

Twickenham Rowing Club receives Go Green Award that really add value

Increasingly the green agenda has become a key aspect to many organisations public profile, and a requirement to ensure credibility for compliance purposes, such as applications for local funding, and similar. As many rowing clubs are to be found within highly visible and prominent riverscapes, environmental credentials are becoming a key part of club management plans. Furthermore, as the ARA has publically stated that everyone who participates in rowing is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment, clubs have begun to take this on board.

Twickenham Rowing Club, located on the historic and high profile, Eel Pie Island has been working hard to ensure it

operates to the highest environmental standards within such a sensitive part of the River Thames. Richmond upon Thames council has now acknowledged these efforts with the **Go Green** Award at Merit and Advanced level. This accolade is given to organisations that make, and achieve recognised positive improvements to their environmental performance. In presenting the Merit and Advanced Award, [Councillor Martin Elengorn, Cabinet Member for the Environment on Richmond Council](#), commented "This is one of the first businesses demonstrating commitment to good environmental practice and responsible stewardship of this vital riverscape. It gives me great pleasure to present these awards, and to express support for this important local community facility."

The award was the result of an exhaustive independent audit which covered a range of key themes (see box) which measured the clubs control and procedures to monitor and reduce items such as energy consumption, waste production, water use, travel and procurement. "We felt that there were tremendous opportunities to identify where money could be saved, efficiencies achieved, and an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to this unique location upon which the club resides." commented Club President Mark Ormiston, and keen environmental advocate "I had seen savings within my own company and wanted to share my experiences with the club and its members. What this has also done is enable us to attract funding for new facilities and support for new members, which is an added bonus all around."

Over the last twelve months the club produced an environmental policy, shown a significant decrease in electricity (down 30%) and gas (down 60%) consumption and costs, as well as a decrease in waste production. The club's commitment to reducing their environmental impact is made visible to volunteers and club members as soon as they enter the building. Actions include using clearly labelled recycling bins, communicating recycling procedures and information on club notice board, on the website and



[Councillor Martin Elengorn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#), presenting the Go Green Merit and Advanced Awards to Twickenham Rowing Club members Sally Owen and James Easton.

Go Green Audit Items

Environmental management

- Commitment
- Policy and targets
- Training and awareness raising
- Wider environmental benefits

Energy

- Monitoring
- Heating
- Lighting
- Equipment
- Energy sources

Waste

- Monitoring
- Minimisation and recycling
- Hazardous waste

Water

- Monitoring
- Sinks
- Toilets
- Showers
- Hose

Purchasing

- Products & Equipment

Travel

- Staff and visitors
- Business vehicles
- Visitors

circulated through the club newsletters. The policy extends to procurement procedures which require vetting supplier's environmental standards and products, for example; coaching launches, need to show fuel efficiencies. The club has developed a travel policy with support from Transport for London and South and West London Transport Conference (SWELTRAC) which has in itself paid off through funding of bike racks and cycle shelters. A further grant has been provided to increase accessibility to include disabled members. "All in all, we are pleased with the progress made so far, however; this is the beginning, we have already identified further areas for improvement, and this will be our next target for 2009." adds Mark, "as our membership grows, so will be economies and benefits to all who encounter the club and this unique location."

For further information, http://www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen/gg_work/gg_awards