



A Guide To Becoming A Sustainable University Sailing Club

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Introduction

- This guide provides a pathway of ideas and suggestions to aid your club to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly in your activities.
- BUSA aims to support clubs to develop this aspect alongside developing sailing disciplines and activities.
- Our sailing environment is the water, either on reservoirs, on rivers or at sea. We therefore have a responsibility to help maintain these environments, their beauty, security and diverse ecosystems. In turn our actions aid the fight against climate change.

What does this guide aim to achieve?

- To encourage clubs to develop sustainability and start conversations.
- To encourage university sailors to become more aware of the environment and support action on different levels:
 - Individual Actions
 - Club Actions
 - Community & University Actions

Why Should University Sailors Be Involved?

1

- We use the water and the surrounding environment, in our everyday lives and in our sport. It has become normal to see plastic in the water- it is not.

2

- Marine environments are essential for ecosystems around the globe, and have an important role in sustaining us.

3

- Plastic is one of the biggest threats to our oceans. It enters from all points of the water course (most often from the land e.g. gutters) which all empty into the ocean.

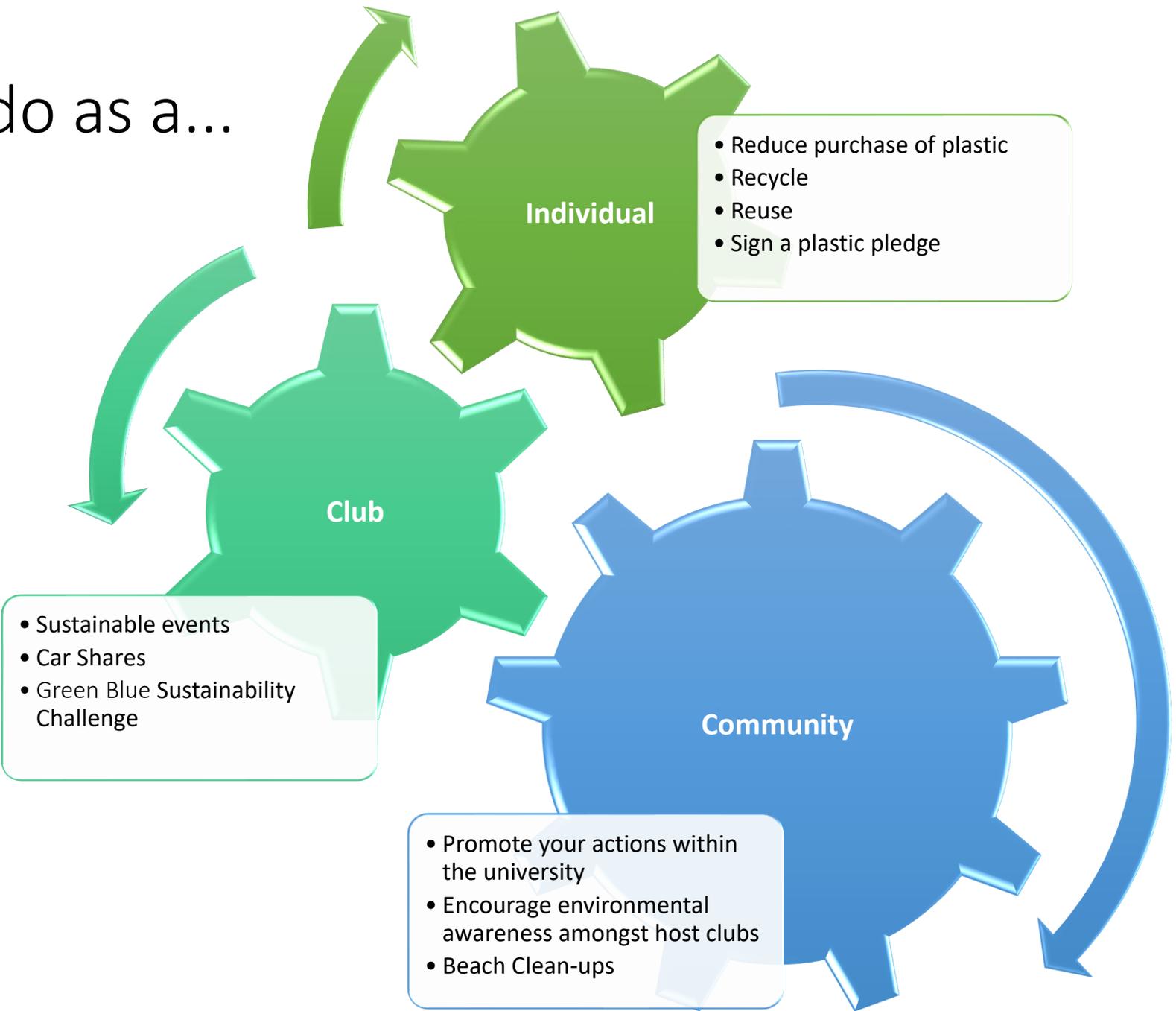
4

- Plastic kills marine life through ingestion and strangulation. The full effects of microplastics which continue to accumulate in the food chain are still being studied.

5

- Sport is a large part of university life. It is a platform upon which we can encourage and influence changes in university communities. We can advocate for the action we want to see.

What can you do as a...



Individual Actions – while club actions may appear ‘larger’ all our individual actions accumulate



Remember your reusable water bottle



Refuse single use plastic bags



Take your own cutlery



Use a reusable coffee cup



Refuse sachets for condiments



When shopping look for refillable options

Don't forget the basics! →



Club Action



Elect a
Sustainability
Officer



Run Sustainable
Events and
Training



Car Share to
Training and
Events (its
cheaper too!)



Take Part in The
Green Blue
Sustainability
Challenge



