

BLACK CAT GROUP ENVIRONMENT PLAN

STRATEGIC STATEMENT

As the largest tourism operator in our region and one with a reliance on our natural environment we seek to be a leader in environment management programmes.

There are three areas we intend focusing on:

1. Reducing Energy consumed. (oil, petrol, diesel, electricity)
2. Lowering waste/byproducts of energy used (carbon emissions, recycling, others)
3. Local environment (education, resource contributions, predator trapping, advocacy)

1. Reducing Energy consumed. (oil, petrol, diesel, electricity)

- We will have the youngest average age of engines for all vessel fleets operating in the south island. With greater efficiency comes less use of fuel. Average age of each engine [excl Onawe] was 9 months as at Oct 2008.
- We will fit fuel usage monitors to each vessel to see how much is used each trip.
- We will brief staff on how many RPM each vessel is intended to go, and encourage skippers to travel at slower speeds, whilst not impacting on overall customer satisfaction.
- We will have a regular programme of hull cleaning to keep weed from hulls; this will consist of slip cleaning and diving.
- Every engine will be regularly maintained for maximum efficiency including replacement of fuel pumps where required.
- We will brief staff on keeping the distance of each cruise to an optimum, i.e. creating outstanding experiences without travelling too far.
- We will have Intersleek 950 on our three fastest vessels. Not only does this create less drag, thus creating fuel savings, it is better for the environment.
- We will use energy saving light bulbs and other electricity saving measures wherever possible including turning off lights and other electrical equipment and use most efficient heating where possible including heat pumps.
- We will plan to have Solar panels to heat shower water for the new facilities in Akaroa.
- Endeavour to employ local people to reduce travelling times.
- Encourage employees to live close to the workplace and where practical walk, bike or use public transport to get to work.

2. Lowering waste/by products of energy used (carbon emissions, recycling, others)

- All of the above measures aimed at reducing fuel and energy use will in turn reduce carbon emissions.
- We will recycle glass, aluminium cans, paper where possible.

- We will recycle oil.
- We will reduce water use by encouraging short showers and also encourage those who wore a dry suit to not have a shower.
- We will reduce water use by having triggers on hoses when washing down vessels.
- Using biodegradable cleaning liquids
- Introduce sewerage pump out facilities and eliminate need to pump out at sea.
- Examine use of carbon credits and other carbon offsetting techniques.

3. Local environment (education, resource contributions, predator trapping, advocacy)

- Dolphin Education including world class interpretation/commentary, free kids dolphin books, web site material.
- Dolphin Advocacy
- Penguin Predator trapping
- Marine Mammal research and education / DOC
- Community sponsorship via donation of cruise tickets for fund raising activity. Partnership with local schools
- Quail Island trust sponsorship including free transport for the trust in support of the tree planting each year.
- Rescues
- Sea Week sponsorship
- Purchasing policy to be confirmed re favouring companies with good environmental programmes