

Rowing's response to climate change and other sustainability issues

**2019 NATIONAL FEDERATIONS
CONFERENCE**

Friday 22 November 2019
London, Great Britain





Video: "Sport and the Climate Crisis", IOC Media 2019
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CgvRsX38As>



Sport is both
a victim and a
contributor



FISA signed up to the Sports for Climate Action Framework in July 2019.

What does it mean, practically speaking?



SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION ESSENTIALS IN BRIEF: SUMMARY OF KEY STEPS



1. MEASURE AND UNDERSTAND: KNOW WHERE YOU STAND
Establish a reference (baseline) carbon footprint to identify your organisation's current levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and understand how you can take effective action.



2. TAKE ACTION



Avoid: choose not to do something
Prioritise opportunities to avoid carbon emissions.



Reduce: choose to do less
Optimise resource-efficiency in energy use, transport, materials and work practices in order to reduce your carbon footprint.



Substitute: do the same but with "cleaner" processes/equipment
Introduce renewable energy and lower-carbon technologies in place of older more carbon-intensive energy sources and equipment.



Compensate: do good elsewhere to balance your unavoidable GHG emissions
Implement measures to deal with residual or unavoidable emissions and promote behaviour change.



Report: account for your GHG emissions and show progress towards carbon neutrality
Publish results of your actions and share lessons learned.



3. EDUCATE AND INSPIRE

Inform your stakeholders about your climate action initiatives and encourage them to take action themselves.

1. Measure and Understand
2. Take Action
3. Educate and Inspire



HANNAH MILLS

▲ OLYMPIC
CHAMPION
SAILING
RIO 2016

Video: Olympic champion Hannah Mills launches [#BigPlasticPledge](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmCn00IzgMU)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmCn00IzgMU>

BIG
PLASTIC
PLEDGE

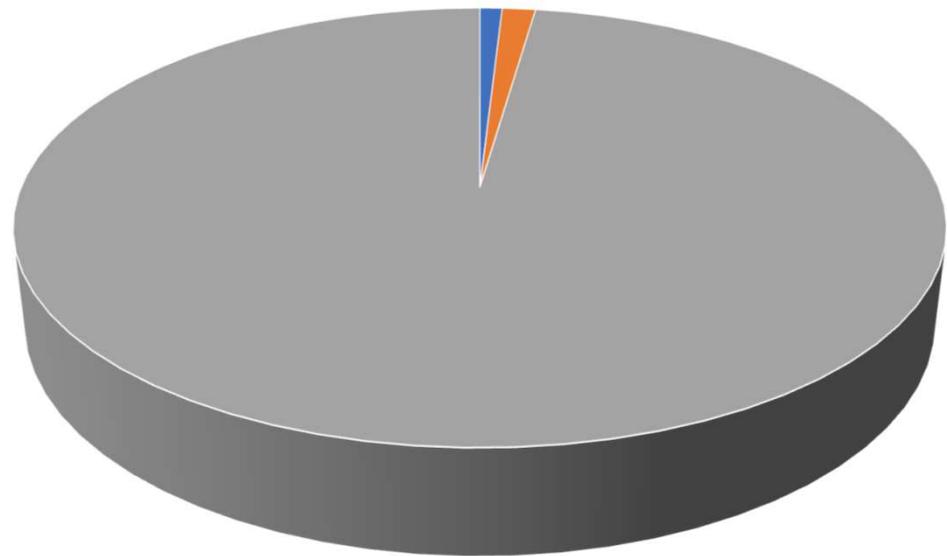
The 5 key principles of Sports for Climate Action

- 1 Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility
- 2 Reduce overall climate impact
- 3 Educate for climate action
- 4 Promote sustainable and responsible consumption
- 5 Advocate for climate action through communication

Measuring and understanding our carbon footprint



Components of FISA's 2019 Carbon Footprint



■ Energy ■ Consumption: ■ Travel

World Rowing's Strategic Plan

SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES

Principle 1: Undertake **systematic** efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility

Principle 2: **Reduce** overall climate impact

Principle 3: **Educate** for climate action

Principle 4: Promote sustainable and **responsible consumption**

Principle 5: **Advocate** for climate action through communication

Goal V – Respect and Preserve the Environment through Rowing

Objective 1

Sustainable Events – Stage events using leading environmental and sustainability standards, policies and practices.

