

# Thinking Green Digest 2020

## Highlights from 2020

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



Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar





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# THINKING GREEN DIGEST 2020

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

This document aims to present an overview of some of the work carried out during 2020 by DESCCH, as well as significant information relating to our environment.

## MARINE

Gibraltar is mostly surrounded by the marine environment. We depend on this environment for recreation, transport and commercial purposes. Care has to be given in a holistic manner in order to maintain a healthy marine environment locally.

## AIR QUALITY

Air quality is an importance aspect of our local environment, affecting both the natural and human environments. Traffic and energy generation have a key role to play in the quality of Gibraltar's air.

## ENERGY

New buildings and a move to more technological dependence increases our demands for energy, namely electricity. Being aware of your consumption patterns helps to minimise demand and contributes to an energy efficient environment.

## WASTE

With a lot of our waste being generated by excess packaging and a consumerist society, small changes can have large impacts in contributing towards a more sustainable and healthy local environment.

## AWARENESS

With information comes more awareness of issues as well as a better understanding of how to minimise negative impacts whilst promoting a better and healthier lifestyle and local environment for all.

## FEEDBACK

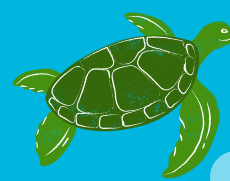
Data collected across all fields help to inform and enable effective decision making as well as furthering our understanding of our unique environment.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change encompasses all processes and actions that have an effect on the natural balance of our local environment. Understanding of, and positive actions, in order to preserve and enhance a healthy local environment, should be at the forefront of every individual's daily life.



# MARINE ENVIRONMENT



A brief overview of some of the work carried out in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) during 2020.



## BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING SEASON

Open season started on Tuesday 16th June 2020 and ended on the 14th October 2020. The quota remained the same as during 2019 at 16.74 tonnes. A maximum number of 2 fish per week for each Class K licence holder and per registered vessel was also introduced during 2020. The minimum catch size allowed for Bluefin tuna was set at 30kgs and 115cm fork length.

## DOLPHIN PROTECTION ZONE

The Department would like to remind anglers that the practice of 'popping' for tuna is not allowed at any time within the Dolphin Protection Zone. The practice of '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.

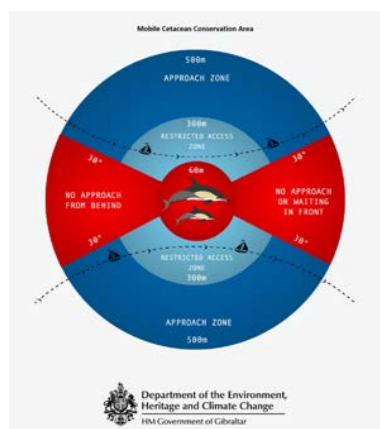


## BLUEFIN TUNA TAGGING PROGRAMME

The Department continued the implementation of a Bluefin tuna tagging programme building on measures introduced during previous years. Application forms were made available to interested individuals and further information was provided once the season commenced.

## CAMP BAY WORKS

As part of Government's beaches programme for 2020, extensive refurbishment works started at the existing Camp Bay toilet and changing room facilities. These have provided much needed improved facilities with extra toilet and shower availability to face the ever increasing usage of this popular beach and recreational area. General works to provide an adequate surface drainage system along the main promenade were also carried out.



## CETACEAN PROTOCOL

The Department would like to remind all boat users of the need to be vigilant whilst navigating in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and to respect marine wildlife by keeping a safe distance at all times and not interfering with any animals.

## STAR

'Star' the environmentally friendly plastic eating fish aims to raise public awareness regarding the dangers of plastic contamination in our marine environment whilst physically helping with the removal of plastics from our beaches. After the success of Bubbles at Eastern Beach, Star will reside at Camp Bay.



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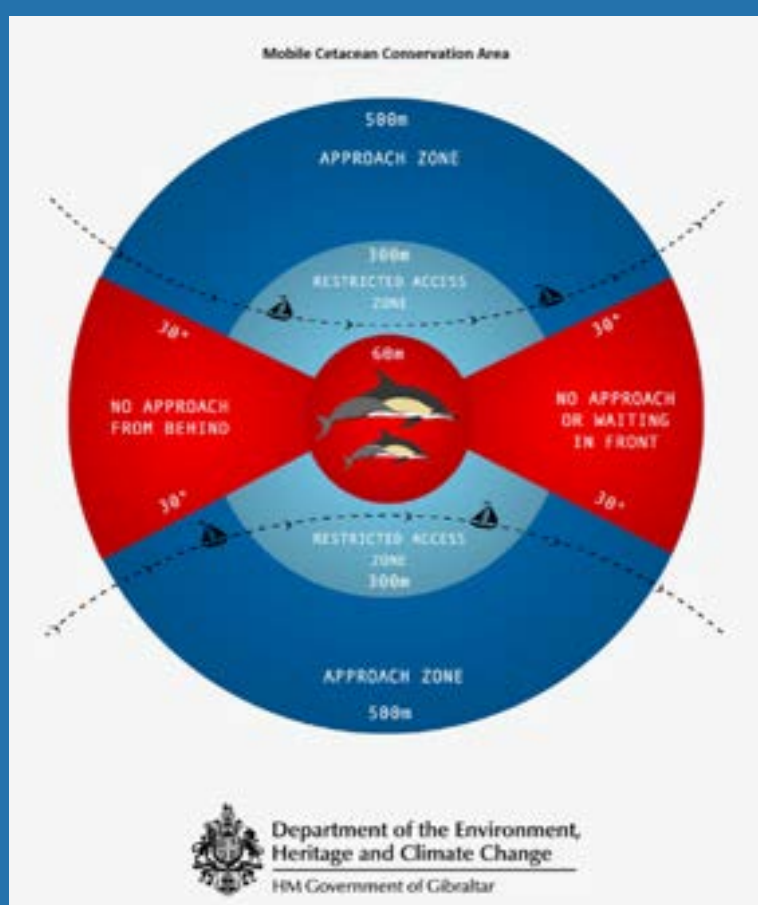






