



## The Green Boat Checklist

Welcome to The Green Blue's environmental checklist for boats. This toolkit aims to walk you through the major environmental issues you face as a boat owner. It gives you some advice about the next steps you can take to reduce your footprint while out on the water. Try to score as honestly as possible, this is not a legally binding document but the more honest you are with yourself the better the outcome will be for the environment.

<b>Oil and Fuel</b>	
<b>Engine</b>	
<b>Cleaning</b>	
<b>Resources</b>	
<b>Sewage and Waste</b>	
<b>Wildlife</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>Out of a possible</b>	

**< 100 :** Oh dear! You have some issues to deal with. You may even be breaking the law. Read The Green Blue's 'How to...' guide and start reducing your impact today!

**100 - 200:** OK. You and your boat have made a good start, but you still have a way to go. Look at your low scoring areas and read the suggested publications on those pages for how to improve.

**> 200:** Excellent stuff! You have gone a long way to reducing your impact on the environment. Stay in touch with The Green Blue for the latest information on how to be green and still have a great time on the water.



## OIL AND FUEL

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information and Actions
1	Does your boat have a bilge filter?	Yes	10		If your bilge filter is not working check the height of the filter, the size of the pump and the volume of the hose connecting the two. If in doubt contact the manufacturer to help resolve the problem.
		No	0		
		Yes but doesn't work	5		
2	Do you have an spill kit available?	Yes	10		Spill kits allow you to safely clean up any spills, see the Green Directory for more info.
		No	-5		
3	Do you use a funnel when refuelling?	Yes	5		Using a funnel is an inexpensive and easy way to help avoid spills.
		No	-5		
4	Do you use detergent to disperse a spill?	Yes	-5		Using detergents to disperse spills can be more toxic to aquatic life than the oil itself. Consider purchasing an oil spill kit. Visit the Green Directory for more info.
		No	5		

<b>Total</b>		If your score is less than 30 read The Green Blue's fact sheet 'oil and fuel' and check the Green Directory for products that may be useful such as a spill kit or bilge sock.
<b>Out of a possible</b>	<b>30</b>	



## YOUR ENGINE

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information and Actions
1	Is there any oil or fuel in the bilge?	Yes	-5		Check bilge water for contaminants before pumping.
		No	5		
2	Do you use a bilge sock?	Yes	10		The most effective way to clean oily bilge water is with an oil absorbent biosock. Check out the Green Blue directory for these.
		No	0		
3	Do you have a drip tray?	Yes	5		Consider installing a drip tray. If this starts to get oily it is likely you may have a leak! Check out the Green Blue directory for these.
		No	-5		
4	Are there any loose connections?	Yes	-5		Tighten any loose connections to avoid leaks
		No	5		
5	Are any of the hoses damaged?	Yes	-5		Consider replacing or repairing any damage found to prevent leaks.
		No	5		
6	Is the engine well tuned & regularly serviced	Yes			A badly maintained engine consumes more fuel and expels more emissions than a well maintained one, so try to service your engine regularly.
		No			

<b>Total</b>		<p>If your score is less than 20 read The Green Blue's fact sheet 'oil and fuel' and check the Green Directory for products that may be useful such as a spill kit and flexible drip trays.</p> <p>Consider getting your engine serviced and pay particular attention to fixing any leaks.</p>
<b>Out of a possible</b>	<b>40</b>	



## CLEANING

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information and Actions
1	<b>In the galley. In the heads. On deck</b>				
	Do you use low phosphate washing up liquid?	No	-5		Detergents and bleaches can damage the environment, avoid excessive use of them. Avoid products which contain bleach, chlorine and triclosan.
		Yes	5		
	How do you dispose of food waste?	Over side	-5		Not even biodegradable waste should go over the side, even tea bags contain plastic these days! Composting helps to reduce greenhouse gasses
		In the bin	5		
		Compost	10		
	What type of toilet paper do you use?	Standard	-5		Recycled paper is not only easier on the environment it has shorter fibers and is therefore less likely to block marine toilets!
		Recycled	5		
Do you use fair trade/organic/low mile products?	Yes	5		These products all help to minimise your impact on the environment and are all good choices to make, on the boat and at home.	
	No	0			
Do you use a low impact deck wash?	Yes			Phosphates in deck wash can cause algal blooms and lower water quality, Ecover have an excellent new deck wash, give it a try!	
	No				
2	<b>Antifouling</b>				
	Do you always follow the manufacturers instructions?	Yes	5		Anti-fouling paints work by releasing toxic chemicals into the water. When applying anti-foul follow the manufacturers instructions, collect drips by placing a tarp under the hull.
		Yes	10		
	Do you use low impact antifoul? Eg Booster Biocide free or silicone based?	Yes			Where possible use a low impact antifoul When you 'scrub down' try to prevent the wash entering the water by using a skirt or choosing a marina which collects residues from wash down. Where possible use salt water to wash your boat, only rinsing with fresh water. Use a trigger on the hose to give you a better control of water used.
		No	0		
	do you follow best practice advice	Yes	10		
		No	0		
	Do you dispose of hazardous materials correctly?	Yes	10		Dispose of all hazardous materials correctly afterwards, do not mix them with general waste.
No		-10			

