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# SUSTAINABILITY

## HORSHAM CANOE CLUB

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# Horsham Canoe Sustainability

## 1. Purpose and Commitment

Horsham Canoe Club is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability in all our activities, ensuring our impact on waterways and local ecosystems is minimised. Through responsible practices, partnerships, and community engagement, we aim to foster a love for the environment among our members while preserving Southwater Country Park and surrounding areas for future generations.

## 2. Key Principles

Our sustainability policy is guided by the following principles:

- **Respect for Nature:** We recognise the importance of natural ecosystems and commit to minimizing our environmental footprint.
- **Education and Awareness:** We strive to educate our members and community about the importance of conservation and sustainable practices.
- **Community Responsibility:** We believe in giving back to the environment through regular clean-ups and partnerships with environmental organizations.

## 3. Objectives and Actions

### 3.1. Waterway and Site Conservation

- **Paddle Clean-Ups:** Organise regular clean-up events, inviting members and the local community to join us in removing litter and debris from waterways and park areas. We will follow **Clear Access Clear Water's** best practices to maximise the positive impact of each event.
- **Leave No Trace:** All members are encouraged to adopt a "Leave No Trace" policy, ensuring that no waste or gear is left behind after any club activity.
- **Reporting Pollution and Hazards:** Members will be encouraged to report any pollution, invasive species, or hazards to local authorities to protect and maintain water quality and biodiversity.

### 3.2. Responsible Equipment Use and Maintenance

- **Eco-Friendly Equipment:** Where possible, we will prioritise equipment made from sustainable materials or brands committed to reducing their environmental impact.
- **Equipment Upkeep:** Regularly maintain and repair equipment to extend its life, thereby reducing waste and avoiding the unnecessary purchase of new items.

### 3.3. Sustainable Practices in Club Operations

- **Waste Reduction:** Minimise single-use plastics by encouraging members to bring reusable water bottles and other environmentally friendly items.
- **Recycling Facilities:** Work with Southwater Country Park to ensure adequate recycling bins are available and accessible and encourage all members to use them properly.
- **Digital Communications:** Reduce paper use by conducting club communications, registration, and event sign-ups online whenever possible.

## Horsham Canoe Club

Southwater Country Park, Cripplegate Lane, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9UN  
[www.horshamcanoecub.co.uk](http://www.horshamcanoecub.co.uk) | [info@horshamcanoecub.co.uk](mailto:info@horshamcanoecub.co.uk)

### 3.4. Education and Awareness

- **Workshops and Training:** Host periodic workshops on sustainability topics, such as eco-friendly paddling practices, waterway conservation, and waste reduction.
- **Collaborations:** Partner with organisations like Paddle UK and [Clear Access Clear Water](#) (CACW) to deliver informative sessions and materials that raise awareness of the impact of pollution and encourage proactive solutions.

### 4. Community Engagement and Partnerships

- **Collaborate with Local Environmental Groups:** Partner with local organisations and schools to support wider conservation efforts, such as tree planting or environmental education sessions.
- **Public Engagement:** Participate in local events to spread awareness of our sustainability efforts and invite the community to join our paddle clean-ups or club activities focused on environmental stewardship.

### 5. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Regular Reviews:** Annually review our sustainability practices to measure progress and set new goals. Member feedback will also be sought to identify new opportunities for improvement.
- **Impact Reporting:** Share our environmental impact with members and the community, including the amount of litter collected during clean-ups and other sustainability achievements.

### 6. Compliance and Accountability

- **Environmental Regulations:** Ensure that all club activities comply with relevant environmental regulations and guidelines set by Paddle UK and local authorities.
- **Responsibility:** All members, coaches, and volunteers are expected to uphold this policy, with the club committee overseeing its implementation.

## Conclusion

Horsham Canoe Club is dedicated to promoting sustainability within our operations and activities. Through our efforts, we aim to make a positive impact on the environment and inspire our members and the community to join us in protecting our precious waterways and green spaces.