



# Pathways to Zero

Sustainability Strategy  
2020-2030

Executive Summary

*A Vision for a Sustainable UK  
Recreational Boating Sector*

# Pathways to Zero

The Royal Yachting Association is a membership-based organisation with 112,000 individual members, 1,500 affiliated clubs in the UK and 2,400 affiliated training centres ranging across 58 countries.

For the past 15 years, the RYA has invested in sustainability initiatives through its support for The Green Blue, a joint information and education programme run in conjunction with our partners at British Marine. In 2018 the RYA's Board committed to enhance that activity by investing further in a sustainability team that would consider the RYA's own activities and impacts and increase its influence in this important area of work. In 2019 a new Environmental Policy was developed and approved which commits the organisation to acting on sustainability issues.

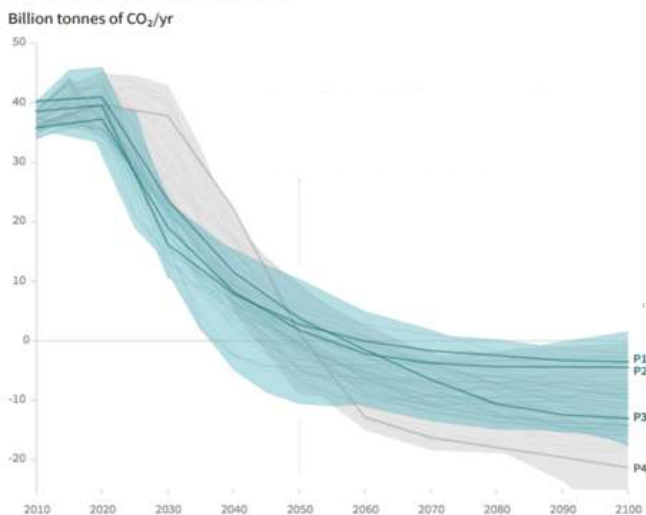


While working alongside other teams to address environmental concerns during the RYA's day-to-day operations, this strategy has been developed to plan, measure and report on our approach.

The RYA is recognised globally as a leader in recreational boating from training, technical, economic, and elite sport perspectives. This gives the RYA a unique ability to shape the future of our sport and to ensure that future is sustainable.

Our sustainability vision is broad and ambitious, and one to which the RYA can aspire to due to its professional reputation, strong brand recognition and international reach.

**Global total net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**



2030 has been selected as a key review point by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by which time we need to have reduced our global carbon emissions by 45% in order to stay on a trajectory to net zero by 2050. In turn, this is in line with a 1.5C global temperature rise (IPCC, 2018). 2030 is also the target year for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which the RYA supports through its membership of the UN Global Compact.

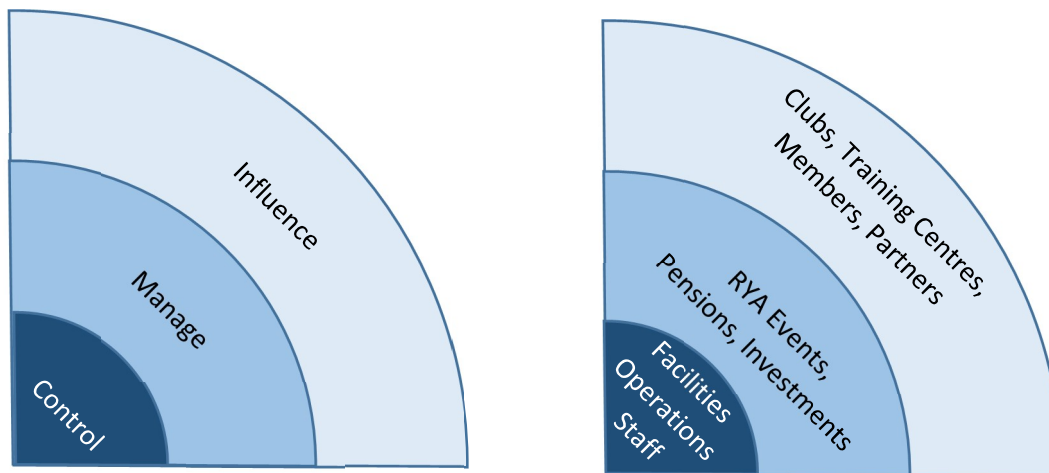
This document therefore outlines how the RYA will make its contribution to sustainable development over the next 10 years, in response to global threats to our climate and environment that have rightly moved rapidly up the public and policy agenda in recent years. This summary is supported by a background document and a detailed action plan.



