

Thinking Green Digest 2019



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Highlights from 2019

#Marine Environment
#Gibraltar Nature Reserve
#Climate Change
#Recycling
#Awareness





CONTENTS

Introduction	03
Marine Environment	04
Ghost Nets (Part 1)	05
Ghost Nets (Part 2)	06
Blue Islands Charter	07
Air Quality	08
Air Quality Improvements	09
Energy	10
Solar Framework Agreement	11
Waste	12
Single-Use Plastic Bags Banned	13
Seabirds Dying From Plastic	14
Recycling Guide (Part 1)	15
Recycling Guide (Part 2)	16
Awareness	17
World Environment Day 2019 (Part 1)	18
World Environment Day 2019 (Part 2)	19
Green Spaces	20
Falcon Nest	21
Devil's Tooth Green Corridor	22
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	23
Climate Emergency	24
25th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP25)	25
Climate Change Prevention	26
Contact Us	27

THINKING GREEN DIGEST 2019

Produced by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH).

This document presents an overview of the work carried out during 2019 by DESCCH, as well as useful information relating to our environment.

MARINE

Gibraltar is surrounded by water and we depend on our marine environment for recreation, transport and commerce. Care has to be given in a holistic manner in order to maintain a healthy, marine environment.

AIR QUALITY

Air quality has an impact on both the natural environment and human health. Traffic and energy generation play key roles in the quality of Gibraltar's air.

ENERGY

New buildings and greater dependence on technology have also increased our demand for electricity. Being aware of your consumption patterns & cutting out unnecessary use can reduce demand & contribute to our energy efficiency goals.

WASTE

With a lot of our waste being generated by excess packaging and a consumer driven society, small changes can make a large contribution towards a healthier and more sustainable way of living.

AWARENESS

More information brings greater awareness and a better understanding of how to minimise our negative impacts on the planet whilst promoting a better and healthier lifestyle for all.

FEEDBACK

Data collected across all fields help to inform and enable effective decision making as well as furthering our understanding of our unique environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE

2019 saw an unprecedented recognition of climate change and the threats it poses. It is a complex and far reaching problem and to tackle it successfully the response must come from all sectors - government, businesses and individuals - as we look to restore balance and preserve our natural environment.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

A brief overview of some of the carried out in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) during 2019.

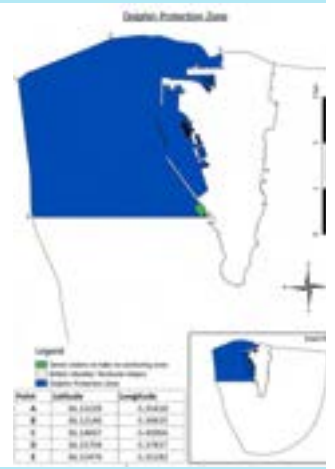


BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING SEASON

Open season started on Sunday 16th June 2019 and ended on the 14th October 2019. The quota was increased from 15.5 tonnes to 16.74 tonnes, reflecting an increase in quotas allowed by the international Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

DOLPHIN PROTECTION ZONE

The Department would like to remind anglers that the practice of 'popping' for tuna, during the fishing season, is not allowed within the Dolphin Protection Zone. 'Popping' can cause serious injury to dolphins and this area has been created as part of the measures intended to provide a refuge for dolphins that frequent our waters.



BLUEFIN TUNA TAGGING PROGRAMME

The Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage started a Bluefin tuna tagging programme building on some measures introduced during 2018.

FURTHER PROTECTION FOR MARINE SPECIES

Following on the recommendations of the Fishing Working Group, two species have been given total protection from fishing in BGTW, the Small Spotted Catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) and the Brown Ray (*Raja miraletus*), which means that all species of sharks, skates and rays now have full protection in BGTW, one of the few places in the world where this blanket protection exists.



MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE COURSE

The Department undertook a marine mammal rescue course, organised and accredited by the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). BDMLR is an organisation dedicated to the rescue and well-being of all marine animals in distress around the UK.

BUBBLES

'Bubbles' the environmentally friendly plastic eating fish aims to raise public awareness of the dangers of plastic contamination in our marine environment whilst encouraging people to dispose of their plastic waste responsibly.



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Marine Environment

GHOST NETS

2019
Part 1

A team of experienced divers from the Gibraltar Sub-Aqua Dive Club 888 (GSAC 888) supported by dive teams from the DESCCH and the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) completed the difficult task of removing a 400m² ghost net off Europa Point within the Southern Waters of Gibraltar Marine Protected Area.



Ghost nets are fishing nets that have been discarded or snagged and left on the seabed. These nets can continue catching fish for long periods of time causing significant impacts to marine life. They also pose a danger to the navigation of vessels and the safety of divers. These are some of the reasons why nets have been proscribed in BGTW since 1991 under the Nature Protection Act and in keeping with the fundamental objective of Marine Protected Areas to safeguard marine habitats and species.