Objective 2

Education – Engage and educate the world's rowing audience in the clean water mission.

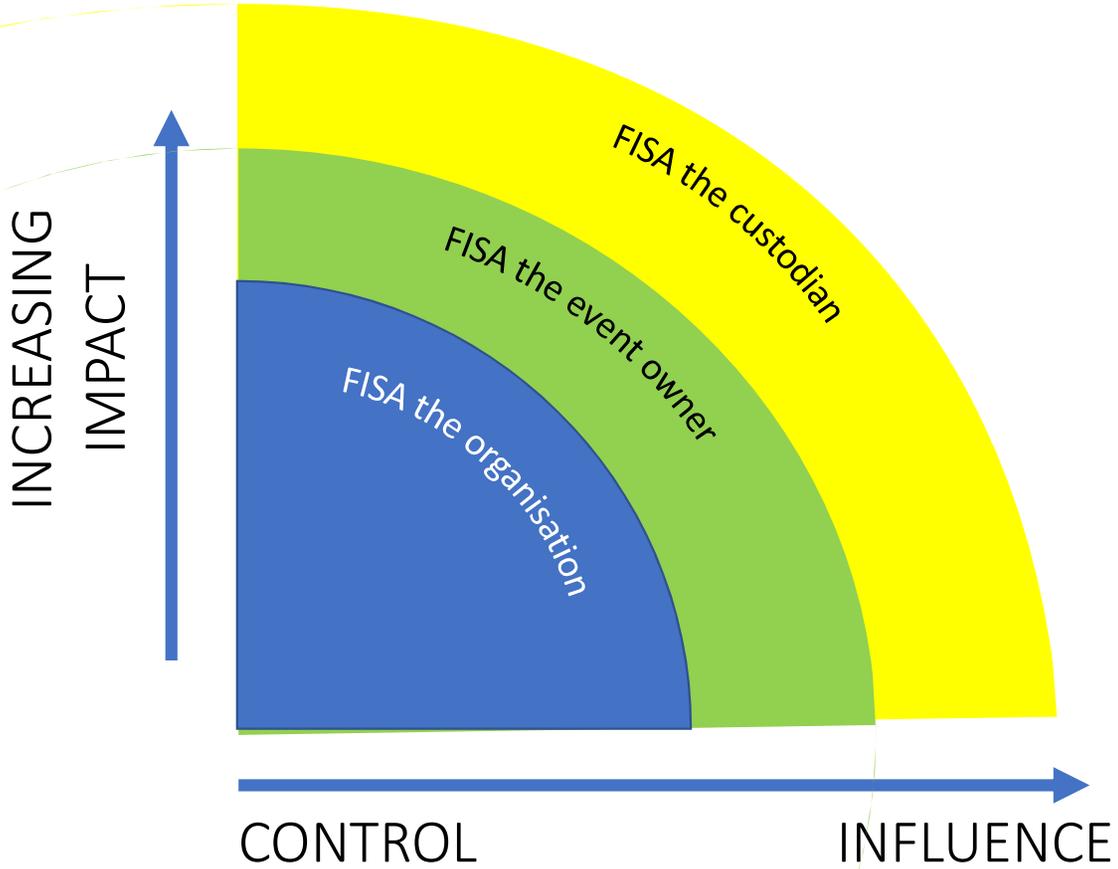
Objective 3

Activities – Engage with NFs in order to increase their activities and those of their member clubs in the environmental protection and clean water mission.

Objective 4

Leadership – Lead by example ensuring that, as far as possible, all of FISA's activities, including events and daily operations, are conducted in an environmentally sustainable way.