# Cetacean Protocol

Reports of migrating Fin Whales, also known as Rorquals, have become a common occurrence in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) during Spring every year when these majestic animals are seen making their way to the North Atlantic Ocean. These sightings highlight the importance of our waters as a migratory corridor, not just for whales, but for a variety of marine wildlife such as turtles, sunfish, sharks and seabirds. The Department would like to remind all boat users of the need to be vigilant whilst navigating in BGTW and to respect marine wildlife by keeping a safe distance at all times and not interfering with any animals.



All whales and dolphins are protected under the Nature Protection Act and Gibraltar's Cetacean Protocol introduced in 2014. Under these laws, the free movement of cetaceans must be permitted in all directions by not intercepting their trajectory, cutting across their path, navigating towards or in close proximity to them. Vessels are required to maintain a minimum distance of 60 metres from any dolphin or whale whilst navigating in BGTW at all times. The Protocol also establishes a 500 metre radius from the animals within which vessels are only allowed to travel at no more than 4 knots or no greater than the slowest animal in the group. Further information on the Cetacean Protocol can be obtained from the Department of the Environment's Thinking Green website at:

[http://www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi/uploads/biodiversity/2018-Cetacean\\_Protocol.pdf](http://www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi/uploads/biodiversity/2018-Cetacean_Protocol.pdf)

Loggerhead turtles are also strictly protected and also occur regularly during this period when the animals are observed foraging or migrating towards the North Atlantic. Some of them can reach as far as the Caribbean and North America. They may sometimes be seen floating motionless on the surface basking in the sun. This behaviour is normal in Loggerhead turtles and the public is reminded not to touch or disturb the animals in any way. The Department's Environmental Protection and Research Unit should be called immediately on 58009620 for advice if an animal is believed to be in distress.



With the approach of summer and the spectacle of migration continuing, the Environmental Protection & Research Unit closely monitors vessel activity to ensure that the requirements of the Cetacean Protocol are met and all our marine species are protected from harm.



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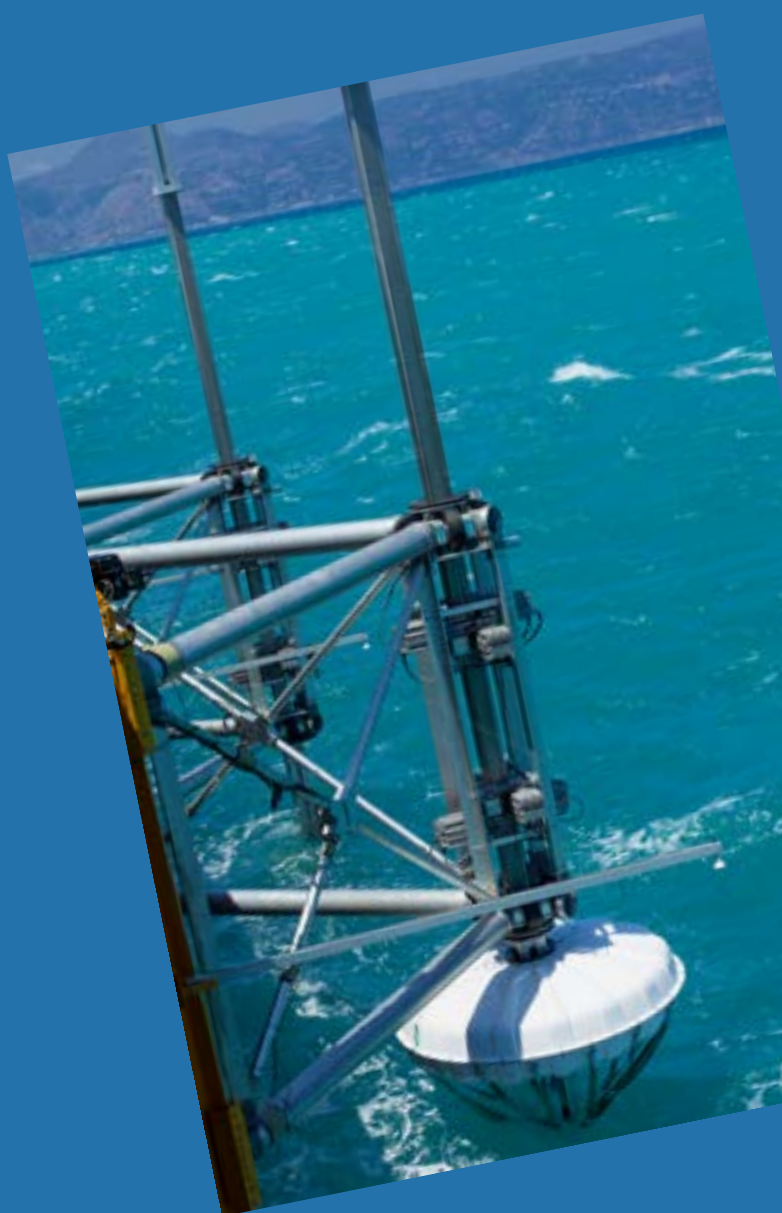


# Marine Renewable Research



The Gibraltar Parliament unanimously declared a climate emergency in March 2019. Echoing the Paris Agreement's priority to limit global warming to 1.5°C, Gibraltar's climate emergency declares ambitious targets that include a pledge to make Gibraltar carbon neutral by 2030. In keeping with this requirement, the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) has continued to explore opportunities for marine renewables in Gibraltar particularly wave, tidal and current energy.

