

Todmorden Harriers Policy on Environmental Impact.

Running by its nature is a relatively low-impact sport. Having said that, we still have a responsibility as a club to identify and respond to key areas where we can reduce our impact on the environment where practically possible. Todmorden Harriers can play a part in ensuring that the activities the club provides and its members participate in remain sustainable by defining a clear strategy for reducing environmental impact and promoting this approach so that it might inspire others to do the same.

Principles

The key principles of this document are:

1. Carbon emissions from transport should be minimised by encouraging car sharing, cycling and use of public transport to club events. Where possible carbon emissions can also be offset
2. Reducing material waste including the use of single use plastics
3. Club events should not cause excessive erosion or disturb or harm local wildlife
4. TH should work alongside other clubs and organisations to provide a wider strategy for reducing environmental impact in the local area
5. A positive image of the club and of running in general should be promoted including its impact on the environment
6. Members are encouraged to provide new ideas and feedback on how the club can better manage its environmental impact

Codes of conduct

Race Organisers should:

- Include a carbon cost in budgeting for an event. A suggested rate of 5% being donated to the local organisation <https://www.forustree.org/> to aid with tree planting which may have the additional benefit of helping with flood management in the area.
- Work with local environmental organisations to ensure race routes do not cause erosion of sensitive areas nor harm local wildlife.
- Ensure any litter is cleared up from the course
- Attempt to minimise waste involved in running the event including catering materials
- Attempt to provide recycling facilities at the start/end point
- Consider ways of reducing the number of cars at an event.

Race organisers could:

- Not provide single use cups at the end of races and advertise that people will need to bring their own drinks containers.
- Implement a clearly advertised tiered charging system for vehicles at events to promote car sharing, for example, £10 for a single occupancy car which is halved for each additional member.
- Time events to allow people to make use of public transport or cycling and promote the use of this – for example half price or free entry with a bus ticket or for arriving by bike.
- Buy reusable fabric numbers
- Charge a small sum for safety pins to encourage their reuse (suggestion: 20p)

- Use online entry systems to avoid unnecessary printing of entry forms.

Club Members

You should:

- Follow the Countryside Code (see appendix)
- Where possible walk/cycle or use public transport if the car is the only option attempt to lift share. There is a club carpool WhatsApp group available (details on the forum)
- Attempt to minimise material waste involved in running activities, use reusable drinks containers for example. There is a currently a kit swap at pack run on the second Wednesday of the month.

You could:

- Pick up and take home any litter found whilst running (there is a litter pick on the last pack run of the month)
- Volunteer with local organisations (Keep Tod Tidy, Crows, Canal and River trust etc.) to assist in the managing the local area we run in.
- If a large number of people are attending a distant event, consider hiring a minibus/coach

Appendix

The Countryside Code:

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

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