Levels of influence and impact

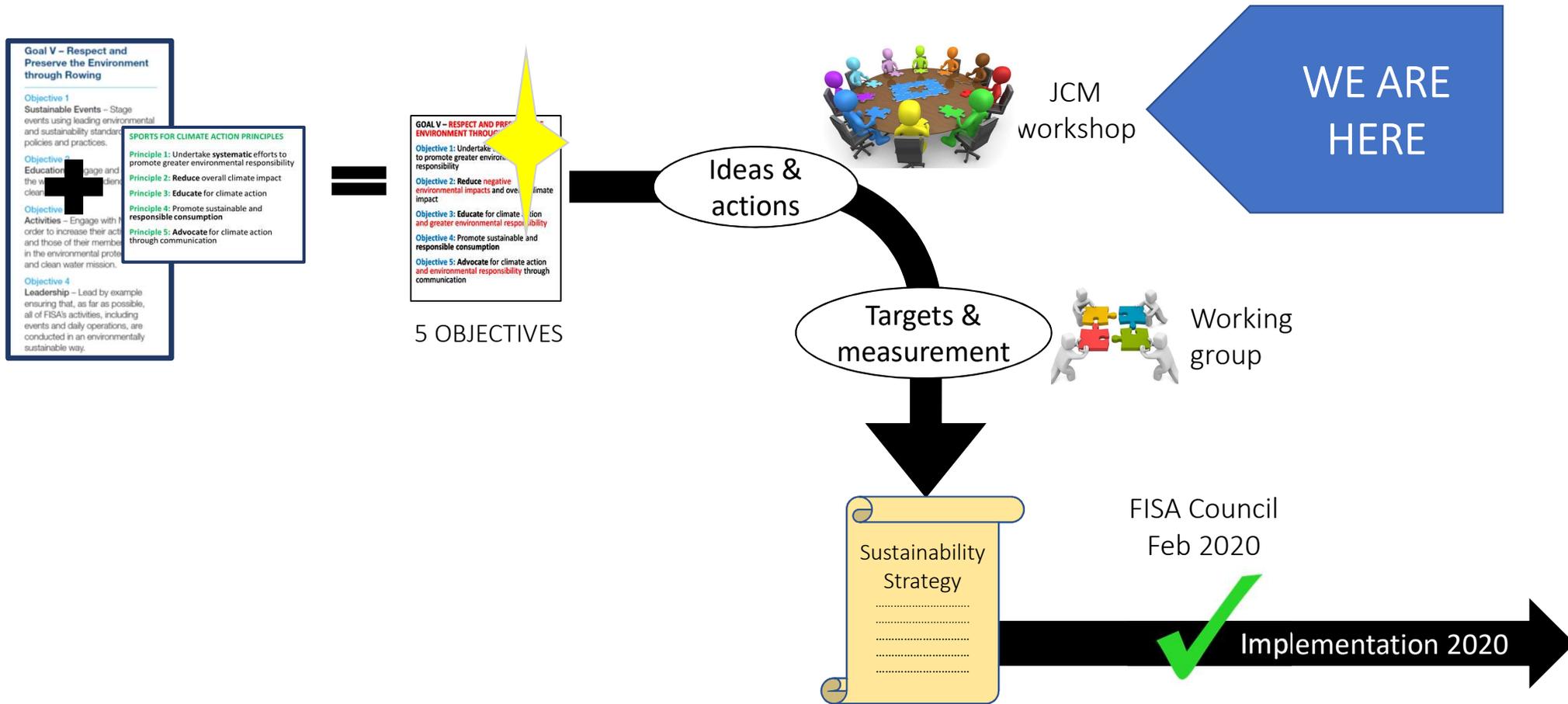


A magnifying glass graphic with a blue handle and frame. Inside the lens, the text reads:

FOCUS AREAS

- ✓ Clean Water
- ? Biodiversity
- ? Travel

Reviewing our sustainability strategy





What can you do as a national federation?

Forest Green Rovers F.C. – an example



Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abMHv3uIFSw>

An example: Rowing New Zealand



Goal: To be the first Carbon Neutral Rowing Team and to achieve this for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

- Sustainability objective in the Rowing NZ strategic plan
- Clean Water Partnership with Waikato River Authority
- Carbon footprint reduction and offsetting in partnership with the Colgan Foundation
- Solar panels at Rowing NZ headquarters, electric vehicle, electronic financial management system
- Project Litefoot working with clubs on waste reduction and electricity efficiency
- Considering electric motors for all coaching boats

An example: Rowing New Zealand

Protecting and preserving our local environment

World Rowing (FISA) has partnered with WWF to raise awareness of the importance of clean water, and to promote and improve existing water environments.

