



Showcase
& Awards
2023

York Racecourse

Ensuring we do the right thing by our horses, our people, our planet – Green Knavesmire 300



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RACING POST



Objectives



Essentially though plastic consumption is a significant issue for the health of nature and humans, it is nothing compared to the existence crisis of global warming, created mostly by the burning of fossil fuels. We must reduce and ultimately eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels right now.

How can York Racecourse make a difference?

We did this by creating a sustainability strategy which is based upon our carbon footprint and improvements we have made over the last 5 years. From this we created a detailed roadmap that would provide us with the steps needed to reach Net Zero. The following KPIs were established as part of that strategy;

KPIs

- 1. To reduce emissions annually until we hit Net Zero in 2040
- 2. To reach 50% reduction in emissions by 2030
- 3. To commit to an internationally recognised framework which holds us accountable to change

We are the sport of the land and the custodians of the Knavesmire on which we operate.

That which we do today will echo through the centuries.



Delivery

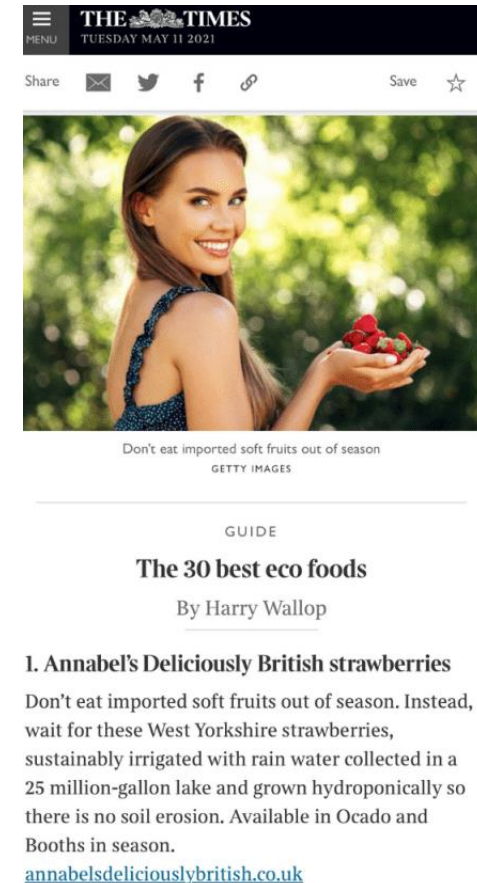
The “green agenda” is so vast yet so vital, that we wanted to do it properly, so worked closely with a leading consultancy. In order to reduce our carbon footprint by 50% we undertook the following activities;

- Installation of a comprehensive Buildings Management System (BMS) at the start of 2018 which has enabled both the immediate reduction in, and ongoing management of, our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.
- Introducing a series of policies and training programmes to support staff in understanding how not to be wasteful, including switch off schemes, carefully planning the use of spaces and reporting maintenance issues promptly
- Beginning the transition to energy efficient technology, including LED lighting and energy saving bathroom items
- Using more local suppliers to reduce the footprint of our supply chain such as Annabel's strawberries from Leeds
- Switching our public highway fleet to electric vehicles

In 2023 we began the process of detailed measuring and monitoring of carbon emissions as well as costs.

From 2024 we will be addressing the following areas in order to reach our annual reduction targets;

- A £5m planning application for the Southern End has energy management at its heart (as well as water conservation and biodiversity)
- Installing renewable energy onsite and considering the option for a renewable energy tariff switch
- Upgrading our machinery to electrified options
- Decarbonising our scope 1 operations
- Supporting staff with reducing their travel emissions through more work from home potential
- Creating a staff award scheme for green initiatives



“Sustainability & quality without compromise. Preserving the countryside for the future of British farming & food.”
ANNABEL MAKIN-JONES

Results

- “I hope it’s an example to everyone in the sport: not empty preaching, but genuine evidence of brilliant teamwork and results.” – Nick Luck, Luck on Sunday



KPI 1 - To reduce emissions annually until we hit Net Zero in 2040 - We are reducing our carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2040 and have already reduced emissions by more than 50% since 2017.

- The changes to date have had no impact on the customer because they all relate to our back of house operations. From a customer perspective, everything they experienced before, they still experience.
- Confidence in the next phase, our main reductions will come from the use of renewable energy and changes in our supply chain (which will also not impact the customer).
- Moving forward, our most ambitious stage yet will be considering racegoer engagement, tracking and monitoring behaviour change and demonstrating best practice in customer engagement and experience of sustainability.
- Mitigated impact of rising utility costs.
- We have embedded a focus on sustainability into our whole team - part of what we do and who we are.

KPI 2 - To reach 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 – We actually achieved this in 2023

- Since 2018, we have reduced electricity across the site by 35% by reducing what we use to only what we need, this is despite our activity level increasing.
- Our gas consumption reduced by 80% as we focussed our attention on efficiencies in the heating of the buildings and kitchen areas.
- Due to our work to date, we have reduced emissions by 66.5% in scope 1 and 2 combined. And shrunk our overall footprint by half, 8 years ahead of the science based target for net zero.

KPI 3 - To commit to an internationally recognised framework which holds us accountable to change – We did this in 2023 by signing up to the UNFCCC Sport for Climate Action Framework, the first independent Racecourse to do so.

- We have laid out a new vision which underpins our roadmap into 2040 and beyond.
 - We have a comprehensive York Racecourse Environmental Strategy in Green Knavesmire 300 – read this [here](#).
- This is supported by the info graphic video found [here](#).

Supporting Information

- We have been chosen to host The Horseracing Industry Conference by The Racing Foundation because of our environmental strategy
- “Bravo – this is excellent and I hope and expect other racecourses will follow your leadership in this area” – Julie Budd, Chair – Racing Foundation
- “Great to see York at the forefront of this topic” – Tim Williams, ITV Racing Producer
- Interest from ITV Racing producers to take this beyond the racing channels
- During the Ebor Festival, facility management from other large independent racecourses attended in for our Facilities Manager to share best practice on how we manage our electricity and our building management system
- Other racecourses have called to explore how they can replicate Green Knavesmire 300

‘I can assure you we ran the numbers several times to make sure, we did extra due diligence, because it’s remarkable what they’ve done’ – Ruth Dancer, Consultant

Listen to Ruth’s interview with Nick Luck [here](#).

York Racecourse @yorkracecourse

Yesterday we achieved a 10% reduction in energy consumption compared against Dante Day 1 2022 using 2.17 MWh less energy. We encourage staff to turn appliances off, which leads to significant energy savings, which translates into a lower carbon footprint.

#GreenKnavesmire300

Reducing carbon emissions

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