<b>Total</b>		
<b>Out of a possible</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>If your score less than 45 read The Green Blue's fact sheets on cleaning and antifoul and check the Green Directory for products that may be useful such as low phosphate cleaners. Making some small changes to the things you choose to buy will make a big difference to the environment.</b>



## RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information and Actions
1	<b>Survey to assess amp hours used</b>	Amp hours			<p>It is suggested that 5-20Ah/wk is needed to trickle feed your battery, 20 - 80 Ah/wk for a weekend trip, 70-300Ah/wk for cruising and 300 - 600 Ah/wk for live aboards.</p> <p>A high score means you use a lot of energy. Avoid the need for noisy, expensive and polluting generators by using less energy. Consider using wind and solar energy instead of fossil fuels.</p>
	internal lights				
	instruments				
	fridge				
	navigation lights				
	heating system				
	bilge pump				
	water systems				
	winches and windless				
	reefing system				
	engine starting				
	entertainment system				
	laptop				
inverter run electrical goods					
	Low	10			
2	<b>Battery and systems</b>				Using a smart charger will optimise your boats energy efficiency, reducing emissions and fuel consumption
	Do you use a smart charger?	Yes	10		
		No	-5		
3	<b>Assess water requirements</b>	litres/tonnes			Drinking water takes a lot of energy to create; it is also heavy and therefore increases your fuel consumption.
	Toilet				
	Shower				
	Galley				
	<b>Total Use</b>				
		High			
	Medium	0			
	Low	10			
4	<b>Renewable energy used</b>				Articles available on the website <a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk">www.thegreenblue.org.uk</a> . Also check out the Green Directory if you are interested in investing in renewable energy for your boat. The Ampair website <a href="http://www.ampair.com">www.ampair.com</a> also contains a lot of useful information.
	Do you use renewable energy on your boat?	Yes	10		
		No	-10		

<b>Total</b>		
<b>Out of a possible</b>	<b>40</b>	<p>If your score is less than 25 read The Green Blue's fact sheet 'Resource Efficiency' and invest in renewable energy. Also read The Green Blue's "How to..." guides <a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk">www.thegreenblue.org.uk</a>. Try limiting the number of energy hungry pieces of kit on board or limiting the use of existing ones.</p>



## SEWAGE & WASTE

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information and Actions
<b>Sewage</b>					
1	Do you have a holding tank?	yes	10		Disposing of sewage in areas of poor tidal flushing impacts on marine species and water quality. Holding and releasing the sewage at least 3miles offshore allows quick dilution and dispersion by waves and currents, minimising its impact on the environment. Consider fitting a holding tank. It is illegal to discharge raw sewage in most inland waterways.
		no	0		
2	Do you have space for holding tank?	yes			Using shore facilities reduces the volume of sewage released into the seas.
		no			
3	Do you always advise crew to use available shore based facilities?	yes	5		Some species, in particular shellfish are severely affected by sewage. Check for sensitive areas at <a href="http://www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk">www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk</a>
		no	0		
4	Do you always avoid flushing in environmentally sensitive areas?	yes	5		Chemical toilets use toxic substances and should only be emptied into the regular sewage system. Plan ahead as facilities to empty them can be sparse. Look at the Green Blue's 'pump-out guide' which lists sites in the UK.
		no	0		
5	Do you always empty portable toilets into the main sewage system?	yes	5		
		no			
<b>Waste</b>					
6	Do you separate and recycle rubbish?	yes	10		Try to separate and recycle waste, disposing of it at marinas, clubs and harbours authorities. It is the same volume of waste, just stored differently!
		no	0		
7	Do you secure loose items so they don't blow over the side?	yes	10		Prevent loose items from blowing away by securing them. Consider using starch based bags which break down many times faster than plastic.
		no	0		
8	Are you aware of the need to dispose of hazardous waste in an appropriate way?	yes	10		Ensure you are aware of what counts as hazardous waste and dispose of it correctly. Visit <a href="http://www.ecop.org.uk">www.ecop.org.uk</a> for a list of hazardous wastes.
		no	0		
9	Do you follow best practice advice e.g. remove excess packaging before boarding?	yes	10		Remove excess packaging before boarding and dispose of it/recycle it at home.
		no	0		