A collaboration between the DESCCH and the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) was initiated in July 2019 to continue investigating the potential for marine renewable energy solutions in Gibraltar. As part of this collaboration, representatives of the UHI together with the DESCCH deployed oceanographic equipment in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) last week. This consisted of a wave monitoring buoy and current monitoring devices. These instruments remained at sea for a period of six months allowing data to be collected on waves as well as tidal and ocean currents. The instrument combination allows measurement of flow speeds and wave height, to inform the development of a computational model of the ocean currents surrounding Gibraltar. This will allow the Government to decide on whether we may be able to generate significant amounts of our electricity requirements at sea.



Dr Benjamin Williamson is the Lead Scientist for the 'Renewable Energy and the Environment' research theme at the Environmental Research Institute, North Highland College, a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and the UHI Energy Knowledge Exchange Chair. Dr Williamson's research interests include marine renewable energy, environmental interactions, novel sensor platforms and marine resource assessment. Together with Dr Jason McIlvenny and DESCCH scientists and technicians, they have begun the initial stages of data collection towards a marine resource assessment for the Government of Gibraltar.



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Vertipools are a simple yet versatile solution for creating new wildlife habitat and can help deliver ecological gains in the urban marine environment such as ports, marinas and harbours otherwise known as grey infrastructure. They increase the substrate available for colonisation by marine species and provide rock pool habitats in what otherwise are plain vertical walls with little biodiversity.

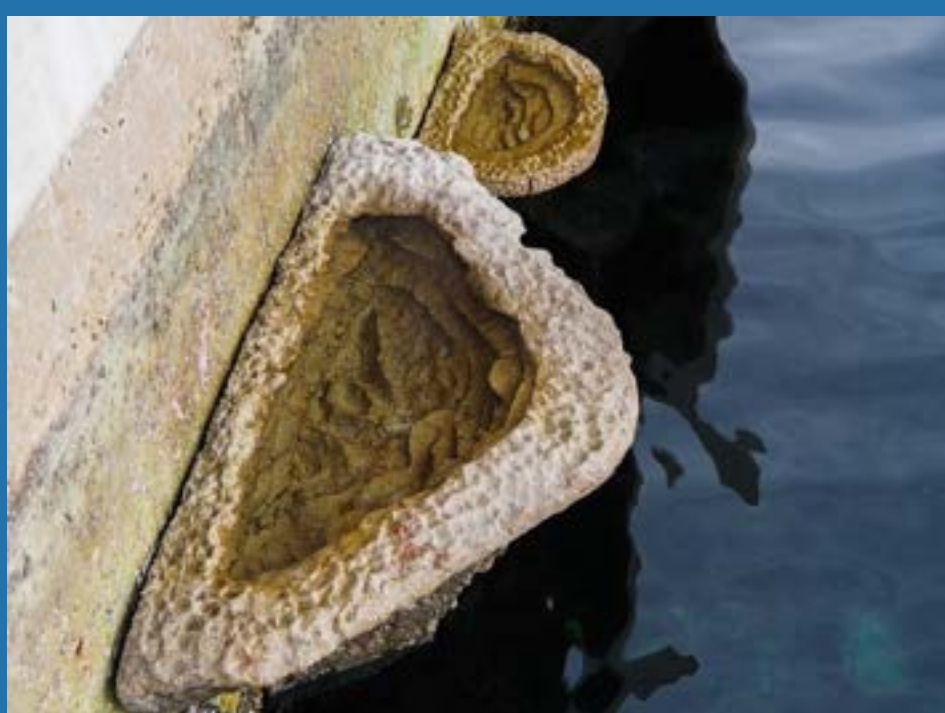
# Vertipools

**MAKES ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE!**



The Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage continues to work on its commitment to promoting and preserving Gibraltar's marine biodiversity. In order to increase the biodiversity found on marine infrastructures, the Department is now installing artificial rock pools on harbour walls. These structures, called vertipools, have been developed by the UK company Artecology based in the Isle of Wight. The vertipools are being installed by the Department's Environmental Research & Protection Unit (EPRU) together with the Scientific Dive team following a consultation process with the Small Boats Marina Committee and the Gibraltar Port Authority. Both entities have been very keen supporters of the project since its inception.

The initial installation of vertipools in the Small Boats Marina is the first installation of its kind in the Mediterranean with additional units to be installed in the North Mole over the coming weeks. The Department's Scientific Dive Team will be monitoring the colonisation of marine life on these structures in the months ahead and will be providing updates on its findings through its social media platforms as part of its 'Greening the Grey' campaign.







