

About Arendal, NGP and our environmental profile

Arendal is a stunningly beautiful town, tucked away on the fjords of the south coast of Norway with a population of 40.000 inhabitants, and originally called the Venice of Scandinavia because the town is built on seven tiny islands, with a network of canals surrounding it.

The town has much to offer. The main attraction in summer is of course the sea and the skerries landscape. The marine environment is the perfect setting for perhaps the most spectacular powerboat event in the world and the largest annual outdoor sporting event in Norway with more than 100,000 spectators – the Norwegian Grand Prix (NGP). The event is also the premier occasion for Norway's more than 45.000 members of various motor sporting events and clubs. The Class-1 series ranks the Norwegian Grand Prix as their highlight of every season. The Norwegian Grand Prix's vision is to make NGP the most environmental- and climate-friendly sports event in Norway, to be a driving force and an inspiration to Norwegian and international sports events, to be a champion of global climate neutral boat sport, and also take on the responsibility future generations expect and demand when it comes to protecting the environment.

Prior to the Class-1 boat race in Arendal July 2007 an initiative was taken by the Director of UNEP/GRID-Arendal Mr. Peter Prokosch and NGP Manager Mr. Per Carsten Michelsen to start a process of addressing the environment and climate challenge via the Class One Sport and boat/motor sports in general.

NGP has signed a contract with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) for developing a computerized tool for NGP's Environmental Account. In addition, NGP has developed an Environment- and Climate Strategy with a coexisting Environment - and Climate Account, temporarily called "The Arendal Model."

The NGP and its events take responsibility in choices and actions concerning environmental and climate issues. Associations and organizers will aim to have an integrated and visible environment and climate profile in their daily work.

NGP also will:

- organize transportation and facilities that protect the environment for customers and visitors in the best possible way;
- initiate a demanding, but positive and creative collaboration with different participants - sponsors, suppliers, Arendal city council, NGOs- towards a joint effort to find successful solutions to environmental challenges;
- present a climate and environmental account that shows wise use of resources with as little negative influence on the environment as possible.
- provide leadership that results in positive growth both concerning the climate, business and-social finances.
- be a reference point to other parts of the sports world and other economic sectors.

Goals and strategy in brief:

- NGP Arendal and its events will have the best climate- and environmental profile a Norwegian or global organizer can display.

- To be a keen contributor in the continuous work of improvements in environmental issues.
- To collaborate with World Professional Powerboating Association (WPPA), Union Internationale Motonautique (U.I.M), International Offshore Team Association (IOTA), engine- and boat manufacturers and other global organizers, towards a climate neutral boat sport.

Major topics of the work:

1. Energy consumption

- Overview over CO2 emissions from daily management, events and transportation of visitors.
- Engage in a creative dialogue with manufacturers of engines and boats for more energy efficient engines and fuels.
- Using local food (“short-travelled” food) at the events.
- Reporting regularly to ensure up-to-date overviews of total energy consumptions and the impact on climate

2. Use of materials and chemicals

- Upgrade data sheets and products and the hazards associated with various products, to contribute to environmentally sound choice and handling
- Minimize the number of environmentally harmful products in use
- Follow up specified demands for purchase of environment-friendly products

3. Undesirable incidents

- Constantly survey environmental risks
- Implement our plan with priority measures to prevent and eliminate undesirable incidents
- Systematic follow-up if undesirable incidents should occur.

4. Atmospheric emissions and discharges to water

- Continue our plan with priority on reducing emissions to air and discharges to water (such as an overview of CO2 emissions from the NGP organization in total, the events, transportation etc.)
- Encourage a transition to new or different technology and/ or new energy sources involving reduced and less harmful emissions to the environment (such as E-85 or hydrogen as fuel for the boats, and food supplied from the local areas)
- Make available the use of public transportation and reducing the use of cars.
- Cooperate with other participants as “team players” towards better solutions.

5. Noise

- Measure the level of noise at events and activities

- Make an impact on WPPA/UIM and different engine manufacturers to reduce the level of noise.
- Encouraging the use of equipment that has a noise-reducing effect.
- Enforce regulations strictly and continue to contribute to new actions on noise emissions.

6. Waste

- Collaborating with recycling companies with documented skills for recycling waste and priority measures to reduce waste
- Signing an agreement with the waste collector to ensure satisfactory handling of waste and registration of the various waste components.
- Constantly reviewing routines in the NGP organization as well as cooperating partners for handling and disposal of hazardous waste.

7. Travelling and accommodation for guest, spectators, and other visitors

The NGP will systematically work with the public transportation system, which together with other initiatives will help making people's visit to Arendal as friendly to the environment as possible.

- Establish a system to document the needs and opportunities for transporting spectators, guests and other visitors to the NGP events (sea, air and ground transportation)
- Cooperate with the Municipality of Arendal to find good solutions for minimizing and sorting/recycling waste.
- To be a driving force in developing useful web-based systems.

8. Birds, animals and vegetation

- The NGP will ensure that no damage or disturbance is being done to birds, animals or vegetation in the areas used by spectators or through other aspects of the event.

9. Visual Environment

The NGP will offer guests, collaborators and spectators clean, tidy and well maintained premises during the event, and will focus on a thorough and well-kept visual profile in all its activities.

Relevant actions

- Status survey
- Continue implementing priority measures to maintain and further enhance the visual environment

10. Environmental management

Environmental management is a part of the top management system of the NGP. As an Eco-Lighthouse organization we will maintain the focus on quality management of the organisation and events.

11. Expertise development

The NGP will recruit managers and employees with environmental and climate expertise.

Relevant actions

- Continue to develop and implement goal-oriented qualification-courses for managers, advisors, accountants and other key people.

12. The Environmental workplace

The NGP desires to create enabling conditions for employees to participate in making their workplace environment-friendly

Relevant actions

- Implementation and prioritizing measures to make the workplace more environment-friendly
- Report completed and planned measures

13. Research and sustainable development (R&D)

The NGP will act as a driving force in developing new technology and climate neutral fuel, and each year present news in these important areas.

Relevant actions

- Be a driving force and a team player with other sports confederations to reach new and sustainable results for the climate in the future. Higher Environmental Objectives, Stronger Enthusiasm and Commitment and Higher Speed to reach our Goals. (*Citius, Altius, Fortius*).

14. Communication

The NGP will strive towards an image as a leading organization within the sports sector in Norway when it comes to protecting the environment. The NGP organization and the events will be a reference of credible and thorough work on environmental issues.

Relevant actions

- Survey the attitudes according to Class 1 boat race and environmental and climate issues within the public in general and suppliers in particular.
- Prepare and implement a communication plan for the external environmental and climate work
- Prepare and communicate annual environmental accounts for the Class 1 races in Norway
- Participate in established national and international connections for working towards a better climate and protecting the environment.

These are the 14 action points made by the Norwegian Grand Prix. And we plan to maintain and develop both pressure and mechanisms to improve our own organization and be a leader in sports and large events.