

Environmental & Sustainability Policy



Updated : July 2022

Date for review : November 2023

Wetwheels Foundation and our Operators are committed to helping to ensure the health of the maritime environment for future generations.

All Wetwheels Foundation Trustees, team, staff, our Operator Skippers, crew and volunteers are responsible for our environmental impact, and this is at the heart of our culture.

In addition to complying with all relevant environmental legislation, this subsequent guidance shapes what we do and how we behave.

- Purchase goods and services that help to prevent any negative impact on the environment – for example cleaning and washing services.
- Avoid waste and promote the conservation, reuse and recycling of resources.
- Work closely with suppliers and other organisations within the maritime sector, to ensure that all equipment used minimises any negative impact on the environment.
- Minimise unnecessary travel and use of energy.

In addition to the above on our boats, we will:

- Helm responsibly, minimising wash in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Wherever possible incorporate fuel efficient, 'lean burn' outboard engines and aim to maximise fuel efficiency.
- Anchor responsibly, to avoid damaging environmentally sensitive sea bed habitats.
- Ensure that no waste is thrown over the side, or any other item that wouldn't normally belong in the sea.
- Maintain our boats, their engines and other equipment in accordance with manufacturers specifications to minimise the risk of accidental pollution and only employ contractors/boat yards with a similar ethos.
- Train all our volunteers to act in a manner that is respectful to the environment and uphold the Wetwheels ethos.

We are in close contact with our key suppliers and partners. As part of our ongoing commitment to monitoring and evaluating our impact, we will be working with our partners to provide detailed user data and to understand how we can continue to reduce any impact we might have.

Our maritime partners also have clear policies about the impact of their activities on the environment.

Suzuki

Suzuki has a Global Environmental Charter that is at the heart of the company. From their latest Sustainability Report 2021:

“In order to hand over the beautiful earth and affluent society to the next generations, we must all realize that the actions of each and every one of us have a great effect on our earth's future, so we must make every effort to preserve our environment.

Environmental Policies are as follows:

- *Strictly observe environmental laws and also follow our own standards.*
- *Reduce the pressure placed on the environment resulting from our business activities and products.*
- *Maintain and improve upon our environmental management system.*
- *Promote environmental communication.”*

For more information please visit Suzuki's [website](#).

When comparable and alternative-fuelled engines that are suitable for our activities become available, Wetwheels Foundation will be talking to our suppliers.

Raymarine

Raymarine is committed to meeting its obligations to the environment, including the regulations related to recycling and disposal of Raymarine product.

In Europe, electronic devices need to be disposed of in accordance with the WEEE Directive. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive requires the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment which contains materials, components and substances that may be hazardous and present a risk to human health and the environment.

Raymarine is especially conscious of the importance of preserving the marine environment. With polystyrene foam and other plastics comprising 90% of marine debris, the company sought out an alternative, more sustainable packaging solution. They found a like-minded business partner in Magical Mushroom Company, the first ever UK manufacturers of mycelium-based packaging.

Their sustainable packaging consists of recycled agricultural waste, which binds with the mycelium in a matter of days to form strong protective packaging for their high-tech navigation equipment.

After use the fully biodegradable packaging can be broken up and disposed of with food waste or scattered on a home compost heap or flowerbed. Raymarine plans to phase out all its polystyrene packaging and replace it with mycelium within the next three years.

Cheetah Marine

[Cheetah Marine](#), are developing new technologies for hull efficiency and future zero emission propulsion.

They retain a firm commitment to the wider environment and working with partners to limit impact on the world around us.

Wetwheels participants enjoy the local environment through activities such as observing the beauty of The White Cliffs of Dover from the water, and meeting schools of dolphins in and around Falmouth; but we also support various projects across the country which protect and foster our understanding the environment.

These include Wetwheels Yorkshire providing their boat to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for evaluating the local coastline; and Wetwheels South West boat being an official asset to tag blue fin tuna; advancing the knowledge and understanding of tuna and other migratory marine fish through research, education, and conservation.

We recognise that a commitment to the environment is an ongoing process and this policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure we are following current best practice.