



**Example Job Description:  
Competition Organising  
Committee Sustainability  
Adviser**

**November 2024**



## Background

Sustainability is most often defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. Broadly speaking, sustainable practices help to reduce consumption of limited natural resources or finding alternative resources with lower environmental consequences, as well as considering the social and economic impacts of individuals, groups, corporations or Government.

British Rowing launched its Sustainability Strategy in March 2024 based around six objectives, <https://www.britishrowing.org/sustainability/>. For the purposes of competitions, we've focussed on three of them:

- Help our waters thrive
- Reduce our carbon footprint
- Embed sustainability into operations

It is suggested that competitions might like to do the same, although this isn't, of course, mandatory and you might like to develop your own sustainability strategy for your competition.

## Sustainability Advisor Role

The sustainability advisor should be part of the organising committee for the competition. They will work closely with other members of the committee to agree the sustainable objectives and ensure that the objectives below are met as far as possible and weave into the committee's and then the competition's operations. Additionally, they will work closely with the venue and any other stakeholders e.g. the local council to ensure that everyone is aligned and should have a good awareness of their sustainability policies.

If any partners are proposed for the competition it is essential that due diligence is undertaken on their sustainability credentials as part of the process.

Below are a few suggestions of initiatives that could be included – though we're sure that you'll want to tailor your own to the competition.

### Help our Waters Thrive:

1. Research water quality information from venue and publish for competitors
2. Ensure that British Rowing safety practices around mitigating rowing in any unclean waters are known by all – liaise with the competition rowing safety advisor on communications. The guidance document is here:
  - a. <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Guidance-for-Rowing-When-Water-Quality-is-Poor-March-2024.pdf>
3. Help promote knowledge (with materials available from British Rowing) 'Check, Clean, Dry' messaging to prevent the spread of invasive species. See below:



- a. <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Invasive-Species-ID-booklet.pdf>. British Rowing has aluminium signs, A3 posters and Z-cards, please contact [sustainability@britishrowing.org](mailto:sustainability@britishrowing.org) if you'd like some for your competition.
  - b. If possible set up a 'Check, Clean, Dry' station (i.e. a wash down station for boats)
4. Encourage competitors, when washing down boats to:
    - a. If boats are not too dirty then to wash down boats only with water
    - b. Use environmentally friendly detergents
    - c. Do this in areas where the water will not flow straight back into a water course (drain, river, sea etc.) but rather on grass/a hard standing area away from water.
  5. Please link to your local Rivers Trust who can help you with educational resources, tips on flood prevention, any invasive species work that's going on and they might be able to attend your competition themselves. Look here for the contact:
    - a. <https://theriverstrust.org/about-us/member-trusts>

## **Reduce our Carbon Footprint**

1. Sustainable travel – encourage cycling or walking if practical, lift share by competitors, use of public transport (ensure that details are included in the competitors' information)
2. Use battery powered generators or no generators at all if possible.

## **Embed Sustainability into Operations**

1. Gain knowledge on the venue/council's waste management systems. Recycling bins are always tricky at competitions, but perhaps one area e.g. volunteers area could be identified for the bins to be 'audited' to ensure that only recyclable materials are in it.
2. Review whether materials used for competition numbers can be recycled.
3. Review of printing, use of paper, and guidelines provided to reduce where possible. Print in black and white unless colour is required.
4. Review of use of wristbands etc. use existing, re-use where possible and then look at materials/other methods of identification e.g. a stamp on hands.
5. Achieve a single-use plastic free competition for items you purchase.
6. Think about what to give winners?
7. Identify water refill points – ensure they are tested appropriately and that competitors are aware of where these are. Through social media/other communication methods, encourage all competitors to bring refillable bottles if there are refill points close by the competition area.
8. Encourage everyone to bring a reusable water bottle and also cup - offer discounts on drinks stalls if a customer's own bottle/cup is used.
9. Check on policies/guidelines currently in place regarding pollutants (e.g. fuel) and disposal. Do launches have spill kits ? (e.g. sand for any petrol spilt on land and rags to clear it up). Ideally spills are then properly disposed of – this might mean liaising with the local council on how this is best done.



10. Volunteer clothing – what is it made from and how is it sourced?
11. Merchandise – check the sourcing and choice of this.
12. Second hand kit stall – kit can be expensive and especially newcomers to the sport are likely to welcome some good quality but affordable kit.
13. Concessions – are they locally sourced, what containers etc. is the food being served in?