

Priory Sailing Club Environmental Policy

Priory Sailing Club is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment. This Environmental Policy has extra importance because the Club is situated in Priory Country Park, a 360 acre green space made up of many lakes, meadows and woodland which is, in part, enclosed within a bend in the River Great Ouse from which Priory Lake is fed and into which it flows. The Park is also a County Wildlife Site and certain areas of the park are left undisturbed for the benefit of the wildlife that makes the park its home. Habitats range from meadows to reed beds, and activities include play areas, fishing, bird hides and, on Priory Lake, boating.

To achieve the aim of minimising the impact on this environment, this Policy sets out a series of action statements for each area for the club and its members to follow.

- We will meet the environmental legislation that relates to the operation of the clubhouse and boat park, and where possible identify opportunities to adopt best practice over and above the minimum legislative requirements.
- We will ensure that club safety boats are fuelled safely and responsibly to avoid spillages and pollution. Safety boat drivers will be trained in refuelling good practice and responsible driving.
- We will aim to minimise the use of electricity in all of our activities. For example; turning off lights, replacing old light bulbs with energy efficient models and using Passive Infrared Sensors (PIRS) where appropriate.
- We will reduce the heating in the building wherever possible.
- We will aim to minimise the use of water in all of our activities. For example; fitting hoses with automatic trigger nozzles and turning off taps when not in use.
- We will aim to reduce our creation of waste by following the principles of the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) , for example we will:
 - **Reduce** waste by only printing and photocopying if absolutely essential and then double-sided, communicating to members via email rather than printed materials
 - **Reuse** items whenever possible when repairing craft and running events
 - **Recycle** as much waste as possible by providing adequate clearly labelled bins and increasing our waste and recycling bins and/or collections during busy events. We will also endeavour to recycle as much dinghy chandlery as we able to.
- We will endeavour to take a sustainable approach to running events, including offering vegetarian and vegan options and encouraging cycling and walking to those events.
- We will promote relevant local environmental information to our members such as the location of seasonal 'no-go' zones and sensitive habitats/species.
- We will publicise our environmental commitment and promote sustainability amongst our members and visitors on our website and club notice boards.
- We will take the environmental credentials of our suppliers into account when procuring new products. By doing so we wish to encourage other organisations to integrate sustainability into their operations.
- PSC will seek to improve biodiversity on the site, managing the habitat of the site via a combination of light touch and managed intervention approaches, working in partnership

with Priory Park where possible, and ensuring that the main activities of the Club are not affected.

- Environmentally sensitive materials and methods will be applied for building maintenance, refurbishment and extensions.
- Biodiversity net gain principals will be followed for any new constructions, extension or refurbishments on site - for example installation of bird and bat boxes, swift bricks or bee homes.
- **Biosecurity:** We will require members and others to reduce the risk of bringing invasive non-native species on to our site and into our lake by requesting them to wash down boats, trolleys and trailers before taking them off site to another water and before they are returned to the club from another water.
- **Biosecurity:** We will seek to improve signage around the site to remind members and others to follow the club's biosecurity measures as well as following best practice guidance from the "Check, Clean, Dry" campaign and wider GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNS) initiatives that are relevant to the club.
- We will measure our progress and review this Policy on an annual basis.

Approved by PSC Committee March 2024