The net was reported by an active member of the Gibraltar Snorkelling and Spearfishing Association who was diving in the reef known as Los Picos off Europa Point, the location where the New Flame ran aground in August 2007. Divers from the GSAC 888 quickly formed a team to assess the net and formulate a detailed dive plan and risk assessment in conjunction with the DESCCH and GFRS dive teams.



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Marine Environment

GHOST NETS

2019
Part 2



The operation entailed a series of dives to secure the net safely underwater and then lift it to the surface using specialised diving equipment known as lift bags. The nets were then extracted onto the Environmental Protection and Research Unit's (EPRU) 'Storm Petrel'. Some protected species that had been entangled in the ghost net such as spider crabs and demersal fish were rescued in the process. Upon close inspection at the EPRU's marine base, it appeared that the net had likely been discarded elsewhere at sea, drifted and then entangled on the remains of the New Flame wreck.



The diving operation was conducted with the assistance of the Gibraltar Port Authority and marine assets from the Royal Gibraltar Police, HM Customs, GFRS and the DESCCH's EPRU. The DESCCH would like to thank all the agencies involved in what was a complex but successful operation. Special mention for Christopher Redondo for promptly reporting the ghost net and to Nick Balban, Robert Sheriff, Nicholas Barbara, Dennis Santos and Nicholas Martinez from the GSAC 888 dive club for their determination and commitment in removing the ghost net safely.





Blue Islands Charter



The idea originated in Gibraltar as the brainchild of Minister for Environment, John Cortes. The Blue Islands Charter started its journey around small islands of the world from the Channel Island of Alderney in 2019.

Islands and other small territories largely surrounded by sea are important for the protection of the oceans, and these are particularly susceptible to sea level rise due to climate change. Recognising this importance, the Blue Islands Charter commits the governments of these islands, be they independent states, overseas territories, or parts of larger countries, to protect the seas around them and commit to environmental protection on land and sea.

Minister John Cortes was due to attend the 'Wilder Islands' conference on environmental protection on small islands in Alderney to launch the Charter, but was unable to do so following the calling of the Gibraltar General Election. The Minister, however, signed the Charter on behalf of Gibraltar in advance and Dr Liesl Mesilio, CEO of the DESCCH, presented the document at Alderney where it was signed by other islands present. Dr Keith Bensusan of GONHS was also present at the Conference, as was long-time friend of Gibraltar, Dr Mike Pienkowski of the UK Overseas Territories' Conservation Forum. Both Dr Mesilio and Dr Bensusan delivered presentations at the Conference.



Gibraltar continues to play an important role in environmental protection among the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, with John Cortes being co-Chair of the UK Overseas Territories' Environment Ministers' Council.



AIR QUALITY

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."—Jane Goodall



Walking to School

Walking and cycling have many benefits - both to you and to your environment. As part of its initiatives to promote sustainable travel choices, the Ministry for Infrastructure & Planning provided walking and cycling distance information to pupils of Bayside & Westside Schools. In view of the opening of the new comprehensive schools, the Ministry for Infrastructure & Planning provided a map (shown below) of the approximate walking and cycling times to and from the schools from most residential areas closest to the schools. HM Government of Gibraltar supports and encourages the raising of awareness and the more that people become part of this wish to change, the better this will be for all.



Montreal Protocol

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was extended to Gibraltar with effect from October 18th 2019. The Montreal Protocol, which was finalized in 1987, is a global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer, by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Within 25 years of signing, the world had phased-out 98% of the ODS contained in nearly 100 hazardous chemicals worldwide. The amendment calls on all countries to gradually phase down their production and consumption of HFCs in the coming decades; with the aim to achieve over an 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047.





AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

Air Quality Figures 2019



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
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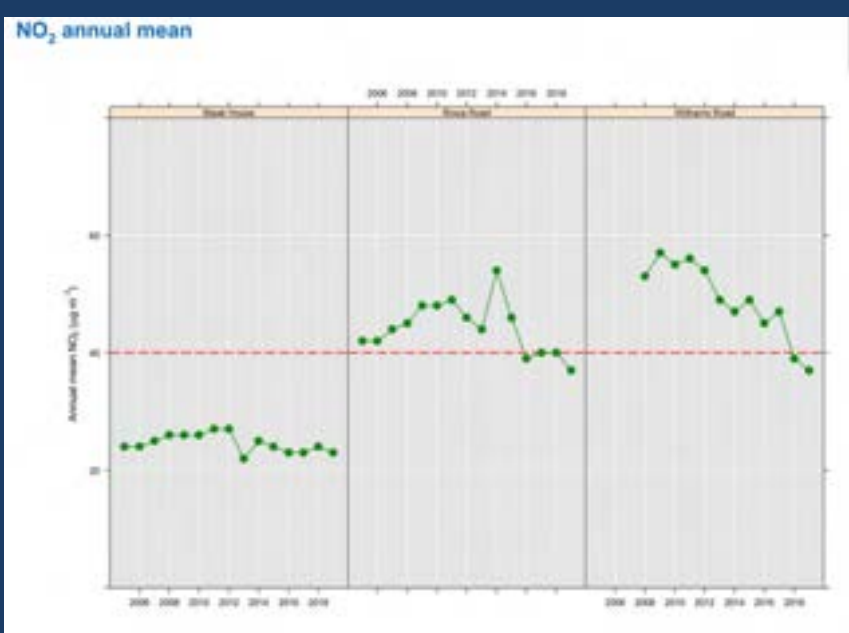
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EU AIR QUALITY COMPLIANCE

