

Halifax Canoe Club Environmental Policy

Canoeing is an intrinsically environmentally friendly activity, passage by canoe down waterways has no harmful impact on the environment. However, some elements of the Club's activities can and do have an impact on the local and global environment.

This policy sets out to identify practical ways that the Club and its members can play an active role in reducing the impact of canoeing activities on the environment

Reduce Energy Waste

The Club's facilities include showers and heater in the changing rooms and floodlights on the riverside to enable activities to continue through the winter evenings. These are important facilities for members but through responsible use members can help reduce waste energy and save the Club money on it's utility bills

- The Electric showers in the Club only take a few seconds to warm up, so leaving them running wastes both water and electricity. The Club will encourage all members to switch the showers off when not in use.
- Electric Fan Heaters – encourage all members to ensure these are switched off when the building is unoccupied and only used when necessary
- Almost all of the lighting within the Club is reasonably energy efficient fluorescent tubes. Members will be reminded to switch off unnecessary lights and ensure that lights are turned off when the building is unoccupied.
- The Club's riverside floodlights (x 5) are connected to the Club house lights to ensure they are switched off when the lights in the building are switched off which prevents these being left on for long period. The Club will encourage members to switch the river lights off whenever they are not in use and as soon as all paddlers are off the water on an evening, potentially saving half an hour of electricity each evening that the lights are used.
- The club will put up notices by switches / exits to remind members they can help save electricity and reduce the Club's carbon footprint and include information in Club newsletters.

Equipment

The Club can have an impact on the environment through its purchase of new equipment and the disposal of old equipment. For example most modern kayaks are made of polyethylene so can be recycled! The Club can also encourage help reduce waste by promoting a good second hand market for equipment.

- New Club equipment – consideration should be given to the environmental sustainability of all new equipment purchased by the Club, such as the ability for it to be recycled in the future.
- When disposing of old or surplus equipment the Club will, where equipment is still safe and serviceable, offer it to members or other canoe clubs as second hand equipment.
- The Club will encourage members to make their surplus equipment available second hand to other members through space to advertise equipment on notice boards and website.

Recycling

The building that the Club is based within does not currently have recycling collections. The majority of waste generated at the Club is at the three slalom event weekends held at the Club each year.

- Provide a facility for paper, card, cans and plastic bottles to be recycled at slalom events.

- Investigate with Calderdale Council the provision of recycling collections from the Club and in the interim encourage members to take recycle-able waste (plastic drink bottles etc) back home to their household recycling facilities.

Cleaning of the Club

Being water users we are aware of and could be adversely affected by water borne pollution. Therefore it is important that we set an example and do not pollute the water environment.

- All cleaning products used in the Club should be environmentally friendly and / or bio-degradable

Travel

Given the need to transport canoes to activities, public transport is not an option for travelling to activities. While travel by car is the only realistic option in most situations, transporting canoes on roof racks and driving with an empty roof rack attached reduce the fuel efficiency of a car by at least 10%. Despite this, Club members can still reduce their impact on the environment while using private cars

- The Club will encourage members to car / lift sharing for all trips and activities away from the Club, with a meeting point for activities at the Club to facilitate this.
- Where practical the Club will make use of its canoe trailer to transport canoes to an activity, so the fuel efficiency of most vehicles travelling to an activity is not reduced.
- The Club will advise members (through its newsletter) of the impact on their vehicles fuel efficiency from driving with an empty roof rack and encourage members to remove them unless transporting canoes.

Environmental Improvements

As highly visible water users in the local community it is important that the Club is seen to be 'custodian' of its local section of river and works to maintain and improve the river environment in Sowerby Bridge.

- The Club will organise regular 'clean ups' on the River Calder adjacent to the Club and remove other rubbish from the area as necessary.
- Member will be encouraged to report other pollution and rubbish dumped around the river to the relevant authorities for removal.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____

Review Date: May 2010