

Newport Yacht Club

Sustainability Plan (Draft June 2023)

Vision: We have a responsibility to operate the club in a sustainable manner and we aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship. We will lead by example for members, residents of Newport and visiting boaters from RI, US and around the world.

Goals

- Reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions
- Reduce waste from plastic
- Reduce the club's long-term operating costs through reduction of energy use
- Promote sustainability among members and demonstrate the benefits of sustainable practices
- Prepare the club for the impacts of sea level rise from climate change

Operating Practices to reduce energy consumption and plastic waste

- Further reduce electricity and gas use including through turning off lights and turning down heat in off hours.
- Purchase renewable energy directly through plans offered by Rhode Island or other energy providers (e.g. [Arcadia | For Businesses](#))
- Utilize compostable cups and straws and/or re-usable aluminum cups to reduce plastic waste
- Require all winter slip holders in the marina that shrink wrap their boats to recycle their shrink wrap.
- Investigate a composting process for food waste (if possible)
- Source products as part of club purchases that are ethically and sustainability produced
- Promote sustainable practices for on the water events (e.g. Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Program [Clean Regattas | Sailors for the Sea](#))
- Educate and engage our members and staff on environmental and sustainability issues and encourage them to minimize their impacts on the environment in their daily lives
 - Invite guest speakers to speak to club members on relevant sustainability issues of interest

Capital Projects to be considered to increase energy efficiency, reduce electricity costs and promote sustainable practices

- Switch to high efficiency HVAC, water heater and building management systems
- Add additional insulation to building (underground insulation already added)
- Convert all lighting to LEDs (40% complete)
- Invest in rooftop solar to reduce electricity use
- Replace windows with more energy efficiency windows (complete)
- Replace use of plastic water jugs with filtrated water filling station
- Explore electric/alternate fuel options for Volunteer, Patience, and sail training boats
 - Volunteer in particular is a good candidate for an electric/hybrid propulsion system as it stays plugged in most of day and only travels a short distance at slow speeds to events

- Implement green infrastructure to reduce runoff from pavement and/or capture & reuse rainwater for operational activities
- Install electric vehicle charging stations
- Upgrade floating docks to prepare for sea level rise and more frequent storms.
- Investigate the need to elevate the club itself (or critical infrastructure within the club) to prepare for sea level rise.

Implementation Steps

- Establish a Sustainability Working Group to implement this policy and achieve its objectives.
- Develop a budgetary estimate for potential sustainability activities, incorporate a sustainability review into all future capital improvements/projects and calculate potential ROI
- Add sustainability initiatives as a category in the annual budget development process
- Explore partnerships with local organizations such as Clean Ocean Access, 11th hour racing, Sailors for the Sea and others
- Explore grant options available to yacht clubs and non-profit organizations for sustainable initiatives and improvements
- Seek to learn about and share best practices with local and international yacht clubs and water sports organizations
- Explore sponsorship opportunities from local business interested in promoting sustainable practices