

Tadcaster Community Swimming Pool Sustainability Policy

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Tadcaster Community Swimming Pool is committed to reducing our environmental impact while continuing to provide a vital community resource. Our sustainability journey began when we repurposed an old farm barn into our facility, minimizing the environmental costs of new construction. Over the years, we have made significant investments in energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable practices to ensure we meet modern environmental standards.

Policy Statement

Tadcaster Community Swimming Pool is committed to:

- Protecting the environment and fulfilling all legal obligations.
- Reducing our carbon footprint and improving sustainability in all areas of operation.
- Engaging the community in our sustainability efforts.
- Continuously improving our environmental practices through innovation, technology, and ongoing review.

Key Initiatives

1. Energy Efficiency

- **Solar Power:** Since August 2023, we've been powered by 32 solar panels, generating renewable energy. This has saved **4,491.8 kg of CO₂**, equivalent to planting 272 trees, and cut our electricity costs by **£1,792** so far.
- **Heating System Upgrade:** In July 2022, we made a **£180,000 investment** to replace our old heating and air handling systems with modern, energy-efficient alternatives. These new systems feature **variable speed drives and sensors** to adjust heating based on real-time demand, significantly reducing energy consumption.
- **Pool Covers:** Installed in August 2024 with a grant from Swim England, these covers reduce heat loss and water evaporation, lowering our overall energy consumption and reducing the need for chemicals.

2. Water Conservation

- Our pool's filtration system is equipped with **variable speed drives**, allowing us to reduce energy and water use during low-use periods, such as overnight, while maintaining water quality.

3. Waste Reduction and Recycling

- **Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme:** As the first pool to adopt this innovative scheme, we recycle old swimming equipment into new materials for changing rooms and other areas, avoiding landfill and promoting a circular economy. This service is free for customers to use.

- **No Single-Use Plastic Overshoe Policy:** We encourage the use of reusable overshoes, reducing plastic waste and decreasing the need for chemical cleaning.

4. Sustainable Lighting and Procurement

- We have fully converted the facility to **LED lighting**, which uses less energy and lasts longer, further reducing our electricity consumption.
- We practice **sustainable procurement**, choosing recyclable materials, minimizing single-use products, and prioritizing local suppliers where possible to further reduce our carbon footprint.

Community Engagement

As a community facility, we take pride in sharing our sustainability efforts with visitors and customers. We regularly display our **energy certificates**, promoting the positive impact of our energy-saving initiatives. By engaging the public, we aim to inspire further participation in eco-friendly practices, such as using reusable items and conserving water.

Continuous Improvement and Future Goals

We are committed to ongoing improvement in sustainability and have set the following goals to achieve over the next five years:

- **ISO 14001 Certification:** We aim to achieve this globally recognized environmental management certification by 2029, demonstrating our commitment to high environmental standards.
- **Recycling for Refurbishment:** We plan to refurbish our changing rooms using recycled materials from the **Leisure Loop Recycling Scheme**, continuing our dedication to circular resource use.
- **Waste Reduction:** We aim to reduce our overall building waste by **5-10%** over the next five years through better waste management, improved recycling processes, and reduced consumption of single-use materials.
- **Environmental Audits:** We will conduct **annual internal audits** to monitor progress, refine our strategy, and adjust goals based on our environmental performance.
- **Adoption of New Technologies:** We are constantly exploring new energy-saving and water conservation technologies to ensure that we remain at the forefront of environmental sustainability.
- **Environmental Champions:** Our staff will be empowered as **Environmental Champions** to lead and inspire ongoing sustainability initiatives, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within the facility.