

# Wivenhoe Sailing Club Environmental Policy

## Our commitment

Wivenhoe Sailing Club aspires to be a champion for the River Colne, its estuary, and the unique ecosystems that surround us. We aim not only to minimise our own environmental impact but to actively promote the protection, restoration, and appreciation of our local environment - leading by example, working with members, visitors, and partners, and supporting good stewardship throughout our community.

## Policy objectives

### **1 Compliance and best practice**

- 1.1 Comply fully with all relevant environmental legislation and local regulations.
- 1.2 Aim to exceed minimum standards through continual improvement and the adoption of best practice.

### **2 Energy and water efficiency**

- 2.1 Use energy and water efficiently by promoting energy-saving behaviours, investing in new technology, and seeking further ways to reduce consumption.

### **3 Pollution control and spill prevention**

- 3.1 Prevent pollution, especially of the river and surrounding land, by ensuring careful handling, storage, and use of fuels, anti-fouling products, and waste.
- 3.2 All fuelling, anti-fouling, and maintenance activities must be planned and carried out to avoid spills or contamination, following club guidelines.
- 3.3 Waste, including hazardous materials and residues from boat maintenance, must always be disposed of appropriately using designated facilities and in accordance with legal requirements.
- 3.4 Members are expected to act responsibly, immediately report any accidental releases, and follow best practice to minimise environmental risks.

### **4 Waste management and recycling**

- 4.1 Apply the “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy across all operations.
- 4.2 Provide clearly labelled waste and recycling facilities.
- 4.3 Work to reduce and ultimately eliminate single-use plastics at club events and activities.

### **5 Biodiversity and habitat stewardship**

- 5.1 Protect and enhance habitats on and around the club site, with particular focus on native species and wildlife corridors.

- 5.2 Avoid activities (e.g., pruning) that could disturb nesting birds or harm sensitive habitats.
- 5.3 Support delivery of these aims through the club's *Wildlife Friendly Gardening Guide* and related Club Guides.

## **6 Sustainable grounds and gardening**

- 6.1 Maintain grounds to benefit wildlife, avoid the use of pesticides, use mulch and compost, and minimise emissions from waste transport.
- 6.2 For specific gardening and habitat management practices, refer to the *Wildlife Friendly Gardening Guide*.

## **7 Sustainable events**

- 7.1 Run events with environmental awareness—minimising waste and encouraging low-impact travel.
- 7.2 Ensure event organisers and volunteers are aware of the club's environmental standards and practices and help communicate key messages to participants where practical (for example, via signage or simple reminders).

## **8 Procurement and suppliers**

- 8.1 Consider environmental impact when selecting products and services.
- 8.2 Encourage contractors and caterers to adopt the club's environmental standards, and where possible engage those who meet them.

## **9 Education and awareness**

- 9.1 Promote environmental awareness and best practice through club guides, signage, and events.
- 9.2 Provide guidance on responsible boating and protection of local habitats.
- 9.3 Support the Environmental work of the Rivercare Group and water quality monitoring with the University of Essex.

## **10 Governance and delivery**

- 10.1 Appoint an Environmental Lead or Committee Member to oversee policy delivery and compliance.
- 10.2 Ensure all subcommittees and activity organisers integrate environmental good practice.
- 10.3 Introduce new members to the club's environmental principles.
- 10.4 Report to the General Committee on progress and compliance.

## **11 Monitoring, targets and review**

- 11.1 Review environmental performance and policy annually, or sooner if needed.
- 11.2 Set and regularly review measurable environmental targets as part of the Environmental Action Plan (targets are not listed in this policy but are maintained in the plan).
- 11.3 Report progress annually to the General Committee and members.

## **12 Action plan and supporting club guides**

- 12.1 Deliver this policy through a supporting Environmental Action Plan, developed by the Environmental Working Party, which sets out specific projects, responsibilities, and timescales.
- 12.2 Practical steps and day-to-day arrangements are provided in a series of Club Guides, which are available to all members and reviewed alongside this policy.
- 12.3 Current Club Guides include:
  - *Wildlife Friendly Gardening Guide*
  - *Recycling and Waste Management Guide*
- 12.4 Additional guides may be introduced as needed to support the policy.

## **13 Review and approval**

- 13.1 This policy will be reviewed by the General Committee at least every 36 months and updated as necessary in response to changing circumstances or legislation.

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**Signed:**

**Julie-Anne White**

Commodore

Date: 29 July 2025

Review Date: July 2028