Closer to home, Rowing NZ has partnered with the Waikato River Authority to raise awareness among the New Zealand rowing community about the need to protect and preserve our local environment for generations to come.

DID YOU KNOW?
Plastic items can take up to 1000 years to decompose in landfills. And also did you know that not even organic material breaks down in landfills? This is because there is no oxygen for enzymes and microbes that work aerobically to break down the trash. As a result, the trash in our landfills emits methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that can pollute underground water.

THE FACTS:
Water is the one natural resource that all life on our planet depends upon. 1.1 billion people don't have access to safe drinking water. Fresh water is needed by more than just water sports; flora, fauna and agriculture depend on it. The sport of rowing depends on having access to safe waters to train and compete on. It's vital that we protect and promote New Zealand waters. New Zealand rowers have a responsibility to adopt environmentally sustainable approaches to water usage, and a responsibility to educate others to follow suit.

2XU

Sign Rowing NZ's water care pledge and go in the draw to win a \$1000 2XU Voucher

Fill out details on reverse of this form

ROWING NEW ZEALAND Waikato River Authority

Water is life.

It is essential for all known living things to grow and survive. Did you know that 97% of the world's water is salt water? That means only 3% of the water on earth is available to meet the needs of people, plants and animals. And of this 3%, only a third is readily available. The rest is frozen solid in glaciers and up on high snowy mountains.

Our dependency on water is huge, which is why it is so important for us to protect and restore our waterways. New Zealand's lakes and rivers are feeling the pressure of more than 150 years of growing population and land-use changes. A few simple changes to our behaviour can lessen our impact and help to improve our waterways. Rowing New Zealand is lucky to be supported by the Waikato River Authority. The WRA's vision is to improve the Waikato River so it can sustain abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the river and all it embraces, for generations to come. All water is connected, so these principles need to be applied throughout New Zealand and the world.

BROOKE DONOGHUE

So what can we rowers do to make our impact on the environment more sustainable?

REDUCE the amount of rubbish you make. Think before you make purchases to decide if you actually need something or not, and then look for the most environmentally friendly option.

REUSE and fix things that are broken. We do not need to replace everything that has a minor imperfection.

RECYCLE plastic, paper and compostable items and put them in the correct bins.

REUSE all single-use plastic. Always have your reusable drink bottle available, and carry other reusable items like a keep-cup, cutlery and a plate so you don't have to accept single-use plastic items when purchasing food on the run.

TAKE SHORT WASTE WALKS and what you put down into the drains. Use Chemical-free soaps when washing boats to reduce the toxic load entering and polluting waterways.

CLEANUP any rubbish that you see around you, and inspire those around you to clean up too.

QUICK TIPS
Start a compost bin at your club to take food waste. Secure your reusable drink bottle in your boat by tying it to your rigger with a bungie cord. Choose natural cleaning products that are better for your health and the environment.

Rowing NZ's Elite athletes are undertaking water-care initiatives at the Gallagher High Performance Centre to ensure the future of all water sports in New Zealand.

I, _____ from _____ school and coached by _____ pledge to undertake five water-care practices selected below at my home club. I understand that if I win this competition I must provide evidence to Rowing NZ of my activity undertaken.

Email address: _____
Mobile phone number: _____

- Teach others about the importance of protecting your local waterways and preserving the environment
- Educate others about ways they too can help preserve the environment
- Remove rubbish collections from waterways and surrounding land
- Speak to my club captain about implementing a clear water policy for my club
- Promote my club on social media, by social networking, or with an article to OutSport so that others are inspired to follow suit
- Organise a clean water event for general public and schools (picnic, BBQ, water gun and splatters on ways they can assist)
- Wash boats and equipment thoroughly, especially if transporting to another lake or river
- Minimise fuel, water consumption
- Use biodegradable cleaning agents, and sparingly
- Recycle cleaning products
- Maintain equipment to certain fuel/oil gaps
- Refuel away from waterways
- Have a plan and equipment to deal with accidental fuel spillages
- Be aware of sensitive habitats while on the water
- Avoid disturbing wildlife with noise or boat wake while on the water
- Avoid causing shoreline erosion while on the water
- Keep bottles etc. secured in boats
- Find recreation projects underway in my area and offer to help with planting days etc.

