



Loch Tummel Sailing Club Eco Event

Green Event

Introduction

Loch Tummel Sailing Club (LTSC) prides itself on offering a friendly, family orientated club where everyone can get involved in sailing, racing and training in dinghies and keelboats. In 2008 LTSC, in recognition of their commitment to youth sailing and race coaching, achieved Volvo RYA Champion Club status. The club also revamped their club house in 2008 and purchased two second hand timber chalets. These blend in with the other buildings and the local surroundings. These have been erected to provide enhanced changing facilities, training room, and kitchen. Better disabled access and facilities have also been provided.



LTSC is in one of the most beautiful parts of Perthshire, on the south west shore of Loch Tummel, a National Scenic Area. Loch Tummel itself is 11 km long by 1 km wide and is used for a hydro electric power scheme with Clunie Dam at its eastern end. Loch Tummel is surrounded by forest and mountain scenery and there is an abundance of wildlife on the shores and in the river. Deer, red squirrels and birds of prey are common with waterfowl and wading birds also found around the loch.

As well as being keen sailors, the members of LTSC appreciate the beautiful surroundings and recognise the need to look after the environment. Everyone is encouraged to take all rubbish home after activities so that cans, glass and paper are recycled. The club has also made efforts to reduce water and energy usage by fitting hippos into toilet cisterns, by having a 'quick shower' policy and by using low energy lighting.

Eco Evening

To look at ways the club could improve their 'green' credentials and eco event was held for the younger members of the club. The children were asked to think about the environmental impacts of the club and its activities under the following headings:

- Water
- Energy saving and resource efficiency
- Waste & Recycling
- Wildlife
- Green Event

Making the environment second nature

The Green Blue
RYA Scotland, Caledonia House
South Gyle, Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ
Tel: 0131 317 7388
scotland@thegreenblue.org.uk
www.thegreenblue.org.uk



Main Admin Office
Tel: 023 8060 4100
Fax: 023 8060 4294

and to think of ideas and ways in which they could improve. The Green Blue Project Officer (Scotland) provided a copy of the RYA Planning and Environmental Handbook and advice to the supervisors to help stimulate ideas and discussion.



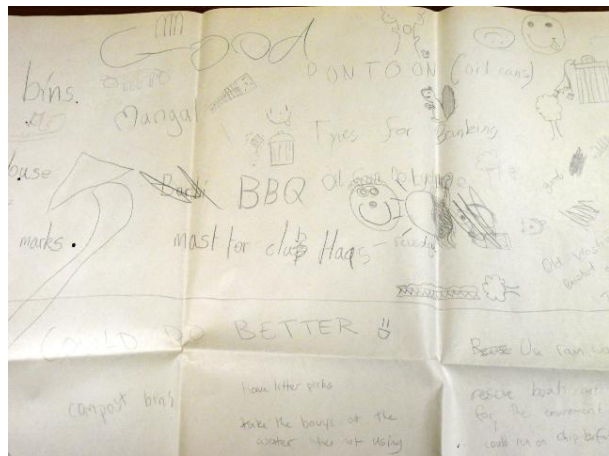
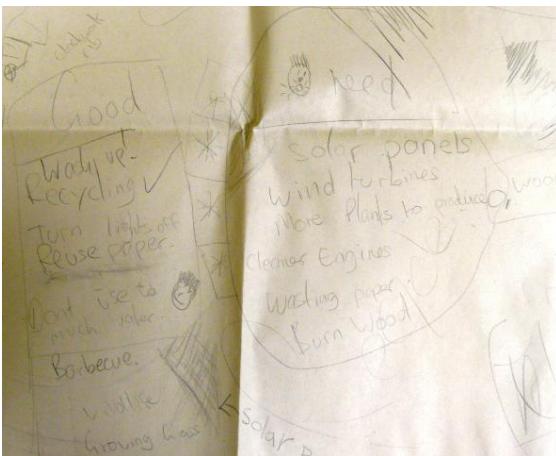
The children were asked to write down and draw their ideas on paper. Recycled pencils were used of course! The key ideas considered included reducing pollution, recycling, water and energy efficiency and wildlife. The children wrote their ideas under the following titles:

- i) What we are good at
- ii) What we are bad at
- iii) What we could do better

Brain storming session

There were lots of great ideas and soon four big sheets of paper were covered with wonderful drawings and environmentally friendly options to consider. See below:

Things they are good and bad at:



Things they listed that they were good at included:



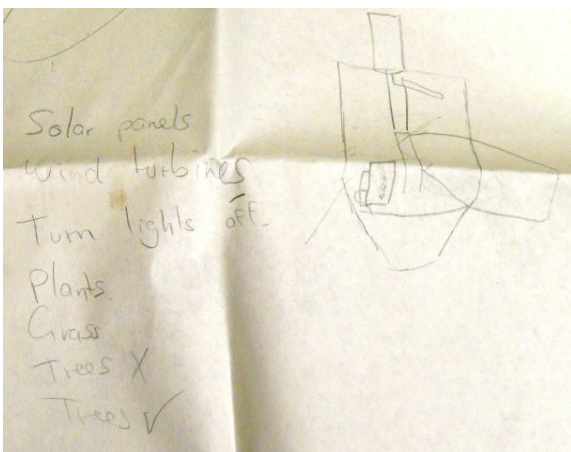
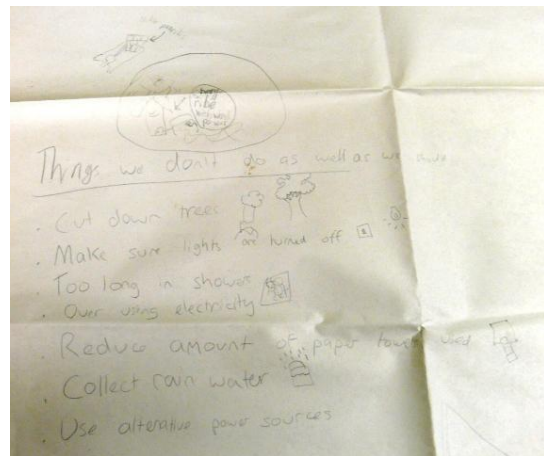
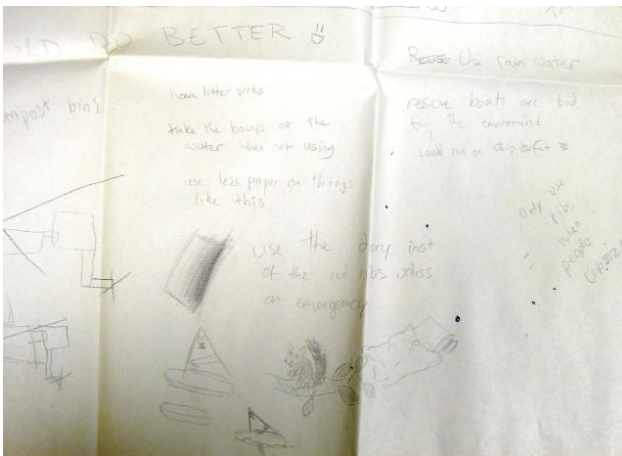
- i) Turning off lights
- ii) Growing grass
- iii) Recycling cans – see photo
- iv) Re-using paper
- v) Re-using a steel drum as a barbecue
- vi) Re-using steel drums as bins down on the pontoon
- vii) Re-using an old mast as a flag pole
- viii) Using the felled trees for fire wood

Everyone knows to recycle

Things that they listed as bad included:

- i) Turning lights off!.....obviously a matter of opinion....
- ii) Spending too long in the showers
- iii) Using too many paper towels
- iv) Rubbish in the loch
- v) Blowing horns to start a race
- vi) Lighting fires

There were also many ideas suggested for ways that the club could do better:



Could do better options included:

- i) Not wasting energy eg. turning lights off – a common theme
- ii) Using alternative energy sources - wind turbines and solar panels
- iii) Saving water by collecting and using rain water
- iv) Not wasting paper
- v) Using the dory boat instead of the rib when possible (and running it on chip fat)
- vi) Undertaking a litter pick and removing the buoys from the water when not being used

Outcome

By just thinking about the impact that their activities have, everyone is now more aware of their environmental impact and responsibilities. The children were very environmentally aware and had many good ideas on ways in which the club could make a positive difference to the environment. Further to their eco event LTSC now plan to carry out the club audit in the RYA Planning and Environmental Handbook to help identify the key ways in which they can make a significant difference and to help them put together an environmental project based on their ideas.

One key area to be explored is further water saving measures that can be put in place, as the club is on a shared water supply and water usage is currently an area of concern. The club have already used Hippo bags in their toilet cisterns to reduce flush volume and have fitted aerated shower heads that use less water. A simple option of putting up signs, asking for people to shower quickly and not waste water, offers a low cost option to help reduce water use. Other possibilities include fitting shower timers and collecting rain water for outdoor use.

Energy efficiency measures will also be considered including signs to remind people to turn lights off and the possibility of fitting an energy usage monitor.

The members of LTSC have made a difference already by thinking about ways in which they can improve their 'green credentials'. By giving some consideration to their environmental impact and by taking a few simple steps, all clubs can make a positive environmental contribution. Many measures are low cost but can make a significance difference. LTSC are an inspiration, so follow their lead both in sailing and the environment and see what your club can achieve.

Why not hold your own eco event and identify the ways in which you too can make a difference.

Step 1 Find an enthusiastic club member who is willing to organise an eco evening

Step 2 Contact The Green Blue for advice and guidance

Step 3 Use the RYA Planning and Environment Handbook to carry out an audit, to check legislation that applies to you and for ideas.

Step 4 Look at the practical projects and case studies on The Green Blue website

Step 5 Hold your eco evening and identify the ways in which you can reduce your environmental impact.

Step 6 Look for organisations that can help you achieve your goals - the contacts listed below are experts in their fields and are there to help you.

Step 7 Implement the environmental measures, write a club environmental statement and take pride in your eco credentials. Every little helps.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all those at Loch Tummel Sailing Club who organised, supervised and took part in the Eco Event . Thanks especially to Angie Sword and Elizabeth for their enthusiasm and contribution.

Further Information

To read other practical projects and case studies and for lots of practical environmental advice, posters for clubs, training centres and sailors visit The Green Blue website <http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk> or contact the Scottish Project Office E: Scotland@thegreenblue.org.uk T: 0131 337 7388

For guidance on planning and environmental issues and legislation download a copy of the RYA Planning and Environment Handbook:
http://www.rya.org.uk/WorkingWithUs/clubs/premises/Pages/PE_Handbook.aspx,

For advice on water efficiency measures and products visit: www.waterwise.org.uk

For energy efficiency measures contact the Energy Savings Trust. They have area officers who will come out and help you identify ways in which you can reduce your energy use:
<http://www.energysavingstrust.org.uk>
T: 0131 555 7900 (Edinburgh)

For information on how to reduce, reuse and recycle across Scotland contact Waste Aware Scotland <http://www.wasteawareScotland.org.uk>

For Wildlife information contact your local wildlife trust: <http://www.swt.org.uk>
or Scottish Natural Heritage: <http://www.snh.org.uk>