2019 was the second year in succession in which Gibraltar complied with all the EU air quality requirements, including the levels of nitrogen dioxide, which only complied with the requirements in 2018, for the first time since 2007.

Gibraltar compliance record

Pollutant	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PM ₁₀	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PM _{2.5}	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NO ₂	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Ozone	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
SO ₂	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Benzene	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PAH (BaP)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pb	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
As	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ni	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

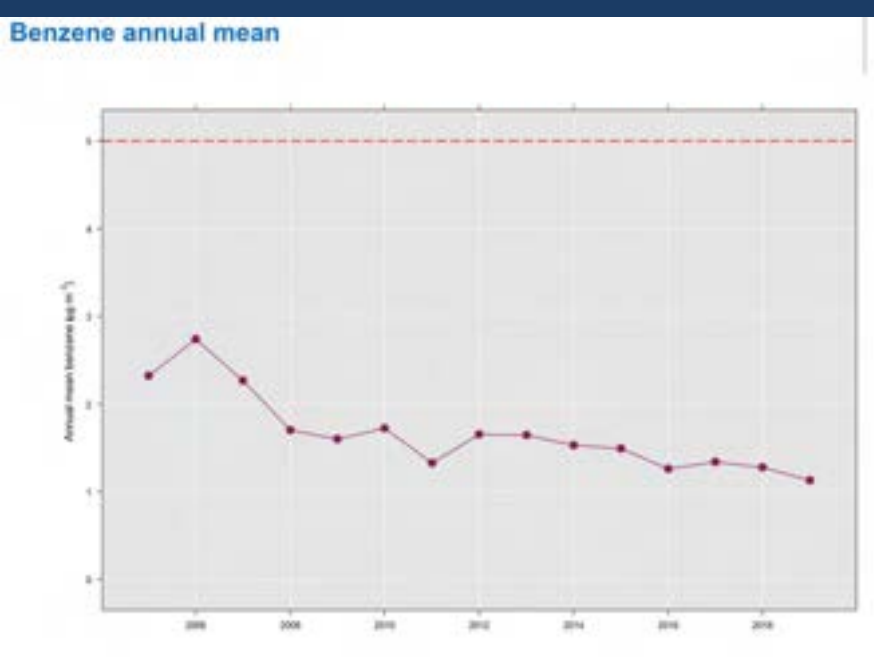


AIR QUALITY INFORMATION

The Environmental Agency and UK firm Ricardo's, which monitors air quality in Gibraltar, published a report on air quality in 2019. The report is based on the Government's air monitoring equipment which are located in Bleak House, Witham's Road and Rosia Road.

PARTICULATE MATTER

Concentrations of particulate matter (PM), both PM10 and the smaller more dangerous PM2.5, continue to fall, with the latter approaching the WHO levels which are stricter than those of the EU.



OTHER POLLUTANTS

Levels of other pollutants, including benzene, continue to fall. Government considers that the issue of pollution as a result of the temporary generators in the South District is now almost totally resolved, and will shortly be moving the monitoring station to the North District. The Rosia Road station will remain in place. Both these stations will, moving forward, largely be picking up emissions from traffic which is considered to be the top challenge in tackling air quality in Gibraltar.

For further information and data, please refer to our Thinking Green Statistics Reports.



Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

ENERGY



ELECTRICITY IS A DAILY REQUIREMENT BUT ITS GENERATION COMES AT AN ENVIRONMENTAL COST.

THE NEW POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED SWITCH TO NATURAL GAS AS PRIMARY FUEL WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS, BOTH IN EFFICIENCY AND IN POLLUTION LEVELS. DESCCH CONTINUES TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ESTABLISHED TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS SOLAR, AS WELL AS EXPLORING THE VIABILITY OF NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

BEING MORE EFFICIENT IN THE WAY THAT WE PRODUCE AND USE ENERGY REMAINS KEY TO LOWERING EMISSIONS.

20%

REDUCTION IN STREET LIGHTING CONSUMPTION COMPARED TO 2012/2013. THIS 20% REDUCTION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ANY INCREASES IN LIGHTING AS A RESULT OF EXPANSION OF THE ROAD NETWORK.