# Objectives

To achieve our objectives, we will take different approaches depending on our level of control. In line with our Environmental Policy we look to:

- Control our own impacts
- Manage the impact of events and activities that we organise
- Influence our stakeholders



The approach of “*Pathways to Zero*” addresses the climate, biodiversity, waste and pollution, and the social aspects of sustainability, while remaining mindful of economic necessities. In summary we intend to develop these pathways for the RYA and the wider recreational boating sector through:

- **Inspiring Informing and Enabling** our staff, clubs, training centres and the boating public to embed sustainability and to take positive action
- **Transparency** in all that we do: Open measurement, prioritising, monitoring and reporting on progress along with a people-centred approach in line with the Principles of the UN Global Compact
- Developing a **Zero Pollution and Zero Waste Pathway**: minimising waste and pollution and looking to circular economy principles
- Developing a **Zero Carbon Pathway**: making intelligent use of energy and other natural resources with power-down through energy efficiency and power-up through the use of renewables
- Promoting **Biodiversity Net Gain**: Co-existing with aquatic wildlife and seeking opportunities to remedy biodiversity loss
- Influencing through **Procurement and Partnerships**: Sharing our approach and working with our partners to develop pathways for the whole industry that work for boaters and businesses together

# Strategy

## Embedding

To deliver this ambitious programme, it needs to be embedded across the organisation. To start the process of embedding, and to ensure input from as many stakeholders as possible, a series of meetings was held between September 2019 and March 2020 with staff, clubs, RYA committees and others. In total around 200 people have been consulted at more than 20 meetings.



Our approach of consulting widely with staff, members and clubs is the start of that process to embed sustainability thinking, so that it becomes second nature to consider sustainability when making decisions. Sustainability cannot be seen as an add-on, delivered solely by a specialist team.



## Engagement and Communication

We will use all the RYA's communication channels to engage our members, affiliates and the wider boating public in delivering our vision.

### Connection to wider RYA Strategy Review

The RYA's next 4-year Strategic Plan will run to March 2025. It is anticipated that the sustainability strategy will be referenced by, and incorporated into, the Strategic Plan during its development.

Sustainability should be considered either as a cross-cutting theme at all levels, or fully embedded in all elements of the Strategic Plan.



## Tactics

A tactical approach is being taken to significant impacts that have been identified through the stakeholder consultation process. Some actions have therefore already been taken. We will continue to take this tactical approach, responding promptly as we measure our impacts further and set formal targets. Further details of actions can be found in the RYA Sustainability Action Plan.

## Audit and Review

The Sustainability Team will develop data recording systems to ensure that all significant aspects are measured and reported upon.

# Actions

The following is a summary of the Action Plan. The full plan is a live document with an annual review and revision process.

## Inspiring, Informing and Enabling

Appoint and train department Sustainability Champions

Develop and deliver a communications plan

Continue to develop The Green Blue materials to enable boaters to address sustainability challenges

Provide advice to staff to address sustainability challenges in their own lives

Embed sustainability messages in all RYA training curricula and materials

Develop a volunteer network to promote The Green Blue around the country

## Transparency and People

Review HR policies against UN Global Compact Principles

Develop an action plan to increase participation by underrepresented groups on RYA committees

Annually publish the RYA's gender pay gap with an action plan to address issues identified

Create and operate an open hospitality register

Achieve the Fair Tax Mark from 2021

Report on progress against our sustainability objectives in the annual report and accounts

Collect environmental data and set our baseline performance

Develop a monitoring and evaluation model to prioritise impacts

Ensure compliance with all environmental legislation

Set challenging targets and resource their delivery

Implement ISO14001 and ISO2012 Environmental and Event Management Systems

## Zero Waste and Pollution

Eliminate single use plastics from RYA events

Develop and promote a Pathway to Zero Waste in the recreational boating sector

Promote The Green Blue best practice in fuel and oil handling, antifouling, cleaning products, and grey and black water disposal