# CRAG MARTINS

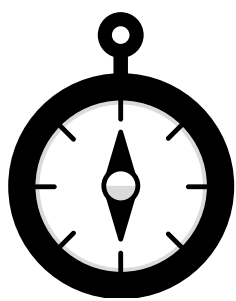
Researchers studying the wintering population of Crag Martins (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*) at the Gorham's Cave Complex UNESCO World Heritage Site were surprised by an unprecedented arrival of these birds during the early part of November 2020. During one of two weekly counts of the birds entering the caves in the evening, the count exceeded 5,700 birds. This figure could represent up to 1% of the European post-breeding population, which is remarkable, and makes this the largest known roost of this species in the world.

The project research team is made up of scientists and co-workers from the Gibraltar National Museum, the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens and the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society, working jointly as a University of Gibraltar project. There may be a number of reasons for the observed increase: these birds may have had an exceptionally good breeding season in Europe or a recent spell of bad weather in the Iberian Peninsula may have pushed greater numbers than usual south. Another explanation, in part at least, may well be the protection offered by the Gorham's Cave Complex since it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016. These birds are able to rest and sleep undisturbed as the roost is nowadays carefully protected.

The Crag Martin roost was first noticed as far back as the late eighteenth century when the Reverend John White reported their presence to his brother, the renowned naturalist Gilbert White of Selborne. These observations contributed to the understanding of the phenomenon of bird migration at that time. The Crag Martin roost is an ancient one, the remains of these birds having been found in Neanderthal contexts dating to over 100 thousand years ago.



# Sustainable Mobility Initiative



The protection of the environment and the climate remain at the heart of Government thinking. Air pollution dropped significantly during the first lockdown, from March to June 2020, as people had to reconsider the way they move and indeed their need to move.

Government will seek to build on this change and work to redesign our streets for people, not cars. This will enable and encourage people to choose to travel differently, and also enable and encourage the movement of goods and services to take place in less polluting and more space-efficient ways.

Making cycling a safe and viable alternative to private cars through the creation of segregated cycle lanes wherever possible.

Implementing a smart and equitable system of road user charging.

Improving the quality, reliability, speed and accessibility of bus travel.

Reducing emissions from freight operations, covering not just cleaner vans and lorries but also e-cargo bikes for city centre deliveries.

Making it safer and more convenient for people to walk short journeys, especially to work and school.

Providing greater incentives for the purchase of zero-carbon vehicles and introducing a scrappage scheme for old vehicles.

Reducing tourist vehicles coming in to the city by providing attractive and affordable alternatives.

Enabling people to use zero-carbon shared private transport (Scooters, bicycles, cars & vans) thereby reducing car ownership.

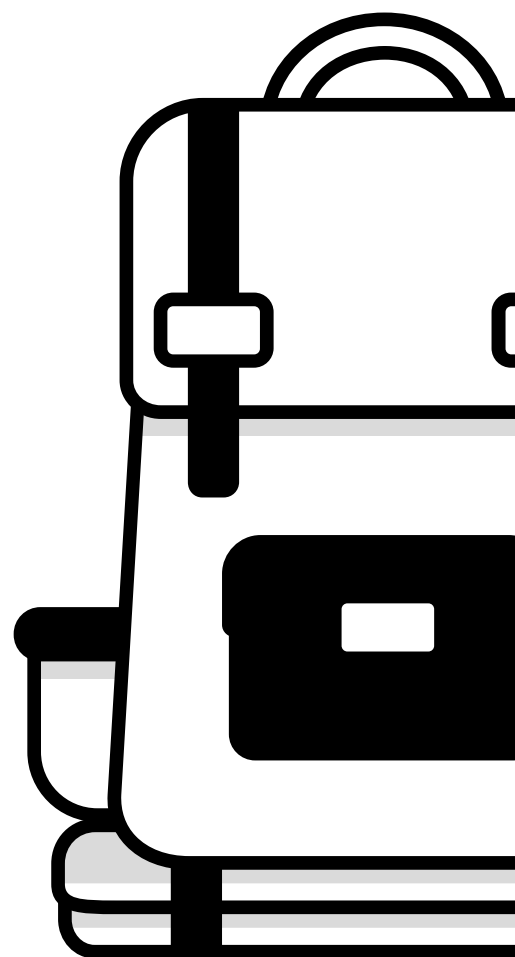
The Green Gibraltar initiative will communicate any upcoming changes to the public in a clear and timely manner.

It will also highlight the positive benefits that active travel can bring to our daily lives and seek to engage positively with the public by way of polls, competitions and active social media campaigns.

"Active travel can improve our health and our quality of life. This is a chance to permanently improve the air that we breathe and we would urge everyone to work with us in making Gibraltar a better place to be."

Prof. John Cortes

"The only way to improve our quality of living is to get everyone involved, and that is what we are trying to achieve."



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# JOINT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (JMC)

## UK / OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

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HRH The Prince of Wales addressed Overseas Territories Leaders, including the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, at the opening of the Environment session of the UK/OT Joint Ministerial Council during November 2020. The Prince of Wales referred to the importance of the Overseas Territories from the point of view of the protection of biodiversity and praised the good work being done in the Territories in relation to the Environment and Climate Change.

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“90% of the waters around Tristan de Cunha are protected.”

UK's commitment to Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change and to protection of the Oceans was highlighted during the JMC Meeting.



During the meeting, the UK Government committed to continue to work with the Territories and to review funding opportunities for environmental and climate change initiatives.

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The discussion was chaired, from Gibraltar, by Minister for the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage, Prof. John Cortes.