24.7% reduction ON LAST YEAR

72.39% reduction SINCE 2011

A CHANGE TO LED CHRISTMAS LIGHTING THROUGHOUT GIBRALTAR

THE GAS FIRED NORTH MOLE POWER STATION MAKES BOTH ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE. THE NEW PLANT IS MORE EFFICIENT AND COMBINED WITH THE USE OF CLEANER FUEL WILL ALSO IMPROVE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY.



99%

 REDUCTION IN SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

90%

 REDUCTION IN NITROGEN OXIDES EMISSIONS

44%

 REDUCTION IN CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

MINISTER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HERITAGE PROF. JOHN CORTES COMMENTED: "THESE FIGURES SHOW THAT GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY IS EFFECTIVE. THEY ALSO SHOW THAT WE CAN ALL HELP IN IMPROVING EFFICIENCY. NOT ONLY IS THIS CHEAPER FOR THE CONSUMER, IT ALSO MEANS THAT LESS POWER IS NEEDED, WHICH REDUCES GENERATION AND POLLUTION. I URGE EVERYONE WHO HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO TO TAKE THE STEP OF CONVERTING ALL LIGHTING TO LED."





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ENERGY

SOLAR FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT



Towards the end of 2018, HM Government of Gibraltar, in collaboration with the Gibraltar Electricity Authority, launched the Sale of Power Tender, for electricity generated via solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology as part of its commitment to increase renewable energy production and reduce carbon emissions.



Three companies were successful in their bids and now form part of the Government Solar Framework Agreement. The first competition under this Agreement took place in May 2019, in which Framework Contractors had the opportunity to bid for the design, installation, operation and maintenance of PV at various sites. The sites were the Cruise Liner Terminal, the University of Gibraltar, Ocean Views and Hillside and Mount Alvernia. The production capacity of each site was determined by the configuration of systems proposed and it is estimated to be over 700 kW for Phase I. Subsequent competitions will follow in due course as PV systems are rolled out.



WASTE



BALLOONS BANNED

HM Government of Gibraltar published Regulations during 2019 to ban the deliberate release of gas-filled balloons. It is therefore an offence to do so, and follows similar legislation in other countries.

In this way Government reiterates its commitment to cleaner seas, free of plastics and other non-biodegradable materials which cause so much harm to wildlife.

PLASTIC BOTTLES

HM Government of Gibraltar published a Legal Notice containing Regulations under the Nature Protection Act that prohibits the sale or distribution of drinks in plastic bottles within the Nature Reserve from 1st July 2019; a further step being taken by the Government to reduce plastic waste in Gibraltar.



TREE RECYCLING

The Department introduced a Christmas tree recycling programme for the disposal of real Christmas trees.

Recycling trees, or turning them into mulch, is an efficient way to give back to the environment after the festive period by minimising the amount of waste going to landfill and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Mulching trees can also be used to help protect soils in Gibraltar's green areas such as parks and gardens.

PLASTIC BAG BAN

In September 2019, HM Government of Gibraltar introduced a ban on the importation of most types of plastic bags.

Whilst plastic bags are practical and reliable, they also pose a great threat to our flora and fauna when disposed of incorrectly. Should these bags find their way into our natural environment, they can lead to the death of protected and endangered species such as Loggerhead Sea Turtles, migrating Gannets and even our resident dolphin population.



SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS BANNED

Making the environment a priority



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

1

TYPES OF BAGS BANNED

Any unused bag made, wholly or partially, from plastic, under 100 microns in thickness, is banned from importation.

2

WHY?

Plastic bags were created as a durable and strong alternative to paper bags. Plastic bags were meant to be reused and recycled once no longer viable. Unfortunately, due to marketing and consumerist trends, most plastic bags have become single-use items, easily discarded once they have completed their task. These can find their way into our natural environment where they pollute and kill wildlife through strangulation, starvation or contamination. The ban on plastic bags seeks to encourage the general public to use reusable bags and eliminate a great threat to our local wildlife.

3

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS - A LIE!

There is no such thing as a biodegradable plastic bag. New marketing strategies trick consumers into buying their product thinking its good for the environment. It isn't! Degradable bags exist but these only break down under industrial composting conditions.

4

EXEMPTIONS

Certain types of bags are still allowed but only under the following conditions:

- Plastic bags without handles intended to be used to contain packaged or unpackaged uncooked fish, meat or poultry, or fish, meat or poultry products,
- Zipper storage bags or self-sealing plastic bags used for issuing medicinal products,
- Sealable plastic bags used for the transportation & containment of medicinal products & appliances,
- Gusseted liners or garment covers, and
- Bin liners, diaper bags & bags specifically intended for the collection, and disposal, of dog waste.