Waikato River Authority

POSTER Competition

FANCY YOURSELF AS AN ARTIST?

Rowing NZ is proudly sponsored by the Waikato River Authority, and dedicated to educating the rowing community about the importance of water care for all water-based sports.

ROWING NZ IS SEEKING POSTER DESIGNS THAT ENCOURAGE WATER-CARE INITIATIVES, TO BE PRINTED AND DISPLAYED IN ALL NEW ZEALAND ROWING CLUBS.

WATER-CARE TIPS ON YOUR POSTER DESIGN MAY INCLUDE SUCH REMINDERS AS:

- Wash boats and equipment thoroughly, especially if transporting to another lake or river
- Minimise boat-chief water consumption
- Use biodegradable cleaning agents, and sparingly
- Recycle wherever possible
- Maintain equipment to certain fuel/oil gaps
- Refuel away from waterways
- Have a plan and equipment to deal with accidental fuel spillages
- Be aware of sensitive habitats while on the water
- Avoid disturbing wildlife with noise or boat wake while on the water
- Avoid causing shoreline erosion while on the water
- Keep bottles etc. secured in boats

The winning entry will be printed and distributed to all rowing clubs in New Zealand, published in OutSport magazine, and featured on the Rowing NZ and Aon Maadi Cup Instagram account.

Submit your A3 school or athlete entry to maadi@rowingnz.kiwi.nz in the subject line before 15 February 2019. Design must include the WRA logo on them - please email maadi@rowingnz.kiwi.nz to request a copy. Posters must be supplied as a high resolution PDF with 3mm bleed and crop marks.

JUDGING PANEL: WAIKATO RIVER AUTHORITY

DREAMING OF MAKING IT ONTO THE BIG SCREEN?

WELL YOU'RE IN LUCK! WHILE THE AON MAADI CUP IS ONLY A WEEK LONG, WE KNOW THAT PREPARATION GOES ON FOR MONTHS BEHIND THE SCENES.

Submit a video introducing your school and athletes, for showcasing on the regatta big screen between racing. We're looking for all things rowing: snippets (post or on the water), water gun, beach bowls, school activities, early morning sessions, team cooking...

Videos should be 30 seconds in length and may be supplied with or without audio.

Submit your video entry to bigscreen@rowingnz.kiwi.nz with 'BIG SCREEN' in the subject line, before 15 March 2019. File format: required: MP4 videos filmed in horizontal format: 16:9, HD (1080 or 720p).

Submit your written or video entry to maadi@rowingnz.kiwi.nz with 'CONSERVATIONIST' in the subject line, before 15 March 2019. Video file format required: MP4 videos filmed in horizontal format: 16:9, HD (1080 or 720p).

Rowing is nothing without boats and water. And while we're pretty sure you're all looking after your boats well, we're a bit worried about New Zealand's water. We're looking for schools undertaking a water-care policy and invite submissions of written or video content showcasing what you're doing to help protect your waterways. This could be a rubbish clean-up, planting or weed clearing day around banks of your waterways or educating your members about nearby wildlife and how to minimize disruption to them. The winning crew or school will be awarded an entry for their rowing programme and invited to join the Rowing NZ High Performance Centre with members of the New Zealand elite team. Oh, and they'll also take you out for a training session during the Aon Maadi Cup.

Waikato River Authority

CONSERVATIONIST Competition

CALLING ALL CONSERVATIONISTS

THIS IS THE BIG ONE. THE BIG KAHUNA. THE CHERRY ON TOP.

An example: Rowing New Zealand



Lessons learnt so far

- **Credibility:** Board support and a stated goal in the strategic plan along with FISA's clean water stance helped to establish the Waikato River Authority partnership
- **Partnerships:** Consider who you can align with. Awareness of Rowing NZ's stance on sustainability brought new partnerships and resources.
- **Resources:** Main commitment is in terms of staff time; you'll be surprised where additional resources come from. Just start with something, the rest follows.
- **Simple goals vs complex implementation:** Carbon offsetting is complicated!
- **Humility:** The next generation - staff and athletes – are better-informed than us. Listen to athletes –they are a powerful resource and implementor

What are the challenges?
How can we help?

