will:

- 1 Educate and encourage recreational users of boats to safeguard and respect the marine environment.
- 2 Encourage members to scrub down their boats and apply antifouling in a designated area, collect scrapings and dispose of as hazardous waste
- 3 Ensure our water based and shore-based events are delivered in accordance with our aim to reduce waste, recycle as much as possible and end the use of single-use plastic.
- 4 Train safety boat and RIB drivers in refuelling good practice and the use of spill kits.

- 5 Work with the Round the Island Race Director and Cowes Week Ltd to ensure that these two major sailing regattas become models of environmentally sustainable racing in the UK.

Influencing our stakeholders and working in our community

The Club will:

- 1 Persuade other organisations locally to follow our lead in seeking a cleaner Solent.
- 2 Support an initiative to reintroduce European oysters into the Solent.
- 3 Explore all options to ensure the boats and crafts we use have minimal impact on the wildlife and local habitats.
- 4 Ensure that biosecurity is understood and identify where we can influence change to minimise the risk of invasive non-native species becoming established outside of their normal habitat.
- 5 Promote relevant local environmental information to our members such as the location of voluntary no anchor zones, sensitive habitats/species.
- 6 Support litter picks of the beach and local areas.

Governance

The ISC Commodore will appoint a Flag Officer or Director to have environment and sustainability as part of their Board portfolio. The ISC Strategic Advisory Committee will also have, as part of its remit, oversight of actions to achieve our environmental and sustainability ambitions.

We will publicise our environmental commitment and promote sustainability amongst our members and visitors on our website and club notice boards.

ISC Board of Directors

13 December 2023