SEABIRDS DYING FROM PLASTIC

LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

NORTHERN GANNET

A wintering bird

During 2019, the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic's Dr Mark Pizarro, carried out a post-mortem examination on a bird that died, despite efforts to rehabilitate. The results showed plastic lodged in the gut, preventing the ingestion of fish, which will have therefore caused its death. Northern Gannets nest on coastal cliffs in the British Isles and elsewhere in Northern Europe and migrate south for the winter, many spending the colder season in the Mediterranean. At this time they are common around our shores and can be seen diving into the sea from considerable height in search of fish. The plastic found inside the Gannet was in the form of a single wrapper of Marie biscuits, which probably shimmered in the water, making the Gannet think it was a fish. It cannot be determined where this bird, an adult, ingested the plastic. It could have been anywhere between its nesting sites in the north and its winter quarters, but the message is the same wherever it happened. Plastic in the environment can cause death.

As a community we must reduce the use of plastic and recycle what we use. We know what we have to do. Government has published laws about this and, together with NGOs will continue to campaign. But we don't need laws to know what we should do.



PURPLE SANDPIPER

A RARE VISITOR TO
GIBRALTAR SHORES

DURING 2019, AN OFFICIAL
DEATH OF THIS BIRD WAS
RECORDED IN GIBRALTAR
AFTER HAVING BEEN FOUND
ENTANGLED IN PLASTIC
NETTING



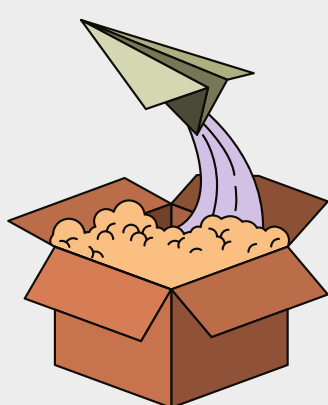
RECYCLING GUIDE



Department of the Environment,
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PAPER & CARDBOARD



Anything made out of paper can be recycled in the blue recycling bin.

Examples include: Newspapers, Wrapping Paper, Birthday and Christmas Cards, Magazines and Egg cartons.

WEEE



Anything that uses electricity to function can be recycled in the pink recycling bin.

Examples include: Chargers, lightbulbs, clocks, watches, battery powered toys, electronic tools, kettles, TV, computers and DVDs.

GLASS



Anything made from glass can be recycled in the green recycling bin.

Examples include: wine bottles, perfume bottles, window panes, drinking glass and glass plates or bowls.

COOKING OIL



All types of oils used in cooking can be recycled in the orange recycling bin

Please dispose of waste cooking oil in a suitable plastic container to avoid any spillage.

No waste car oil is to be placed in this recycling bin.



RECYCLING GUIDE



Department of the Environment,
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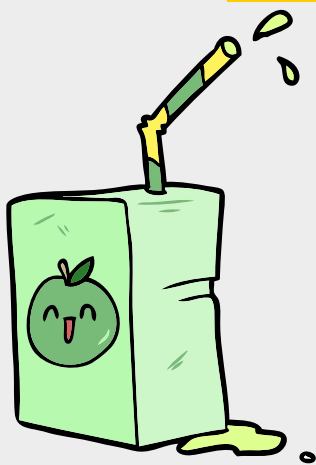
PLASTIC



Anything made out of plastic can be recycled in the yellow recycling bin.

Examples include: Polystyrene boxes; biscuit, chocolate and crisp wrappers; drink bottles; plastic take-away containers; shampoo bottles.

TETRABRIK



Anything made of tetrapak can be recycled in the yellow recycling bin.

Examples include: Milk cartons, Juice cartons and tomato sauce containers.

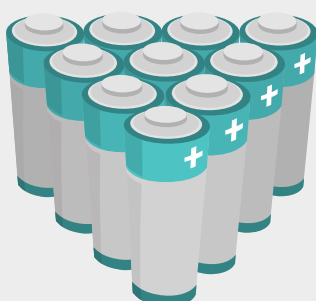
METAL



Anything made from metal can be recycled in the yellow recycling bin.

Examples include: drink cans, food tins, broken metal cutlery, aluminium foil and metal bottle caps and lids.

BATTERIES



All types of household batteries can be recycled in the red recycling bin

All types of household batteries accepted. No car batteries should be placed in this recycling bin.

AWARENESS



Department of the Environment,
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HM Government of Gibraltar



ENVIRONMENT HACKATHON

The Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage, in conjunction with the Department of Education and Advanced Leadership Foundation, hosted its first Environment Hackathon at the University of Gibraltar.

Involving students of all ages across all schools, the hackathon challenged pupils to find a solution to the problem "How do we keep our beaches plastic free this summer?"

Teams worked together to produce a 5 minute pitch. Of the ideas submitted, two definitive winners were selected based on creativity and the ability to engage the community.

