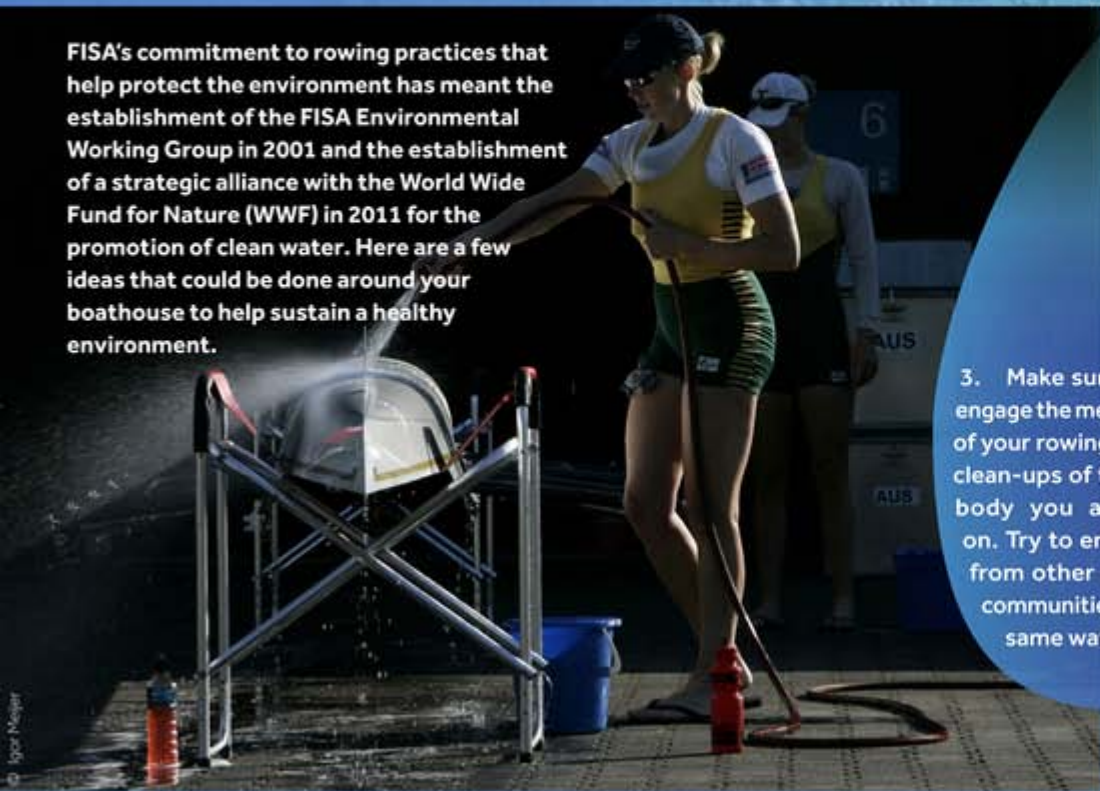


10 tips towards a greener boathouse and cleaner water in your rowing environment

FISA's commitment to rowing practices that help protect the environment has meant the establishment of the FISA Environmental Working Group in 2001 and the establishment of a strategic alliance with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in 2011 for the promotion of clean water. Here are a few ideas that could be done around your boathouse to help sustain a healthy environment.



3. Make sure you engage the members of your rowing club in clean-ups of the water body you are training on. Try to encourage support from other groups, clubs or communities which use the same water too.

2. Take a closer look at what you're washing the boats with. If it's a detergent with ingredients making up of a long list of unpronounceable words, then it probably contains many chemicals that can harm the waterways. For an alternative that is cheap and successful, try a mixture of white vinegar and water to clean your boat. Prevent any wash water from draining directly into your waterway.

4. Turn off the water. It's best not to leave hoses running when you're not using them. Clean water is scarce in many parts of our world. Also, if your boathouse is hooked up to a water meter, wasting water is an extra expense that would better be used for buying boats.

1. The all-important water bottle. Make sure it's one that you can use and re-use many times and that it doesn't fall out of your boat – it would just become another piece of unsightly floating rubbish in your beautiful waterway and could harm fish or birds.

5. Keep the engines on the coaching boats in good condition. They will run more efficiently and be less polluting.

6. Recycle as many things as you can. Rather than buying cloths to use as rags for cleaning, use the old towels that have been sitting in the lost and found box for ages. Also have a recycling bin available for glass, paper and plastic (including water bottles!).

7. Check to see if the light bulbs around the boathouse are energy-efficient. They'll save lots on the power bill and help the environment in the process. And the last person to leave the boathouse is responsible for turning the switch off.

8. If washing pool rowing-wear is done at the boathouse, hang everything out to dry in the sun and reduce the use of the power-consuming clothes dryer. Sunlight is good at killing germs and clothes smell fresh.

9. Get the edge over your competition by biking or jogging to the boathouse. If you're heading to an early morning practice you'll feel much more alive and awake when you get there. Carpooling is also a good alternative if driving is a necessity.

10. And what about this one? Consider hooking up your ergos and create lots of Watts that can be stored for power usage. This may be a bit of a fantasy at present, but already Columbia University and Drexel University in the United States have done the research.



World Rowing and WWF International are Strategic Partners, helping to promote environmentally-sustainable practices at our events and in day-to-day rowing activities. We aim to raise awareness of the need to manage and use clean, fresh water in a sustainable manner.

For more information, please refer to www.worlddrowing.com
-> Environment and www.panda.org to locate and support
your country's local WWF office.

● Melissa S. Bray



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