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Discussion included funding for the environment, particularly in view of loss of EU Environment Funds, the effects of COVID-19 on economies and the effect of this on the environment, the transition to renewable energy and participation by the Overseas Territories in COP26, the Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2021.

There were contributions from many of the OT representatives as well as from the Minister for European Neighbourhood and the Americas Wendy Morton, and the Minister for the Environment Lord Goldsmith.

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# Energy Efficiency

## Awareness Campaign

During December 2020, the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) launched a Christmas-themed Energy Efficiency Awareness Campaign to further encourage the general public to be mindful when consuming electricity.

Whilst using only what electricity is needed makes environmental sense, it also makes financial sense as you spend less money on your utility bills.

Whilst the campaign was designed for the festive season, most of the messages ring true throughout the year.



**SAVE ENERGY**

Cover pots while cooking and consume less energy

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**SMALL CHANGES  
BIG SAVINGS**

Try and fully load your dishwasher before switching it on

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**SMALL CHANGES  
BIG SAVINGS**

**SAVE ENERGY**

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**SMALL CHANGES  
BIG SAVINGS**

Swap old Christmas lights for new LED lights

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Boiling a Kettle is the equivalent to charging your laptop for 2 hours

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

LED lighting uses at least 75% less energy than incandescent lighting

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**SMALL CHANGES  
BIG SAVINGS**

Heating up a room takes time and energy. Consider an extra layer of clothing which can do the trick at no extra cost

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**SMALL CHANGES  
BIG SAVINGS**

Make the most of a hot oven this Christmas by cooking several dishes at once

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# WATERPORT POWER STATION *Decommissioned*

HM Government of Gibraltar was pleased to announce on the 17th December 2020 that Waterport Power Station had been formally decommissioned and would never again generate power for Gibraltar, as we move to our cleaner and more efficient energy production at the new LNG North Mole Power Station.



The construction of Waterport Power Station commenced in 1981 after contracts were exchanged between the then City Electrical Engineer Victor Bensadon and Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering for the installation of diesel engine powered generating sets with a total capacity of 15MWs, which was enough to meet Gibraltar's power demand at the time. The power station produced its first kilowatt of power in August 1982 and has served our community for almost 40 years.

Today, Gibraltar's power demand averages a daily peak of about 36MWs, an increase of some 200% since the opening of the Waterport Power Station.



The new North Mole Power Station with a capacity of some 80MWs incorporates new, cleaner and more efficient power generating technology. The new power station went through its final test procedures in December 2020, after which it would be handed over by Bouygues Energy Services to the Gibraltar Electrical Authority for its continued operation.

By the end of 2020, the LNG North Mole Power Station was already generating almost all of Gibraltar's energy needs using natural gas instead of diesel.



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# WASTE



## TREE RECYCLING

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

## DISPOSABLE FACE MASKS

Since the onset of COVID-19 and growing use of disposable face masks, the environment saw another sharp increase in pollution.

Disposable face masks ended up in our marine environment causing additional problems to that already present from plastics. They can also be found on our beaches, in the town centre and even up the Rock. DESCCH recommends the use of reusable masks, washed after every use to save on waste all together.

If you choose to use disposable masks, please ensure they are deposited in the general refuse bin. Disposable masks can not be recycled.







# Disposable Face Masks

Simple steps with huge impact



## Made with single-use plastic.

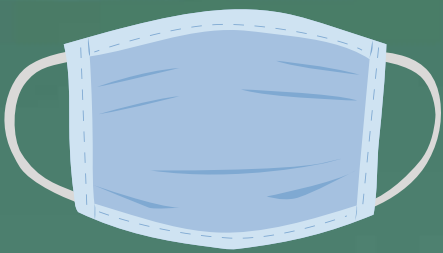
Harmful to the environment

Disposable face masks are made with single-use plastics. Therefore, these masks are not biodegradable and are very harmful to the natural environment. Protect our natural environment by ensuring your disposable mask goes in the bin.

## Reduce your waste.

Use reusable products

By using reusable masks you minimise the amount of waste generated. In addition, you can customise your outfit with a matching mask.



## Save Money!

Single-use Vs Reusable

Whilst disposable masks are easy to just use and throw away, the cost of having to purchase new masks every week is far greater than investing in a few reusable masks and washing these after every use.

## Reusable Masks

Less pollution, more benefits

Reusable masks reduce the increasing number of single-use masks finding their way into the natural environment.

Single-use masks are just as problematic in the natural environment as all other forms of single use plastics.



## DO YOUR BIT AND HELP PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT!



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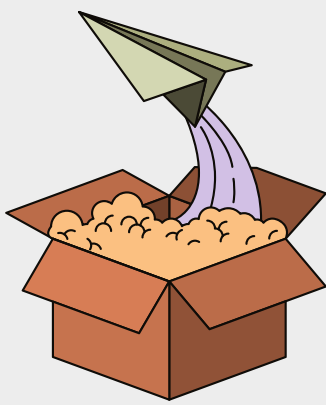
# RECYCLING GUIDE



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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 to be placed in this recycling bin.**





# RECYCLING GUIDE



Department of the Environment,  
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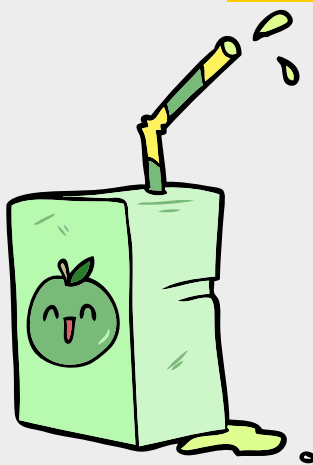
## PLASTIC



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 tetrabrik can be recycled in the yellow recycling bin.

