



OCEAN CRUISING CLUB®

Environmental Policy

Helping to protect the oceans we sail

The aims of the OCC are to:

1. increase **awareness** among the members of the OCC of the serious threats to our world and particularly threats to marine environments, maritime activity and ocean cruising;
2. provide information and resources to members enabling them to take **action** that contributes to protecting our environment;
3. **advocate** for the implementation of changes by governments and businesses, supporting and working in conjunction with relevant organisations seeking to effect change that protects our environment.

The principal focus for the OCC is:

1. marine habitat degradation, species extinction and biodiversity loss, including pollution, illegal fishing, overfishing, bycatch, ghost nets, illegal wildlife trade, and invasive species;
2. weather pattern disruption caused by climate change, including ice cap melt and rising sea levels;
3. coral reef destruction from chemical and plastics pollution;
4. ocean acidification and dead zones from chemical and nutrient pollution;
5. carbon footprint of the Club and of members;
6. environmental sustainability.

Policy Implementation

This Policy Statement sets out how we will work towards achieving our environmental aims and focus. This is a living document and from time to time will include targets and deadlines, and will be amended and updated to reflect changing circumstances.

The Ocean Cruising Club will urgently:

- publicise our environmental commitment and promote sustainability amongst our members and other cruisers, via our website, publications and social media;
- adopt and promote best practices already developed and tested by other organisations;



- work with like-minded organisations to influence governments and businesses to implement changes that will protect our environment;
- endorse the call for a climate emergency to be declared by governments and other bodies;
- advocate to governments regarding protection of marine environments and proper conduct of maritime activities.

On a continuing basis the OCC will:

- encourage members to sign petitions to governments and industries impacting on marine environments and maritime activity;
- advocate to national deep sea fishing organisations about the impact of activities such as illegal fishing, overfishing, bycatch, and ghost nets;
- increase the awareness of members by:
 - drawing on the experience of long-standing ocean sailors to write about the changes they have seen in marine and maritime environments;
 - encouraging highly respected members of the Club to write about their environmental concerns, actions and advice;
 - regularly publishing articles from the mainstream media and scientific bodies about relevant environmental changes, threats, action and initiatives;
 - adopting and promulgating the view that the way individual members can make a greater contribution to the climate emergency and pollution is not simply to stop doing certain things but to do less of them;
 - publishing simple tips on reducing personal environmental impact;
 - including environmentally focused presentations in the OCC Lectures programme;
 - publicising relevant webinars and lectures presented by other organisations;
 - publishing advocacy activity by the OCC (including endorsement of environmental initiatives and groups) and encouraging members to participate individually;
 - sharing articles and publications by other organisations relevant to the OCC's aims;
- use email, the internet and social media rather than printed materials to communicate and promote our activities when possible;
- take a sustainable approach to running events, especially cruises in company, covering, for example, number of vessels participating, waste management, impact on the marine environment, positive action such as beach clean-ups, and humanitarian support to local communities;
- take the environmental credentials of our suppliers into account when procuring new products to encourage other organisations to integrate sustainability into their operations;
- continue participation at the AGM by electronic means;
- promote citizen science projects in which members can participate;
- provide an OCC Environment Award that recognises cruisers who contribute towards environmental sustainability of ocean cruising through, either, tangible environmental outcomes for cruising, host communities and/or environments; or raising community or cruisers' awareness of environmental issues and solutions;
- adding more natural fibre options to the Club's clothing regalia;
- encourage and support members to:



- meet the environmental legislation wherever members cruise and where possible identify opportunities to adopt best practice over and above the minimum legislative requirements;
- ensure that our boats are fuelled safely and responsibly to avoid spillages and pollution;
- minimise the use of fossil fuels in our activities, for example installing wind, water and solar power;
- minimise the creation of waste—for example, buying products with minimal packaging;
- share best practices with the communities we encounter as we sail the world's oceans;
- encourage members to scrub down their boats and apply antifouling in a designated area, collect scrapings, and dispose of them as hazardous waste;
- promote relevant local environmental information to our members such as the location of voluntary 'no anchor' zones or sensitive habitats/species;
- measure our progress and review this policy regularly and at least annually.