<b>Total</b>		<p>Read The Green Blue's fact sheets on waste and sewage. More than 100,000 birds and animals are thought to die from ingesting rubbish each year. The boating community is not totally to blame but we play our part and need to do what we can to minimise waste and litter.</p>
<b>Out of a possible</b>	<b>65</b>	



## WILDLIFE

	Question and Key issues to Consider	Answer	Score	Your Score	Further Information
1	Do you have a good wildlife guide onboard?	Yes	10		Identifying species and learning more about them can be fun and interesting. Consider investing in a guide or look at online guides such as the RSPB bird guide at <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk">www.rspb.org.uk</a>
		No	0		
2	Do you have/know where to find information available about sensitive areas?	Yes	5		<a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1445">www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1445</a> and <a href="http://www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk">www.ukmarinesacs.org.uk</a> show the location of Special Areas of Conservation
		No	0		
3	Do you ensure you are always aware of these issues when heading to a sensitive destination e.g. anchoring or habitats? Do you include these issues when heading to a passage planning (e.g.. Where to anchor or go ashore)?	Yes	10		Find out whether the areas you visit are protected and why to make the best of you visit and avoid damage and disturbance. <a href="http://www.wildlifetrusts.org">www.wildlifetrusts.org</a> shows conservation activities in your area.
		No	0		
4	Are you aware of how best to approach wildlife in their environment?	Yes	10		Learning how to navigate when around wildlife will allow you to view more and be a better boater. Check out The Green Blue's fact sheet on 'Wildlife' to find out more or watch our short DVD.
		No	0		
5	Do you carry a pair of binoculars?	Yes	10		Binoculars will allow you to view wildlife without disturbing them.
		No	0		

<b>Total</b>		<b>If your score is less than 25 read The Green Blue's fact sheet 'Wildlife'. There is so much pleasure to be gained from watching wildlife behaving naturally and so much to be lost when we unintentionally disturb. Also check out the Marine Conservation Society website at <a href="http://www.mcsuk.org">www.mcsuk.org</a> for further info.</b>
<b>Out of possible</b>	<b>45</b>	



## USEFUL LINKS

SITE	WEB ADDRESS
The Green Blue (TGB) website	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk">www.thegreenblue.org.uk</a>
TGB How To Guide coastal	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/publications/index.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/publications/index.asp</a>
TGB How To Guide inland	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/publications/index.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/publications/index.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet Wildlife	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/appreciatingwildlife.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/appreciatingwildlife.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet Waste and sewage	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/wasteandsewage.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/wasteandsewage.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet Oil & fuel	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/oilandfuel.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/oilandfuel.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet Cleaning & maintenance	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/cleaningandantifouling.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/cleaningandantifouling.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet Antifoul	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/cleaningandantifouling.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/cleaningandantifouling.asp</a>
TGB Factsheet resource efficiency	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/resources.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/resources.asp</a>
TGB Pump out Guide	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/pumpoutdirectory.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/youandyourboat/pumpoutdirectory.asp</a>
TGB database	<a href="http://www.thegreenblue.org.uk/research/database.asp">www.thegreenblue.org.uk/research/database.asp</a>
The Green Directory	<a href="http://www.green.sailingnetworks.com/green">www.green.sailingnetworks.com/green</a>
Environmental Code of Practice	<a href="http://www.ecop.org.uk">www.ecop.org.uk</a>
RSPB wildlife guide	<a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/">www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/</a>
Wildlife Safe Scheme	<a href="http://www.wise.org.uk">www.wise.org.uk</a>