



Ascot Racecourse

The Racing Foundation Green Award

Ascot Racing to Zero



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RACING POST



Objectives

Welcoming more than 500,000 people to the site for racedays each year as well as many more on non-raceday events, sustainability is a year-round priority at Ascot Racecourse. We have a clear focus on reducing emissions, cutting energy usage, reducing the amount of materials coming onto site and increasing recycling – together with a clear Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) mandate.

The hospitality element of the business is managed by 1711 by Ascot, a joint venture between Ascot Racecourse and Sodexo Live, including on-site catering and fine dining. In 2022, Ascot Racecourse put its waste and recycling contract out to tender. It was won by Grundon Waste Management, experts in total waste management. Ascot also utilises the support from Rockvolt, a sports sustainability consultancy.

Working together with these partners, we set the following targets:

1. Achieve net zero within the Village Enclosure during Royal Ascot 2023.
2. To achieve 50% recycling at Royal Ascot by 2023.
3. Develop an ongoing culture to identify opportunities and solutions to reduce waste and improve recycling.
4. To promote to racegoers the benefits of sustainable practices.
5. Increase sustainability education for employees and suppliers.
6. Provide data to demonstrate sustainability success and help set future goals.



Delivery



- An extensive reduction and mitigation programme began in February 2023. Focus areas included procurement, maintenance, estates, grounds, catering, cleaning, waste, logistics and marketing. A staff working group was put together who met on a regular basis to develop and hone the plan.
- Learning from the delivery of a net zero restaurant in 2022, full forecasts for the Village Enclosure were produced covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Any residual emissions would be offset via a carbon offsetting programme certified by UK Woodland Carbon Code.
- Waste education was a major focus – ensuring people understood why segregating waste is so important for successful recycling. Grundon spent time training all teams and relevant managers to implement major changes across the hospitality areas, kitchens and vendor stalls.
- Waste posters were redesigned and a back-of-house sorting table was established. There were no general waste bins, every single item had to go into a specific bin for recycling or composting.
- Sustainability champions were employed to engage racegoers and assist with waste segregation.
- Compostable plates, napkins and cutlery were used meeting European Standards with a dedicated compactor for this waste stream. Reusable cups and glasses were used with any fruit from cups removed into food bins.
- The new segregation methods meant food waste could be properly measured for the first time, resulting in 25,460 kgs of food waste being sent to Anaerobic Digestion facilities for processing into bio-fertiliser and electricity.
- 2.11 tonnes of food were donated to City Harvest, equating to 5,026 meals delivered to the South London region.
- Village Enclosure was powered by batteries and not generators alongside a Smartflower producing PV power to offset grid use.
- All temporary structures were pre-used, including marquees, chairs and tables.



Results

- The Village Enclosure welcomed 20,310 customers and is on track for net zero once carbon calculations finalised – this will be the first ever net zero enclosure at a racecourse in Britain.
- Anticipated Village Enclosure carbon emissions set to be 50% less when compared to previous operation.
- Recycling rose by 55.6% from 135,355 kgs in 2022 to 210,725 kgs in 2023 – equivalent to 167 racehorses.
- Glass recycling up 35.6% from 90,860 kgs to 123,220 kgs.
- Overall waste recycling rate 55% - up from 35% in 2022 - exceeding target set.
- Over 50% of all food on sale in the Village Enclosure was plant based.
- Food waste now segregated (previously sent to Energy from Waste) up from 2,800 kgs to 25,460 kgs – increase of 809%
- General waste (non-recyclable) down 27.5% from 243,060 kgs to 176,250 kgs and sent to Energy from Waste.
- Road sweeper waste collections introduced for the first time = 12,265 kgs of mixed recycling waste collected.
- Electric vehicles used for bin collections, vehicles 100% powered at Grundon's own Energy from Waste plant, meaning the electricity to power the vehicles is generated from customer waste
- 126,560 kgs of CO2 saved, equivalent to planting 641 trees.
- 2,089 MWh of non-fossil fuel power generated.

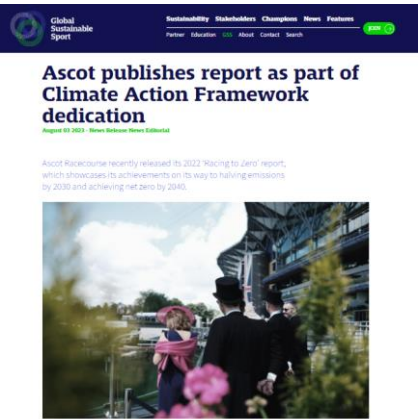


Supporting Information

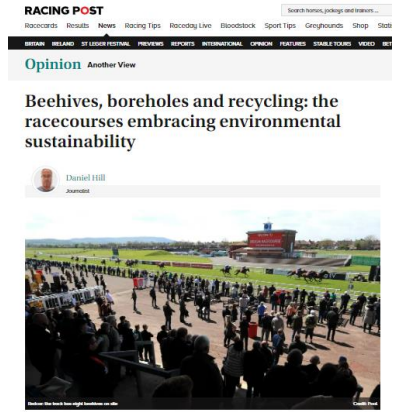


Feature Sky Sports Racing report on sustainable practices inc Village Enclosure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTGtIRvo3dk>

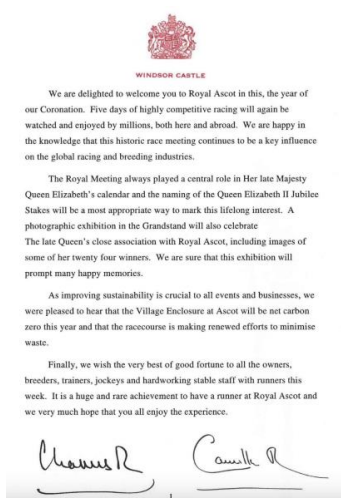


2022 Ascot Racing to Zero sustainability report [available here.](#)



Article in The Times on the Saturday before Royal Ascot

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/royal-ascot-king-charles-net-zero-xp3frtcrg>



Racecard welcome from Their Majesties The King & Queen referencing The Village and sustainability.