



CASE STUDY 28

'Greening' of a charter fleet Sunsail, Portsmouth



Background

Sunsail were founded in 1974 and are the largest sailing and watersports vacation company in the world. They have 30 locations worldwide and over 800 yachts available to charter. Their UK base is located in Port Solent.

In 2008 Sunsail established a partnership with The Green Blue to understand and minimize the environmental impact of their operations, both on board and on shore in the UK. This was seen as a natural extension of a significant sustainability programme undertaken at its charter base in Tortola, British Virgin Islands for which it won Practical Boat Owners Green Award for Service in 2009.

In 2011 Sunsail acquired a new fleet of 42 Beneteau F40's for yacht charters, racing and RYA training courses on the south coast and this provided the ideal opportunity to make further green improvements.

The Green Blue along with the Carbon Trust carried out an energy survey of Sunsail's site. This resulted in a better understanding of the offices energy use and a number of measures were taken to reduce energy consumption such as changing temperature controls and replacing old energy intensive equipment with new more efficient products. The better understanding of energy use and efficiency savings led to considerable cost savings for Sunsail.

At the same time, The Green Blue assisted Premier's Port Solent Marina to improve their waste management. The Green Blue completed a full site audit which allowed the marina to take some immediate action.

The Green Blue and Sunsail persuaded Premier Marina to offer a pump out facility which is free for all the berth holders.

Actions and Results

- * To prevent oily or fuel contaminated bilge water being released into the marine environment, each of the 42 new F40's were fitted with Wavestream 'in line' bilge filters provided by Halyard. These filters sit in the bilge between the bilge pump and the water outlet. The filter removes all hydrocarbons from the bilge water before it is pumped.
- * Fuel collars are provided to staff for use when refuelling. These fit around the fuel nozzle and ensure that any drips are caught and absorbed. The fuel collars are re-usable.
- * Each of the F40's is fitted with a holding tank. Although not a legal requirement in the UK, having a holding tank means that all black water (human waste) can be disposed of (using a Pump Out facility) ashore rather than being pumped into the sea. It also means that these boats can be used in the Mediterranean if they are needed where the discharge of black water directly into the sea is not permitted.
- * Each boat in the fleet is kitted out with phosphate free cleaning products provided by Ecover.



- * Environmental information has been integrated into the fleet's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) copies of which are part of the handover documentation to each new skipper/crew member.
- * All used/end of life sails are recycled. The sails are sent to Wightsails who create new items such as chairs and bags.
- * On board each of the F40's are a number of awareness raising products. Recycled branded mugs provide 'Did you know' facts on marine litter, pollution and wildlife; and tea towels provide a list of top ten eco tips.
- * Sunsail use a team of over 100 skippers to manage their fleet of F40's. Each year Sunsail hold a skippers briefing and for over five years The Green Blue has been invited to give a presentation outlining what they can do to help keep the F40 fleet sustainable. The responsibilities they have taken on include:
 - Setting a good example to customers. What you say goes and what the customers learn and observe during their time on board with you will stay with them forever
 - Preventing rubbish going overboard. Use butt pouches for cigarette ends instead of throwing these overboard.
 - Taking care when refuelling, do not use detergent to deal with spills.
 - Using onshore toilets where possible
 - Recycling as much waste as possible
 - Choosing anchor sites with care.
 - Washing down anchor before stowing to prevent spreading non-native invasive species
 - Navigating with care around wildlife.



With the skipper leading by example on board each boat, and with over 10,000 clients and customers using the Port Solent Fleet on an annual basis, Sunsail is proactively raising awareness and reducing the Fleet's impact on the environment.

In 2010, The Green Blue presented Sunsail with a Marine Toolkit Certificate to recognise its commitment to sustainability and the results to date. Sunsail continues to be the industry leader in delivering sustainable sailing through its actions on board and ashore within its charter, racing and training programmes.

Sources of further information

The Green Blue please call 02380 604 100, email alex.watkins@thegreenblue.org.uk or visit www.thegreenblue.org.uk

Updated March 2012