Plastic Free
Socials (no
plastic straws
or plastic cups!)



Talk to your
club about
water recycling

Community Action – You are part of a large student community : Your University!

Support	Support your SU Development Officers' Sustainable Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E.g. reducing single use plastic on campus
Promote	Promote sustainability in Sports/Fresher's Fayres
Action	Do Beach Clean-ups - or stay local and litter pick your university campus or town center!
Collaborate	Collaborate with other sports clubs (windsurfers & canoe clubs also use the marine environment!)

The Green Blue Sustainability Challenge



- To get involved – contact Kate at info@thegreenblue.org.uk
- The challenge is set to 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. At each level, successful clubs will be entered into a prize draw.
- Each participating club will appoint a Sustainability Officer to drive change within their club.
- Actions include: minimising the harm from spread of invasive species, ensuring spill kits are available, single use plastics are reduced, and increasing awareness of the environment.

Case Study: University of Sheffield Sailing Club

Sheffield University started the Green Blue University Sustainability Challenge in September 2019. They successfully completed the Bronze Challenge in 2020!

Here is what Bella Acland (Club Commodore 2019 - 2020) had to say about participating “it makes ‘green thinking’ become the norm” and “changes trends from plastic water bottles to reusable ones becoming very popular”, its about ‘questioning decisions to make small changes’. They worked alongside Pennine Sailing Club their host club to encourage other sailors to be environmentally sustainable as well.

The club even decided to make their club stash sustainable with branded reusable coffee cups!



Who can support you?

- **BUSA** – there is a sustainability section on our website with links to resources. **We welcome your ideas to develop sustainability within our community.**
- **The Green Blue** – Kate Fortnam: info@thegreenblue.org.uk
website: www.thegreenblue.org.uk
- **The Clean Seas campaign** - <https://www.cleanseas.org/>
- They have created an excellent guide to running plastic free events:
<https://sportsustainabilityjournal.com/news/volvo-ocean-race-guides-sports-events-away-from-single-use-plastic/>
- **Surfers Against Sewage**