

## **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**August 2025**

**The Royal Yacht Squadron (“RYS”) is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment while protecting and enhancing it.**

The RYS will meet its environmental responsibilities, set out in this document, as they relate to the operation of the Castle, the Pavilion and the Haven. It will also strive to meet environmental legislation imposed by Cowes Harbour Commission, Associated British Ports Marine Environmental Research and Queen’s Harbour Master Portsmouth as relevant to its activities.

The RYS will strive to influence actions that minimise negative impacts on the environment from its activities including events hosted on and off the water.

The RYS will encourage best practice environmental stewardship for its members in relation to their activities as members and will ensure that its members are aware of pertinent environmental issues.

The RYS will also endeavour to implement the Sustainability Strategy put forward by the Sustainability Committee to enable progress with regards to environmental matters for the club.

### **The Castle, the Pavilion and grounds**

We will ensure that the Castle, Pavilion and surrounding grounds operate to high environmental standards in areas such as:

- waste and recycling,
- energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions,
- procurement and consumption of products,
- management of garden areas, and
- the day-to-day behaviour of its staff and members.

See Annex 1 for examples.

### **RYS Haven**

We will ensure that users of the Haven endeavour to act to high environmental standards in areas such as:

- tender use and fuel consumption,
- slipway cleaning and maintenance, and
- members’ residency in the Haven.

See Annex 1 for examples.

## **RYS Events**

The RYS will encourage all participants in RYS sponsored events to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with best practice environmental management.

The RYS will ensure that briefings for competitors taking part in racing activities covers all aspects of on the water issues, including environmental considerations. Whenever possible the RYS will use RYA guidelines<sup>1</sup> for what can and cannot be included in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions as guidance for competitors.

## **RYS Education and Community**

The RYS will aim to educate its members on matters regarding environmental sustainability through the hosting of sustainability events and the sharing of this Environmental Policy and RYA guidance on sustainability.

The RYS will support external initiatives aiming to reduce the negative environmental impacts of racing and yachting and to protect and enhance the marine environment.

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<sup>1</sup> [Running a Sustainable Event - The Green Blue](#)

## Annex 1

### Examples of initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of the Castle, the Pavilion and surrounding grounds

- Promote energy efficiency where possible through measures including introducing smart meters and thermostats, introducing motion sensors for lighting, and replacing appliances with poor energy efficiency ratings
- Introduce and increase the use of renewable energy sources on site
- Minimise use of water through measures including the fitting of hoses with automatic trigger nozzles, turning taps off when not in use, using efficient dishwashing practices, collecting rainwater for garden irrigation, and encouraging guests to reuse towels and linens during their stay
- Procure and provide eco-friendly amenities including ecofriendly detergents and cleaning products, biodegradable toiletries, refillable soap, shampoo and conditioner dispensers, and refillable water bottles to minimise single use plastics
- Promote sustainable procurement including sourcing bedding, furniture, food and drinks from local suppliers and with sustainable certifications (e.g., organic cotton or foods)
- Offer plant-based and locally sourced menu options
- Reduce waste, implement composting, redistribute surplus food to charities, and provide waste recycling bins to encourage members and staff to recycle waste
- Minimise use of harmful pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers and use organic compost

### Examples of initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of the Haven

- Prevent and manage spills, including ensuring club launches are fuelled safely and responsibly and are equipped with spill kits, training staff in spill kits, installing containment trays under maintenance of boats
- Use low-environmental impact products for the cleaning of the Haven steps and boats
- Ensure access to waste disposal with recycling facilities for Haven residents
- Require Haven residents to use holding tanks where fitted during residence
- Consider options for more fuel efficient and low carbon fuelled launches

### Examples of initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of RYS events

- Ban single-use plastics and encourage the use of refillable water bottles and recyclable crockery, cutlery, containers and glasses for events and lunches
- Source local produce whenever possible
- Install water filters and easy-access waste disposal ashore for participants and spectators
- Use digital platforms to share schedules and results to reduce printing
- Consider the use and adoption of electric support boats and buoys
- Set racing exclusion zones to prevent damage to fragile marine habitats and inform participants of protected areas
- Include environmental best practice briefings as part of race documentation and briefings
- Consider and share with members the [RYA's guidance on running sustainable yachting events](#)