WWF'S EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour has become a worldwide event, organized by WWF, it represents a definitive statement by Civil Society on climate action. Our connection to the planet and nature is a life limit which must be preserved. As the earth continues to break climate records, the need for greater ambition and commitment is also increasing. As in previous years, the North Face of the Rock, the Moorish Castle and the Supreme Court were not lit to coincide with Earth Hour.



CHAMP

CHAMP (Children, Healthy and Active! Multi-agency Programme) launched its fourth phase of planned events on Saturday 1st June 2019 at Commonwealth Park. This event focused on mental health in young people and what families, schools and the community can do to promote their emotional well-being. The public were invited to visit different stands, some involving activities for children and others explaining how food choices can affect the development of a healthy mind. Connecting with nature on a regular basis can also contribute to the development of a healthy mind.

HORIZON SCANNING

Invasive non-native species are considered one of the greatest threats to biodiversity given their potential impacts on protected species and habitats.

The UK's Overseas Territories, most of which are islands, are particularly at risk. As part of an ongoing assessment of the potential impact of invasive non-native species in the UK's Overseas Territories, experts from the UK and different parts of the EU, met in Gibraltar to help identify the potential invasive species that could affect Gibraltar's terrestrial and marine environment. Local scientists from the Department of the Environment, the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society and the University of Gibraltar also took part in the exercise.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2019



#BeatAirPollution

Part 1



Department of the Environment,
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5TH JUNE

Celebrated every year on the 5th June, World Environment Day is the United Nations' biggest annual event for positive environmental action to encourage worldwide awareness of the need to protect our planet.

Since the first World Environment Day in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for positive public outreach on the environment in over 100 countries.

#BEATAIRPOLLUTION

DESCCH organised Gibraltar's participation in World Environment Day celebrations. This year's theme was #BeatAirPollution - a call to take action on renewable energy and green technologies in order to improve the air quality in towns, cities and regions across the world. Air pollution impacts all of us and we all have a role to play in keeping our air clean.

The sources of air pollution are many but if we act now, we can work towards eliminating dangerous pollutants driving climate change and weakening our planet's life systems every day.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2019



#BeatAirPollution

Part 2



Department of the Environment,
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REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

As part of the global drive to spread the message on reducing air pollution, a number of local schools performed at Commonwealth Park from 09:30am on Wednesday 5th June.

They were accompanied by over fifteen activity-orientated stalls setup by the DESCCH, Government Agencies, Non-governmental organisations and local businesses hoping to make a real difference in improving air quality. Art competitions, open air chess, face painting and even dance shows also formed part of 2019's initiative which catered for all ages.



WORKING TOGETHER

The event ran through until late afternoon. Members of the public attended in numbers, watching the children perform and visiting the stalls to see what changes we can make in our daily lives to reduce air pollution, which in turn can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our health.

The event was opened by Minister for the Environment, Prof. John Cortes, who addressed the children, encouraging them to live in an environmentally-friendly manner and to make sure that their families did the same. The Minister stressed that the Environment is an area in which the whole community has to work together, for our good and the sake of the Earth.

GREEN SPACES



Department of the Environment,
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Spring 2019 saw a great deal of work by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage in improving green spaces, work which is ongoing.



UPPER ROCK



The clearing of dense scrub on the Upper Rock, which has been going on for several years, has been showing excellent results, with areas that supported only a few species now replaced by open habitat which is much richer in plant and animal species and affords feeding opportunities for migrant and resident birds, including Barbary Partridges, as well as mammals such as rabbits, and our rich invertebrate fauna. The clearing is done sensitively, ensuring that rare species are not removed, and that there is sufficient tree cover remaining to provide shelter for birds.

UPPER ROCK SPEED RAMPS

In a separate initiative, a total of seventeen speed ramps were placed on roads in the Upper Rock in order to calm traffic and help reduce danger to visitors and wildlife. In addition to this, drivers are urged to take care in the Upper Rock and drive slowly. This will both allow better appreciation of our wildlife and reduce the danger. Young birds such as partridge chicks, or young macaques or rabbits will be the most vulnerable, as will reptiles that may be basking on the open road surfaces.



TREE PLANTING

Work has been done to protect and extend the lives of trees. The two large Eucalyptus trees outside the Gibraltar Parliament had outgrown their planters and were being damaged as they expanded over the stone work. These were removed and replaced with more tree-friendly planters. Where trees have perished, these are replaced, with 10 having been dealt with during 2019 in this way. At the same time, trees have continued to be planted in different areas, including Tamarisk trees in the area east of Little Bay, and a variety of trees donated by the Botanic Gardens in the grounds of Ocean Views, for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Any trees affected by construction will either be moved or, where this is not possible, replaced with twice the number.

EUROPA POINT

At Europa Point planting has continued despite the challenging location as a result of great exposure to the elements. Nature is resilient and the choice of plant species used means that many will recover and gradually cover the site with greenery. This process is slower though when a new green area has been created and the plants need time to become established.