Examples include: Milk cartons, Juice cartons and tomatoe 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.

# EARTH HOUR 2020

#earthhour



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## 28TH MARCH 2020

Earth Hour, the world's largest movement for the earth, takes place at 8.30pm on the last Saturday of March every year. Millions of people across the world join in raising awareness of the issues facing our planet. But Earth Hour is more than just an Hour for the planet - it's a movement for our future. More than a symbol of support - it's a catalyst for urgent change.

## HISTORY OF EARTH HOUR

Started by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. Earth Hour engages millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories, switching off their lights to show support for our planet. In 2007, people around the world were encouraged to switch off their lights to call attention to climate change. More than a decade later, the climate crisis remains, made worse by another urgent threat: the rapid loss of biodiversity and nature.



## THEIR MISSION

Natural systems are vital for all our futures - and yet, the rate of global loss of nature during the past 50 years is unprecedented in human history. Nature not only provides us food, water, clean air, and other services worth over US\$125 trillion a year - it is also one of our strongest allies against climate change.

Protecting nature is one of the most immediate, powerful, and cost-effective solutions to the climate crisis. Today, Earth Hour aims to increase awareness and spark global conversations on protecting nature not only to combat the climate crisis, but to ensure our own health, happiness, prosperity and even survival.

## GIBRALTAR GOES DIGITAL

Supporters of Earth Hour usually congregate to raise awareness of climate issues. Following lockdown restrictions during 2020, The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations, reminded everyone to stay home and asked supporters to record short podcasts on their mobile phones which end with 'For us and future generations. Gibraltar we can do it'. Podcasts could be posted on Twitter or Facebook and those which carried the hashtags #earthhour #gibraltar and #futuregenerationsgib were shared widely as part of the campaign. His Worship the Mayor, John Goncalves, initiated the podcast campaign releasing his own message in support of this important cause.





# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2020



#TimeForNature



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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.



## TIME FOR NATURE

The theme for 2020 was "Time for Nature", and was hosted in Colombia in partnership with Germany. Colombia is one of the largest mega-diverse countries in the world and holds close to 10% of the planet's biodiversity. Since it is part of the Amazon rainforest, Colombia ranks first in bird and orchid species diversity and second in plants, butterflies, freshwater fish, and amphibians.



## BIODIVERSITY

The value of biodiversity in cities is often underestimated. It can range from cultivated parks and gardens to green roofs, roadside verges and even individual balconies and terraces. The Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) has been working hard improving and maintaining green areas around Gibraltar.

## COMMONWEALTH PARK

Did you know that Plane trees, such as those found in Commonwealth Park, can live for several hundred years? During that time they help reduce pollution, ambient temperature and storm water runoff. They are even known to help reduce stress.





# CLEAN UP THE WORLD - 2020



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Another great team effort this year as part of #CleanUpTheWorld 2020 organised by the The Environmental Safety Group.



26 divers and volunteers from the GSAC, Dive Charters, Diving with Nic and the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, CLimate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) joined forces to clean the seabed in our historic Rosia Bay.



Some fascinating marine creatures were recorded and returned back to the sea in the process too.



# GIBRALTAR'S CIVIC AMENITIES SITE



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Due to strong weather during January 2020, the annual field trip undertaken by students at Bishop Fitzgerald Upper Primary School to Gibraltar's Civic Amenities Site was not possible.



Staff from the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) provided an alternative by visiting the school and presenting the information the students would have received on site.



DESCCH would like to remind the public of the Civic Amenities Facility, at Michael Dobinson Way, Europa Advance Road, which allows for the disposal of all household items which are no longer required.

All types of household waste highlighted below are accepted at the site. Please note the following opening hours\*:

**8am - 8pm: Monday to Friday**

**9am - 5pm: Saturday and Sunday**

\*Please note the site is closed on Christmas Day, New Year's Day and National Day.



Scrap metal



Waste electrical & electronic equipment  
WEEE



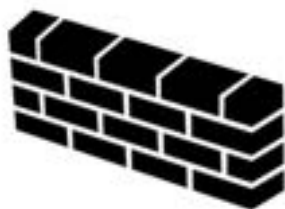
Rubber tyres



Batteries



Ink and toner cartridges



Household rubble



Paints



Bulky items & furniture



Items made of plastic



Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes



Glass items



Cooking Oil

Should you require any further information please contact:

Gibraltar General Support Services (GGSS) Ltd Yard on (+350) 200 47015



# UPPER ROCK



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2020 saw further work by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) in improving green spaces, work which is ongoing.



## PICNIC SITES

Two picnic sites on the Upper Rock were prepared during the first months of the year, making them ready for springtime.

The Site at Jews' Gate, at the lower entrance to the path leading to Mediterranean Steps, was refurbished, while a new area with tables and benches was created at the site of the old Willis's Guardroom, at the opposite (northern) end of the Upper Rock. These are part of ongoing works to continue to improve facilities for users of the Upper Rock. Works were carried out in consultation with GONHS (Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society) to ensure that there was no negative impact on wild animals or plants.



## TOVEY COTTAGE

Tovey Cottage is planned to be an Interpretation centre for educational purposes, displaying content on flora and fauna that can be found in the Upper Rock. The site will also include incubation facilities for bird re-introduction programmes, a pond and on-site bee hives.





