WHITLEY BAY ROCKCLIFF RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Approved: Management Committee on 1 November 2026 | Next Review Due: November 2028

Sustainability Statement

1. At Whitley Bay Rockcliff Rugby Football Club (the club), we recognise that our activities have an impact on the local, regional and global environment. We are committed to reducing the environmental impact of our operations, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering environmental awareness among our members, volunteers, players, supporters and visitors.
2. The club aims to be an environmentally responsible community sports club. We are committed to implementing practical measures that reduce our environmental footprint across all aspects of club activity while continually seeking opportunities to improve our environmental performance.
3. As a community-focused amateur rugby club, we support the principles of World Rugby's Environmental Sustainability Plan 2030. We aim to follow its guidance and recommendations to reduce carbon emissions, encourage a circular economy, minimise waste, phase out unnecessary single-use materials, and protect the natural environment for future generations.

Recycling and Waste Management

4. The club is committed to reducing waste and increasing recycling wherever practical. We currently separate waste into three streams: • Paper and cardboard recycling • Glass recycling • General waste
5. We recognise that there is significant scope to further improve our waste management practices. Through ongoing monitoring, staff and member engagement, and continual improvement initiatives, we will seek opportunities to increase recycling rates, reduce general waste, and minimise the amount of material sent for incineration or landfill.

Water Conservation

6. The club is committed to reducing unnecessary water consumption across all club facilities and activities.
7. We regularly review our operations to identify opportunities to reduce water usage and address wastage. Recent improvements include the removal of an external sink and disconnection of its water supply after it was identified as an unnecessary source of water consumption.
8. We will continue to explore opportunities for water efficiency, including the potential use of rainwater harvesting systems where practical and economically viable.

Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy

9. The club seeks to minimise the environmental impact of its energy consumption by reviewing utility suppliers and tariffs on a regular basis.
10. Where feasible, we will prioritise renewable and low-carbon energy sources and work towards sourcing electricity from suppliers that support the transition to a net-zero carbon economy.

Energy Efficiency

11. Improving energy efficiency remains a key part of our sustainability strategy.
12. We have installed LED lighting throughout much of our clubhouse and facilities, alongside PIR motion sensors that automatically switch lights off when areas are unoccupied.
13. As equipment and lighting systems reach the end of their operational life, energy-efficient alternatives will be prioritised for replacement.
14. Recent improvements include: • Installation of energy-efficient cellar cooling systems. • Conversion of floodlighting to LED technology in partnership with Rugby 365. • Use of advanced lighting controls to ensure high-quality pitch illumination while minimising energy consumption.
15. A recent survey by external energy consultants concluded that there were no significant improvements to be made in our energy use and efficiency without capital investment.
16. We will continue to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency across our facilities.

Sustainable Transport

17. The club encourages players, members, volunteers and supporters to reduce transport-related emissions wherever practical.
18. We promote car sharing for fixtures, training sessions and club events and encourage active travel options such as walking and cycling.
19. To support this commitment, the club has installed bicycle racks, which are widely used by members and visitors.

Biodiversity and Local Habitats

20. The club is committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity on and around the club site.
21. When undertaking development, maintenance, or improvement projects, we seek to avoid unnecessary harm to the natural environment and local wildlife habitats. Areas of the site are intentionally left in a more natural state to support biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife.
22. We also maintain high standards of cleanliness and litter management, ensuring that waste is collected and disposed of responsibly after matches and events to prevent

pollution of surrounding areas and local waterways.

Food and Drink

23. The club seeks to reduce the environmental impact of its food and beverage operations.
24. Where practical, we: • Minimise food waste through careful planning and stock management. • Source seasonal and British-produced ingredients. • Prepare food on-site using fresh ingredients in place of processed alternatives where possible. • Increase the availability and quality of plant-based and plant-forward meal options.
25. These measures help reduce environmental impact while offering healthy and appealing choices to members and visitors.

Single-Use Plastics

26. The club is committed to reducing and, where possible, eliminating unnecessary single-use plastics.
27. We actively seek sustainable alternatives to disposable plastic products and have adopted environmentally preferable cups and utensils where appropriate.
28. As standard practice, the club aims to avoid the use of: • Plastic cutlery • Sauce sachets • Plastic straws • Plastic stirrers • Disposable plastic food containers
29. We will continue to identify opportunities to further reduce plastic consumption throughout our operations.

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

30. Environmental sustainability is an ongoing journey. The club will periodically review this policy and its related practices to ensure they remain relevant, achievable and effective.
31. The club will encourage feedback and participation from members, volunteers and stakeholders, recognising that collective action is essential to achieving meaningful environmental improvements.

Whitley Bay Rockcliff Rugby Football Club
1 November 2026