FALCON NEST



Department of the Environment,
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HM Government of Gibraltar



The DESCCH, GONHS (Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society), King's Wharf Ltd and Casais worked together to provide an artificial nest placed in one of the towers at the King's Wharf development. With technical expertise from the Department and from Vincent Robba of the GONHS Raptor Rehabilitation Unit, the nest was sourced and paid for by the developer and placed at rooftop level.

Albert Yome of GONHS, during one of his regular surveys of urban wildlife, had observed the frequent use of one of the cranes on the development by a Peregrine falcon as a hunting perch.



On being contacted about this by Albert, the Minister for Environment John Cortes, suggested that it might be worth providing a nest site nearby. The developer was quick to accept the challenge and make the commitment to do so.

Peregrine falcons nest on buildings in many different parts of the world, even in the heart of cities such as Bristol, Salisbury and New York. Although up to seven pairs of Peregrine have nested in Gibraltar regularly - one of the highest densities in the world - no nests here have so far been on buildings. King's Wharf is within the territory of one of the cliff-nesting pairs, but Peregrines, like other birds of prey will use alternative nest sites, and this one provides such a possibility. It is also possible that kestrels, another smaller species of falcon that also nests on the Rock, may also consider the site to be suitable.





Devil's Tooth Green Corridor

In March 2019 HM Government of Gibraltar extended the Gibraltar Nature Reserve by 2.42 square Km to protect a uniquely scenic and little known area of Gibraltar for future generations.



The Devil's Tooth Green Corridor, as the area will be known, gets its name from the shape of the rock formation that dominates the site which is close to North Gorge. It was formerly a footpath linking the area of the Naval Hospital to Camp Bay. The extension also includes important cliff formations in the Camp Bay area, connecting these to those south of Little Bay, already within the Nature Reserve, and so providing a green corridor extending all the way along Europa Foreshore to Europa Point.

The area has important biodiversity and holds a number of plant species rare in Gibraltar, such as the wild caper, found nowhere else on the Rock, and provides nesting sites for Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon. The habitat in the area will be improved to encourage more biodiversity, and it is intended to open parts of it to the public on a restricted basis in due course.





UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE

The DESCCH acquired an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, better known as a drone, to enhance its environmental research and monitoring. Such devices enable new ways of working, increasing efficiency, reducing costs and minimising impacts within established and emerging sectors. The significant global growth in the robotics and autonomous systems market, over the past five years has established drones and their applications at the forefront of technological developments. They are particularly suited to environmental work.

Outside of the environmental applicability, drones represent a tremendous opportunity for DESCCH to support and collaborate with a wider cross section of Government departments, augmenting data capture, data availability and data interpretation. Offering the potential of a powerful new perspective across a variety of requirements, delivering both productivity benefits and increased value from the data that are collected.

In line with the wider Geospatial Strategy, the initial applications of this technology will centre on terrestrial and marine mammal monitoring, renewing and updating the aerial imagery of Gibraltar with new Orthophoto (geospatially corrected aerial images), generating 3D Building Models, Contour Maps and Solar panel inspections. The technology will also be a tool for enhanced environmental law enforcement.

Because drones have a potential negative impact on nesting birds, the Department's drone will be operated by a scientific officer, who has been specifically trained and qualified in the United Kingdom, and who, together with an additional spotter, is well versed in potential conflicts which will therefore be avoided.

Data from these efforts will continue to be developed into further geospatial products that will be provided via the HM Government of Gibraltar geoportal which can be accessed at www.geoportal.gov.gi.





Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

EMERGENCY DECLARED

3RD MAY 2019

The Gibraltar Parliament unanimously declared a climate emergency, in a move that signalled Gibraltar's intention to put climate change and environmental protection at the top of the community's agenda.

PURPOSE

The motion is "a call to action" that seeks to engage the whole community alongside practical actions that the government will also take.

INTENTION

This Climate Emergency reflects Gibraltar's intention to join other countries around the world - Gibraltar is the second parliament after the House of Commons to declare a climate emergency - to champion efforts to reduce emissions in a bid to tackle climate change and encourage sustainability.

PLEDGE

**REDUCE EMISSIONS AND BECOME CARBON
NEUTRAL**

The motion includes a pledge to make Gibraltar carbon neutral by 2030 and reduce emissions by 50% by 2035.



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

25TH UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP25)

GIBRALTAR ATTENDS COP25

9TH - 13TH DECEMBER 2019

Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Dr. John Cortes, accompanied by Stephen Warr (Senior Scientist at the Department of the Environment and Climate Change) represented the UK Overseas Territories at the 25th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Madrid during December 2019.