# BARBARY MACAQUES



Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

## Touching Macaques is an offence!



Interference with Barbary Macaques has always been seen as detrimental to them, and the official line has for years been to discourage visitors from touching or otherwise interfering with macaque natural behaviour.

Not only does it prejudice their health and social structure but macaques are prone to succumb to human disease. This has been seen in the past when our macaques have for example contracted Hepatitis A. There is also a possibility of humans contracting infection through contact with a macaque.

With the arrival of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, the Government took strict measures to prevent contact with the macaques. This was in order to minimise the risk of their contracting the disease and becoming ill or dying. Primates elsewhere have been known to be susceptible.



Because of the low level of the virus in Gibraltar during the initial months of 2020, and the prompt lockdown of tourist sites, the macaques did not contract COVID-19. The Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) ensured that this remained the case during 2020. In addition, and to support the efforts of DESCCH, HM Government of Gibraltar published a Bill to amend the Animals Act making the touching or other interference with the natural behaviour of macaques an offence except under licence for management, research or veterinary purposes. The new law came into force in August 2020.



The development in Denmark during 2020, where SARS-CoV-2 variants associated with farmed minks, including cases with a unique variant, which resulted in the mass culling of these animals was particularly worrying given the implications this could have caused for Gibraltar's Barbary Macaque in the event that COVID-19 were detected.

As a pre-emptive measure, DESCCH's Environmental Protection and Research Unit (EPRU) undertook more frequent patrols at known hotspots in the Gibraltar Nature Reserve as well as liaising closely with key stakeholders to help encourage and enforce the law.

The public is reminded that anyone found committing an offence will be liable on summary conviction to a fine at level 4 on the standard scale of £2000.

Interference with Barbary Macaques has, in any case, always been discouraged officially since it can prejudice their health and social structure as well as result in aggressive behaviour specifically in the case of illegal feeding.





# GIBRALTAR NATIONAL TRAILS



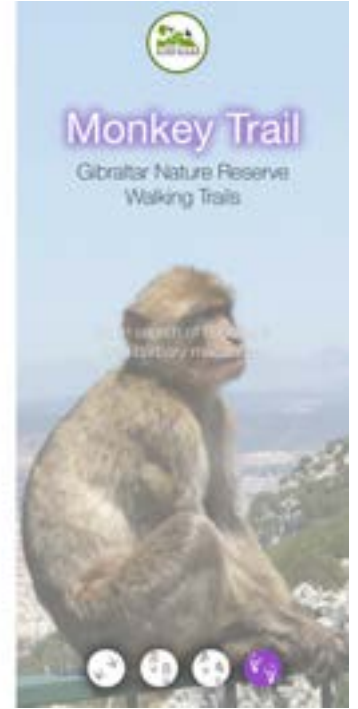
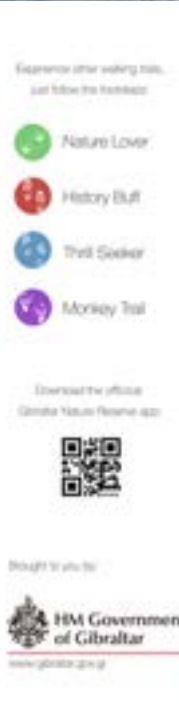
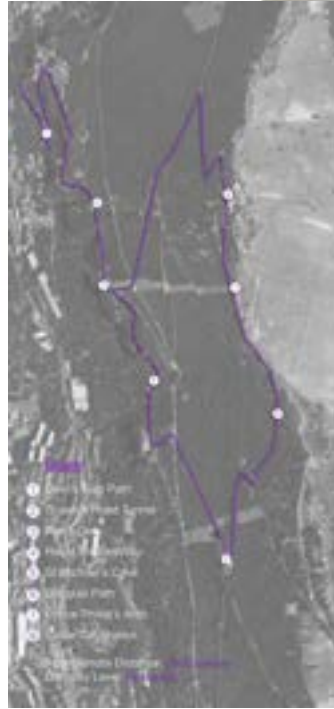
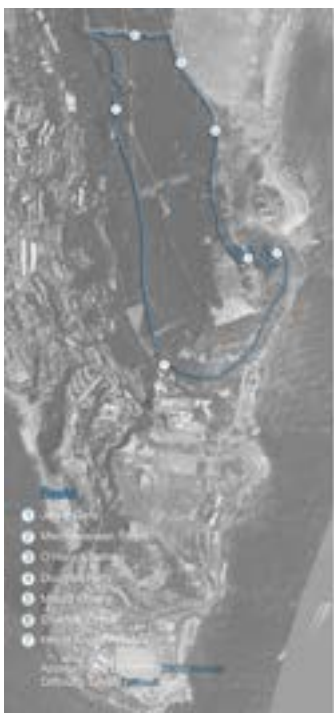
Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

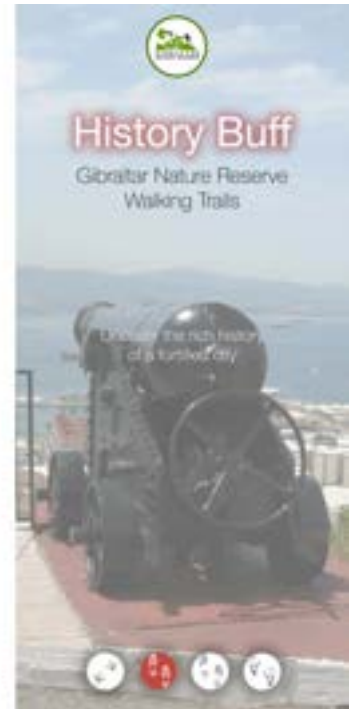
In July 2020 HM Government of Gibraltar published a Command Paper for a Bill for an Act to set up the Gibraltar National Trails. The National Trails cover many of the popular routes for walkers and both well-known and less well-known paths within the Nature Reserve.