# Actions

## Zero Carbon

- Reduce building energy use through implementing energy efficiency measures
- Improve the efficiency in use of RYA powerboats and improve boat movement Logistics
- Review the expenses policy from a sustainability perspective to ensure that it encourages best practice
- Produce travel plans for major RYA events
- Develop and promote a Pathway to Zero Carbon in the recreational boating sector
- Work with our supplier Ecotricity to encourage switching to green energy supplies
- Develop a carbon offset policy to properly account for residual and unavoidable emissions such as British Sailing Team travel
- Report annually on carbon emissions in line with the SECR protocol

## Biodiverstiy

- Consider opportunities to increase biodiversity around our premises
- Deliver biodiversity education through The Green Blue
- Promote biodiversity net gain through responses to Government consultations and responses to planning applications
- Continue to work with the Government's Check, Clean Dry and Boating Pathway Action Plan initiatives to control the spread of invasive non-native species

## Procurement and Partnerships

- Within a revised procurement policy, assess suppliers against environmental criteria and produce a preferred supplier list with environmental and cost benefits
- As a not-for-profit, work more with other not-for-profits and co-operatives as suppliers
- Work with venues to ensure sustainability plans are implemented
- Ensure investments are aligned with our sustainability objectives
- Work to better align membership benefits and sponsorship deals with our sustainability objectives
- Develop a travel to work plan for RYA HQ in partnership with other local businesses
- Increase the number and variety of partners of The Green Blue
- Maintain existing partnerships with bodies such as Natural England along with Government departments to promote biodiverse marine habitats



# Next Steps

The RYA's staff look forward to delivering on this ambitious plan, and to seeing its positive impacts on our stakeholders and the natural environment in which all our activities take place.

For further reading please see the RYA Sustainability Strategy Full Report, which sets out the context of global environmental issues, United Nations, European and UK policy, and boating sector strategies. The Action Plan, which forms part of that report, details how the RYA plans to respond and address the organisation's direct impacts, as well as how the RYA will influence and support the wider recreational boating sector to address their own impacts. This will be used to drive forward the changes envisaged and will provide a checklist for monitoring progress. The Action Plan will be reviewed annually and revised to ensure that the strategy remains on track.



## Environmental Policy Statement

The RYA recognises that the protection of the environment is an integral part of our business and a prime responsibility of management at every level. Our members enjoy the experience of boating in a clean environment and we want to ensure that they continue to be able to do so. We believe that environmental damage is avoidable so will do everything that is reasonably practicable to prevent it.

All RYA employees are responsible for managing the organisation's impact on the environment and minimising the resulting effects whenever possible.

The Directors and Managers of the RYA will provide necessary resources including finance, personnel, training and equipment, to ensure that our environmental management arrangements are implemented effectively.

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*We will comply with applicable environmental legislation, prevent pollution, identify and minimise risks to the environment posed by our operations, and ensure continuous improvement in our performance*

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In order to manage and improve our environmental performance we will:

### **Control our own impacts**

- maintain a register of relevant legislation in order to ensure legal compliance
- work towards implementing an Environmental Management System which conforms to ISO14001
- manage our use of chemicals and ensure effective storage to reduce the risk to the environment
- minimise our use of fossil fuels, and hence our climate impact, through effective use and maintenance of our vehicle and boat fleet and through energy efficiency measures in our buildings
- follow the Waste Hierarchy: reducing, re-using and recycling our waste where reasonably practicable through a variety of onsite and offsite recycling facilities, minimising the impact of residual waste through responsible disposal
- include environmental and ethical considerations in purchasing decisions wherever practicable
- set realistic objectives and targets for environmental performance, and monitor and review our environmental performance annually to demonstrate our commitment to continual improvement
- review this policy statement on an annual basis

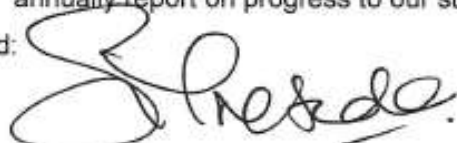
### **Manage the impact of events and activities that we organise**

- ensure effective working practices are in place to reduce the risk of pollution and control risks from environmental hazards during events organised by the RYA

### **Influence others**

- engage with and communicate the importance of environmental good practice to our employees, members, suppliers and other stakeholders and support them where practicable in improving their own environmental performance
- annually report on progress to our stakeholders and to the wider public

Signed:



Sarah Treseder, CEO

Date:

29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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