



Sunshine Bay Yacht Club Position Statement on the Environment

Relates to SBYC 2021 Strategic Plan Key Strategy #4

#4 Partnerships

GOAL: Through partnering and collaborating with the Greater Wabamun community, we promote the sport of sailing in an environmental and sustainable manner. **KPI:** Participation in Community; Wabamun Watershed Council participation

Action:

- Pursue an active board member position in the Wabamun Watershed Management Council.
- Develop an environmental position statement to emphasize and communicate our commitment to responsible use and protection of the environment.
- Elevate awareness of our Sunshine Bay environment and the respectful sustainability of our Lake to our members through knowledge of the ecosystem, preservation, and restoration.

Sunshine Bay Yacht Club (SBYC) located in Alberta, Canada on Wabamun Lake is situated within the Wabamun Watershed. SBYC recognizes that human behaviors and activities can have a negative impact on the environment and that, conversely, environmental changes can have a negative impact on the sport of sailing.

SBYC Position Statement on the Environment

SBYC is committed to the protection and restoration of its local environment, and to demonstrating climate leadership for the sport of sailing on Wabamun Lake.

SBYC uses the [Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan](#) to guide decisions and action related to protection and restoration of the local environment. Furthermore, to demonstrate climate leadership, SBYC strives to achieve the [2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) related to the environment and climate using guidance from the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#).

It is noted the guiding frameworks are highly interrelated, but nonetheless important, as they situate SBYC and its members in both a local and a wider community context.

For purposes of immediate reference, the focus of each framework is briefly outlined below (adapted from the full framework). The full frameworks may be accessed using the associated website links.

Note: This position statement is not intended to be prescriptive, in terms of specific practical actions, rather, its intention is to state SBYC's commitment to a positive environmental direction. Specific related environmental stewardship focuses, and practices will be dynamic and selected/decided in an ongoing evolving manner throughout each membership year.

[Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan \(2020\)](#)

The 4 overarching goals and associated objectives of the Wabamun Lake Watershed Management Plan (WMP) are as follows:

1. Good Water Quality

- Surface water quality is maintained or improved throughout the watershed.
- Lake users are knowledgeable about and able to adapt to lake levels, which fluctuate with natural variability, thereby contributing to lake health.



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- Groundwater quantity and quality is maintained and protected for human consumption and recognized as a component of surface water quantity and quality.
2. **Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity**
 - Aquatic ecosystem health is maintained or improved.
 - Biodiversity is maintained or improved and the occurrence and spread of invasive species in the watershed is prevented or mitigated.
 3. **Wise Land Use**
 - To the extent possible, natural land cover is retained and land use does not impair lake or watershed health.
 - Policies and plans are aligned between authorities and regulatory bodies such that development does not impair lake watershed health.
 - Knowledge needed to manage the Wabamun Lake watershed is gathered and made available to decision-makers.
 4. **Engaged Stewardship**
 - Residents and visitors are knowledgeable about how they can lessen their impact on and contribute to lake health.
 - The community shares its collective responsibility to be the best stewards of the Wabamun Lake watershed and stewardship programs inspire individual and collective action.

UN Sports for Climate Action Framework (2018)

Principle 1: Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility

- ...establish responsibility for environmental sustainability at the board level and implement robust approaches to reducing climate impact, by considering internal and external issues that influence the climate impact of the organization now and in the future.

Principle 2: Reduce overall climate impact

- ... the objective of this principle is to encourage sports organizations to prepare a strategy for achieving climate neutrality for their organizations and their events. No matter what size of organisation or sporting event, everyone has a climate impact, and everyone can take action to reduce it.
- Actions to mitigate climate impact include, but are not limited to – avoid, reduce, substitute/replace (i.e., switching to more efficient and “cleaner” equipment, fuels, materials, or processes), compensate (i.e., carbon pricing).

Principle 3: Educate for climate action

- ...bring together and spotlight existing guidelines, resources, tools, and expertise and collectively address potential knowledge gaps; enable knowledge sharing capacities to optimize the impact of collective effort on climate action. This principle can provide a forum for sport organisations to understand climate change issues in a global and regionally relevant context and incorporate lessons into their strategy.

Principle 4: Promote sustainable and responsible consumption

- This principle encourages sports organizations/events organizers to adopt sustainable procurement policies to motivate providers to develop cleaner/greener sustainable options.



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Principle 5: Advocate for climate action through communication

- This principle refers to consistently promote awareness about climate change and environment by mobilising resources to support action on climate change i.e., club website, social media; athletes as role models and climate ambassadors, showcasing sustainable actions at events, at club grounds, sailing community networks, at membership drives.

[2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) related to the environment and climate:

Goal # 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal # 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

Goal #12: Responsible Consumption and Production

- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal #13: Climate Action

- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal #14: Life Below Water

- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal #15: Life on Land

- Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

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See also SBYC website <https://www.sunshinebay.org/> > **Members Page / Governance Documents 2021 / Rules & Regulations 2021 section **15 Environmental Considerations.**