

## **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 identifies practical ways by which 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 heaters in the changing rooms, and floodlights on the riverside to enable activities to continue through the winter evenings. These are important facilities for members and, through responsible use, members can help reduce energy wastage and save the Club money on its utility bills. Members should:

- Turn off showers after use. Do not leave them running.
- Use Electric Fan Heaters only when necessary and turn them off after use
- Switch off unnecessary lights and ensure that all lights are turned off when the building is unoccupied.
- Switch off the Club's riverside floodlights (x 4) whenever they are not in use, and as soon as all paddlers are off the water on an evening.
- The club will put up notices by switches / exits to remind members they can help save electricity and reduce the Club's carbon footprint.
- Information will be included in Club newsletters and will be part of member inductions.

### **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 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 Club building does not currently have recycling collections. The Club will:

- Provide a facility for paper, card, cans and plastic bottles to be recycled at formal club 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**

It is given that travelling by car is the only realistic option for most canoeing activities, and that transporting canoes on roof-racks or driving with an empty roof-rack attached reduces the fuel efficiency of a car by at least 10%.

The Club and members can reduce fuel consumption thereby reducing emissions and save money, and should

- Share vehicles for all trips and activities away from the Club. This is an essential part of trip planning.
- Make use of the canoe trailer, where practical, to transport canoes to an activity, so minimising the number of other vehicles requiring a roof-rack..
- Remove roof-racks when not in use.
- Drive at a fuel-economic speed.

### **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.
- Members will be encouraged to report other pollution and rubbish dumped around the river to the relevant authorities for removal. Contact details are on the club notice board

### **Invasive Species**

Water craft can inadvertently transport aquatic creatures from one water course to another. This can have a bad effect when an aggressive creature is introduced to an environment where the native species do not have a defence against them. There have been a number of high profile cases recently of alien species taking over. Eg Signal Crayfish, and the so-called 'killer shrimps'.

Members can prevent accidental transfer of these and other organisms by removing mud and vegetation, and emptying water from their boats at the get out before leaving the water side. This is particularly important when visiting more than one location in a day.

Alien plant species can also be accidentally propagated by allowing plant material to enter a flowing river. These species should only be removed in a controlled manner supervised by specialists.