

The Green Blue: an environmental awareness initiative for the waterways



Educating and informing recreational boaters about the ways to minimise their environmental impacts

The Green Blue is a UK-wide environmental awareness initiative aimed at promoting the sustainable use of both inland and coastal waters by boaters and the boating industry. It is led by the Royal Yachting Association and the British Marine Federation. The scheme aims to educate and inform the recreational boating community about environmental impacts and to suggest how such impacts can be avoided or minimised. It is the only recreational focussed environment programme in the UK and the only source of environmental information specific to the boating sector.

The Green Blue produces a range of publications – guidance, fact sheets, codes of practice, posters and fliers – to support and promote its work. It also gives advice on “green” products and undertakes research into topical environmental issues. It has more than 750 documents in its research database, which is available to the public on-line. The scheme works closely with providers of marine services, such as marina operators, and with user groups, such as boat clubs, to promote awareness. It also participates in boat shows and special events and uses volunteers to spread the word about good practice.

Issues addressed concerning inland boating include:-

- Oil and fuel pollution;
- Noise and exhaust fumes;
- Avoidance of adverse impacts on wildlife and biodiversity, including the spread of invasive species;
- Cleaning and maintenance of boats;
- Reducing wash from boats;
- Disposal of waste; and
- The sustainable use of resources, such as reducing energy use, recycling etc.

Further information can be found at www.thegreenblue.org.uk/