

John O Gaunt Rowing Club Sustainability Plan

Introduction

John O Gaunt Rowing Club is committed to environmental responsibility and sustainability as part of our role within the sporting community. Our aim is to reduce our environmental footprint, enhance awareness among our members, and support wider efforts in sustainable sport. As proud signatories of Sport England's *Going for Green* pledge, we are working towards more sustainable practices at every level of the club.

Highlighted are areas we are working towards

1. Energy Efficiency and Facilities

- Our air conditioning system operates as a **heat pump system** to provide efficient and lower-carbon heating & cooling to our facilities.
 - Our cleaning routines use **eco-friendly and biodegradable products**, reducing the release of harmful chemicals into the environment.
 - **We plan to start using environmentally sustainable toilet rolls when we can find a viable alternative**
 - New roof with extra insulation.
 - We have removed the gas-fired boiler, and efficient electric systems now power all water heating and showers.
 - A small point-of-use electric heater provides hot water to the kitchen sink, reducing energy waste from heating large volumes of water unnecessarily.
 - All lighting has been replaced with energy-efficient LED units.
 - **We plan to add electricity sensor switches where relevant i.e. changing rooms to reduce electric usage**
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2. Waste Reduction and Recycling

- We **recycle all suitable materials** including glass, plastic, tins, cardboard and paper.
 - **Food waste** composted or disposed of through food waste recycling where possible.
 - We reduce single-use plastics at our events by using **ceramic cups, plates and metal cutlery**.
 - **We plan to replace paper napkins with cloth for events**
 - We actively **refurbish and repair boats, blades and equipment** to extend their lifespan and reduce unnecessary purchases and waste.
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3. Sustainable Transport

- We **encourage car sharing** among rowers and volunteers to reduce emissions and traffic.
 - **Where practical, we also encourage the use of bikes and public transport to attend training and events. Consider bike storage at the boat club**
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4. Water, River Bank and Environmental Awareness

- We keep our members informed about local **sewage discharge alerts** via our website, supporting informed decisions around water use and safety.
 - We promote **respect for local wildlife and waterways**, ensuring our river use leaves minimal environmental impact
 - **We plan to take part in Big River Watch surveys and consider starting water quality testing. Meet with members of Lune River Trust**
 - We've applied for a British Rowing "Thriving Waters" grant to develop regular monthly litter picks
 - We're working to improve environment for wildlife around the rowing club, including getting involved with Lune Rivers Trust and rowing club members to plant trees locally.
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5. Governance and Development

- We have recently appointed a **committee member with responsibility for development and sustainability**, ensuring continued focus, accountability and progress in our environmental efforts.
 - We are proud participants in **Sport England's 'Going for Green' initiative** which we joined in August 2024, and are featured on their website for our commitment to greener sport.
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6. Communication and Engagement

- **Use our website and club communications to keep members informed about our environmental policies and encourage personal sustainability practices.**
 - **Celebrate our progress and share tips for greener lifestyles that extend beyond rowing, helping to create a culture of environmental stewardship.**
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Next Steps and Future Goals

- **Conduct a carbon audit to help set specific reduction targets.**
 - **Investigate the viability of renewable electricity generation on-site.**
 - **Continue to improve our sustainable credentials by developing a cleaning and purchasing policy & further reduce plastic purchase.**
 - **Explore partnerships with local environmental charities or river clean-up schemes.**
 - **Continue to develop training and education for members around sustainability in sport.**
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Conclusion

Sustainability is a shared responsibility and we are proud of the progress made so far. We know there is more to do and we are committed to continuous improvement. Through collaboration, education, and action, **John O Gaunt Rowing Club** is working to ensure our sport and our environment thrive together.