Some trails are currently open, others will be opened in the near future and further trails may be added at a later stage.



The trails are intended to establish walking routes in and around Gibraltar. They include established walks such as Mediterranean Steps and Martin's Path on the Upper Rock. Less well known may be the area of Blackstrap Cove on the east side and Devil's Tooth Path in the South District, which will be opened at a later date when some clearing works have been completed. The path around Europa Point will be re-opened as soon as the works to the sports facilities are completed. All those paths that are currently openly accessible will continue to be so. In the case of some of the newer paths there may be different arrangements in the interest of security.





# GREEN SPACES



Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

2020 saw further work by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) in improving green spaces, work which is ongoing. Through the difficult times, as a result of COVID, DESCCH continued to fulfill its regular duties in monitoring and protecting the environment. A considerable amount of planting was carried out by horticultural contractors around various parts of Gibraltar, including the town area and Europa Point.



As part of the Green Gibraltar Initiative two areas were given particular attention.

## ROSIA ROAD PROMENADE - "LA BATERIA"

Two new Tipuana trees were planted along Rosia Road Promenade.



## ST JAGO'S

Near to St Jago's a new small recreational area was opened up with two almond trees and a number of oleanders and rosemaries. Virginia Creeper was also planted in the area with a view to creating a green wall.





# BEACHES



Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Following the strong easterly winds that took place during April 2020, considerable damage was caused at Camp Bay. This was cleared by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH) and Britannia Cleaning Services.



In addition, significant amounts of the invasive algae washed up at Western Beach and Sandy Bay as a result of the Easterly swells experienced during the early months of 2020. Despite the beaches not being officially open due to COVID restrictions, Britannia Cleaning Services continued to remove all accumulations. DESCCH will not allow accumulations of seaweed, rubbish or other flotsam, in the interests of walkers and wildlife.





# CAVES



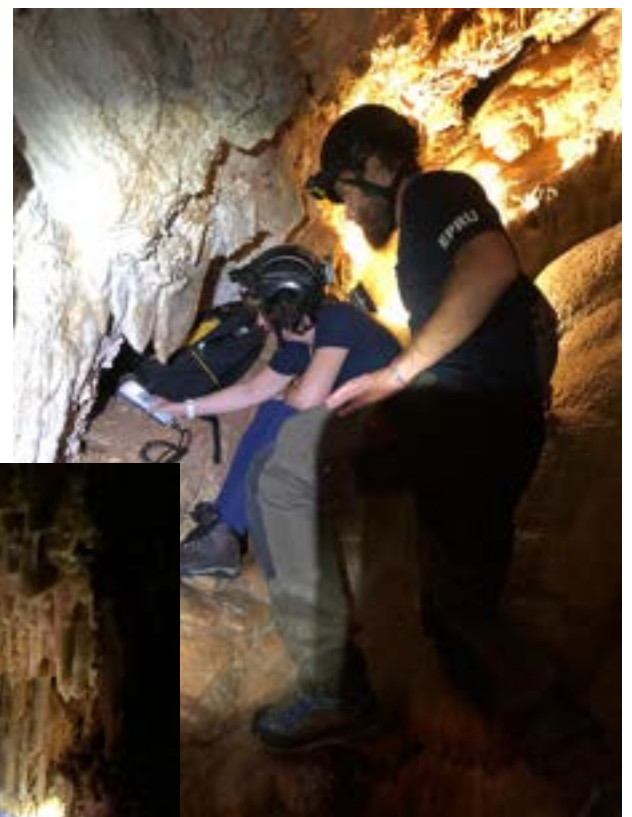
Department of the Environment,  
Sustainability, Climate Change  
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HM Government of Gibraltar

Gibraltar has many beautiful caves such as New St. Michael's Cave. This unique environment is protected and monitored by the Department of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH).



Monitoring equipment installed in the cave allows the Department and researchers to better understand this protected habitat which is a unique feature of our natural heritage. Some caves are also important for biodiversity and species such as the Schreiber's Bent-winged Bat in particular, who use them as roosts.







# CLIMATE CHANGE PREVENTION



## SIMPLE STEPS WITH HUGE IMPACT



ALTHOUGH IT MAY APPEAR POINTLESS, SMALL CHANGES  
LIKE THOSE MENTIONED BELOW CAN TRULY 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 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to produce the electricity needed in order to produce it. 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**

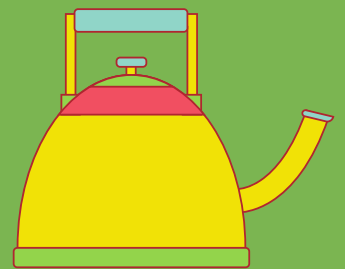


Using energy-saving appliances makes economic sense. Spend less money and energy when using any energy efficient electronic item, especially if this includes washing machines, microwaves, etc. Did you know what a LED light bulb uses 75% less energy than your average lightbulb?

### 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 what 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, Heritage and Climate Change, 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 address 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi)

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