

The
Green
Guide
to
Outboard
Efficiency

The Green Blue
Making the environment second nature



A joint BMF and RYA Initiative



Outboard Efficiency



An efficient outboard engine is not only good for the environment, it will give you a better ride on the water and a less painful experience filling up at the pump! Follow our best practice tips to keep both your emissions and your costs down, and to maximise the efficiency of your outboard.

Get planing

Most powerboats are designed to plane. Whilst up on the plane the drag of the hull is dramatically reduced allowing a more efficient drive, so the faster you get onto the plane, the better. Once up and planing ease back on the throttle and reduce the revs to the amount needed to keep the boat planing. This is the perfect balance for speed and efficiency.

Lighten the load

Whenever possible, only take on board what you need for that specific voyage. By limiting the amount of extra or unnecessary equipment on board, you'll significantly reduce the weight and drag of your vessel. As a result you will burn less fuel and experience notable improvements in handling and performance as well.

On an even keel

To get the best from your engine, the hull needs to be as level as possible. If it is not, power and fuel will be lost trying to push the hull up rather than along. If your boat is listing to one side or the bow is weighed down, check that your crew and all on board equipment are evenly distributed and balanced; this will result in a smoother ride and increased mileage per litre.



Regular check ups

If your motor is not operating the way it was designed to, chances are the system will be working overtime, consuming more fuel and releasing more emissions unnecessarily. Regular servicing from an authorised dealer will keep your engine in peak condition and spot any potential problems early. Fresh oil, clean spark plugs and a dust free air-filter all help the engine to run more efficiently and burn less fuel. Savings of up to 5% can be made on a fully tuned and well-serviced engine.

Give your bottom a good scrub

If your boat is kept in the water on a mooring or pontoon it will be susceptible to algae, barnacles and other marine organisms setting up home on your hull. The presence of fouling increases the drag of the hull as it moves through the water. Regularly clean and wax the hull of your boat to improve speed and reduce fuel consumption.

Top me up

A full tank adds weight to the boat, lowering the hull in the water and increasing drag. The more drag, the more fuel is needed to propel the boat at the chosen speed. One way to remedy this is to carry only as much fuel as you need for the trip you are planning, with an additional 10-15% reserve. This will also help if you only use your boat occasionally as the fuel in a full tank will be susceptible to petrol potency and could cause the fuel system components to seize up. Go for regular, fresh fuel top ups instead.

Just a reminder....

Watch out for spills and splashes when refuelling – use a refuelling spout and have a spill kit to hand.

Get one at your local chandlery or visit www.sailingnetworks.com/green



A proper prop

A bent or broken propeller can contribute to fuel inefficiency, so get it fixed over the winter and see the fuel consumption of your boat come down when you are next on board. There are different propellers for different kinds of boating so experimenting with different styles can help you reach the optimum performance and fuel efficiency for your boat.

Steady as she goes

A lot of fuel can be used without realising when motoring into strong headwinds or rough seas. If you reduce your speed, not only will you and your crew get a more comfortable ride, you will also save a considerable amount of fuel. Remember that reducing your speed by a knot or two can reduce the amount of fuel you consume by half.

Reduce the resistance

An excessive amount of paraphernalia on deck while motoring, such as awnings, dinghies and other 'air-brakes' can use up to 10% of your fuel in wasted effort. Before you go out try to create an aerodynamic shape to your deck by stowing items below rather than leaving them out in the open.

The Green Blue

The Green Blue is the joint environment programme created by the British Marine Federation and Royal Yachting Association for anyone who enjoys getting out on the water or whose livelihood depends on it. We help boat users, boating businesses, sailing clubs and training centres to reduce their impact on the natural environment.

By working towards an environmentally self regulating boating community we can save money, avoid red tape and safeguard the waters and habitats we enjoy and rely upon for future generations.

The Green Blue promotes sustainable management and development of coastal and inland waterways by:

- Providing information and raising awareness through publications, events and site visits.
- Conducting research on key topics.
- Encouraging new environmentally friendly products and services relevant to boaters.

For more information visit our website
www.thegreenblue.org.uk



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