

# Our Green Story

## Ballyholme Yacht Club

Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council

Recycling  
Community  
Investment  
Fund  
YOUR RECYCLING PAYS

Green  
Tourism



**Ballyholme Yacht Club is a premier waterside centre, having just celebrated its 100th Anniversary. It is the base for over 800 members, encouraging a wide range of water-based activities - primarily dinghy & keelboat sailing, but also kayaking, diving, sea swimming and paddle boarding.**

It has been a destination for high level sailing regattas and championships for many years because of its sheltered bay location offering unrivalled safe sailing. Visiting competitors stay and use local facilities, while Belfast and its attractions are a short train ride away.

This is a club that is investing in its facilities to serve its growing membership and meet the needs of serious racing events, while broadening its appeal to families, youngsters and for “social” sailing, strengthening its community links. A strong programme of courses at the Yacht Club ranges from the technical (e.g. RYA Marine Radio, Day Skipper and Yacht Master theory courses) to Youth Sailing Training and “Dolphins and Sharks”, enabling children to get out on the water and have fun in a safe, supervised environment.

**Recent investment in changing rooms include energy saving LED lights and sensors, reduced water flow taps and enhanced energy and water monitoring. Throughout the club steps are being taken to increase waste**

**separation for recycling and institute a wide range of sustainable practices in time for the 2020 Laser Radial Youth European Championships & Open European Trophy in July 2020. These will include eliminating single use plastics on and off the water.**

The club has worked with a local company to produce eco-friendly ethical clothing for young sailors. And looking ahead it is working to locally source food and drink for functions and competitions and minimise food packaging. The club is also working with its cleaning company to use phosphate-free soaps and detergents.

Global, national and regional event organisers increasingly look for high sustainable and environmental practices at venues and the Club anticipates where possible what event organisers, the public and their own members want.

To see what's on and how to get on the water, call 028 9127 1467 during office hours or visit the website.

**[ballyholme.com](http://ballyholme.com)**  



The Green Tourism programme was funded by the Council's Recycling Community Investment Fund - a scheme which is powered by the recycling efforts of local residents and businesses. Thanks to an increased amount of recycling by the local community, almost £15M has been saved in landfill costs since the programme's inception. These savings have allowed the Council to create the RCIF which supports new and existing environmentally friendly initiatives.