Purpose

A number of events were attended, including the plenary sessions, and hosted, including, together with Minister for Housing, Technical Services and Infrastructure, the Hon Steven Linares, a presentation on the UK Overseas Territories, including Gibraltar. The purpose for the Gibraltar delegation attending was, among other things, to progress a particular HMGOG climate change trading initiative, potentially involving the use of blockchain technology, but the opportunity was also taken to learn about how the Overseas Territories can participate in and encourage the urgent need for individuals, families and small and medium businesses to assess how their lifestyle and choices impact our shared global environment.



PLEDGE

Of particular interest was a session on sustainable cities where the challenges facing cities in reducing emissions from buildings and traffic were discussed and new technologies described.

The Gibraltar delegation reported that the science-backed evidence shows that each individual contributes to the planet's carbon emissions, and we need to be empowered to make the right choices and to act now so that we may play our part to safeguard our future as well as that of future generations and all other life with which we share this planet.

"Gibraltar's own work on climate change is up there with many of the countries best preparing to tackle the crisis, and will be a lot better when we are back at COP26 in Glasgow in 2020. We need to take our place in the international community in our commitment to dealing with Climate Change."

Dr. John Cortes



CLIMATE CHANGE PREVENTION



SIMPLE STEPS WITH HUGE IMPACT



ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT ALWAYS SEEM LIKE IT, SMALL
CHANGES CAN REALLY MAKE A HUGE IMPACT WHEN WE
ALL CONTRIBUTE.



CONSERVE WATER.

NOT USING IT? TURN IT OFF!

The production of fresh water in Gibraltar has hidden costs in the use of fossil fuels to produce the electricity needed in order to produce our fresh water. The less water we waste, the more money and electricity we save.

REDUCE YOUR WASTE.

MAKE IT A HABIT TO RECYCLE TOO

What is the point of throwing something in the normal bin to end up in a landfill site when it can be used over and over again? Please place all recycle in their corresponding bins to minimise waste just sitting in a landfill site. Not sure of what goes where? Check out our recycling guide to find out more.



SAVE AND MAXIMIZE ENERGY

USE ENERGY-SAVING APPLIANCES

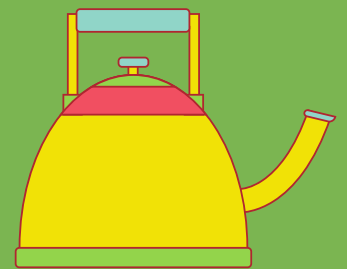


Using energy-saving appliances makes economic sense. Spend less money and energy when using any energy efficient electronic item, especially if this includes washing machines, microwaves, etc. Did you know that a LED light bulb uses 75% less energy than your average lightbulb?

ENERGY SAVING HABITS

ENERGY SAVING HABITS SAVE MONEY

Did you know that boiling a kettle is the equivalent to charging your laptop for two hours? Only boil the water you need! Switch lights and equipment off when not using them, don't just leave them on standby!



WALK AND TRAVEL GREEN.

LESS POLLUTION, MORE BENEFITS



Next time you leave your house, think! Should I use the car? Can I take the bus or walk where I need to go? The fewer car journeys we make, the cleaner our air and the healthier we will be.

Help take care of our local
environment!
It is the only one we have!





CONTACT US

Many well meaning citizens tend to post on social media in an effort to bring attention to particular problems in relation to the environment. Social media platforms are not official reporting formats and therefore, there is no guarantee that government officials will see or then be able to act upon matters reported in this manner.

In this context HM Government of Gibraltar's, Department of Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage, would like to remind members of the public who need to report environmental matters, that they can do so by contacting the numbers or email addresses below.

The numbers listed can be used for a wide range of environmental issues, including but not limited to; Macaques, gulls and pigeons, air or water pollution, oil spills, fishing, litter, fly-tipping, cleanliness, wildlife issues, environmental nuisance, trees and planted areas, beaches, upper rock, and noise pollution. If a member of the public is unsure of what number to call, please call the Environmental Protection Officer On Call, in the first instance.

Environmental Feedback Section



+350 200 65964

+350 200 65963



env.feedback@gibraltar.gov.gi

09:00 - 15:00 Winter Hours
08:00 - 14:30 Summer Hours

Environmental Protection Officer On Call



+350 58009620

Avian Control Unit



+350 200 66588

(24 Hour Answering Machine)

Animal Welfare Clinic



+350 200 43352

09:00 - 17:00 Winter &
Summer Hours

Environmental Agency



+350 200 70620



+350 58297000
(On call after hours)

08:45 - 16:30 Winter Hours
08:00 - 14:30 Summer Hours

Macaque Team



+350 56002297

(On Call - 24 Hours)

Beaches



+350 200 71648



ur&beaches@gibraltar.gov.gi

09:00 - 15:00 Winter Hours
08:00 - 15:30 Summer Hours

Fishing



+350 200 71061



info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi

09:00 - 15:00 Winter Hours
08:00 - 15:30 Summer Hours