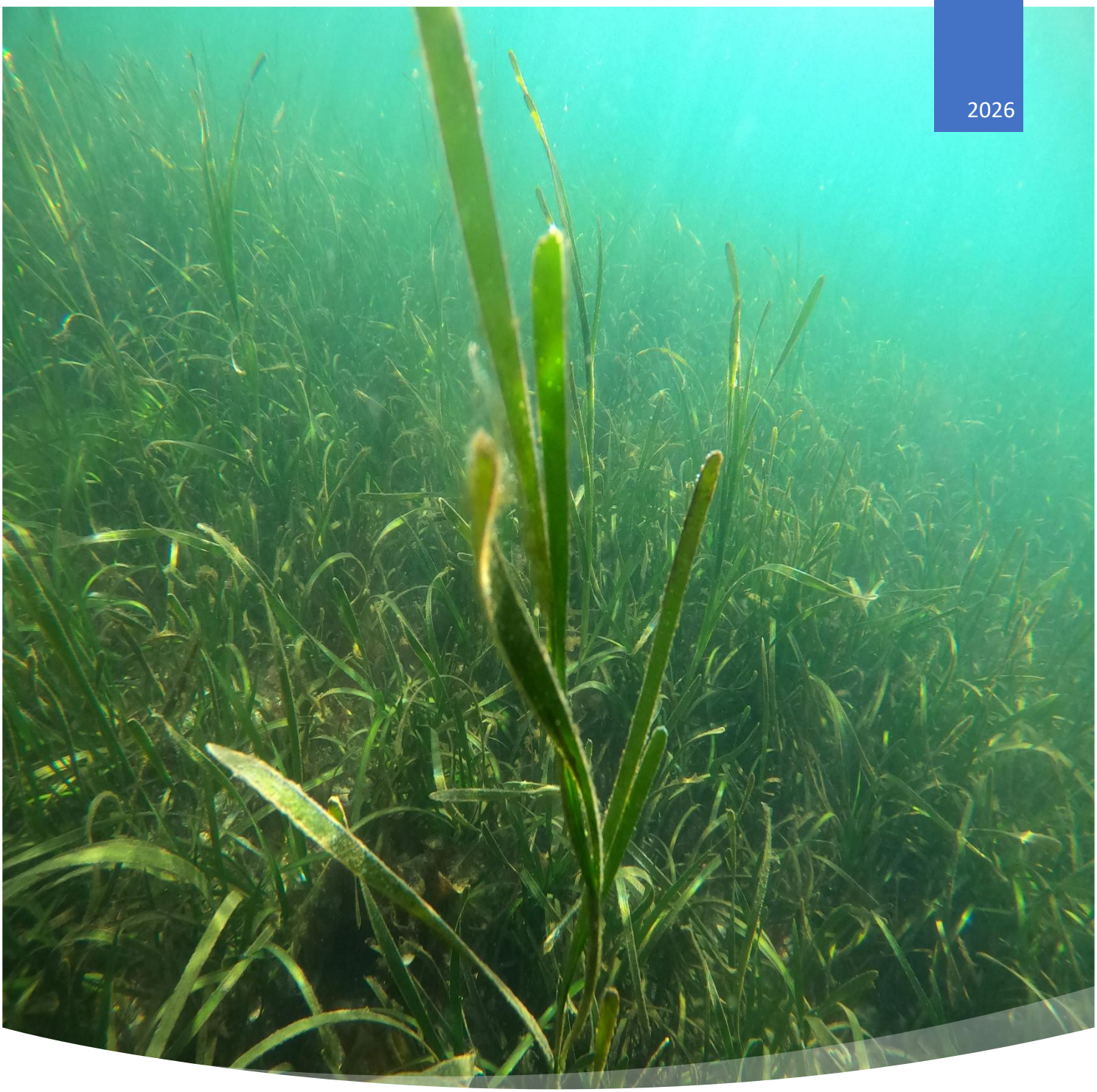
2026



FALMOUTH HARBOUR | 44 Arwenack Street, Falmouth, TR11 3JQ
07/01/2026

UK's Atlantic gateway.

Falmouth Harbour Sustainability Action Plan

Version No.	Date	Document Owner (author)	Description of changes made
1.0	29/03/2022	V Spooner	Drafted for review, comment & acceptance by FH board
1.1	05/01/2023	V Spooner	Updated with 2023 objectives and goals
1.2	20/02/2024	V Spooner	Updated with 2024 objectives and goals
1.3	14/03/2025	V Spooner	Updated with 2025 objectives and goals, context and scope.
1.4	18/02/2026	V Spooner	Updated with 2026 objectives and goals for review by board

This document is reviewed annually

Executive Summary

This sustainability action plan addresses the three pillars of sustainability environmental, social, and economic.

Sustainability and what it means to Falmouth Harbour is defined along with how this plan is to be used within the organisation.

Goals in relation to the environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability have been described and key short-term targets / actions developed to help achieve the wider goals and objectives.

A robust system for monitoring and reporting is in development to track and communicate progress against targets and ultimately organisational objectives. Both quantitative and qualitative indicators are used as appropriate. Above all, we aim to be transparent.

Falmouth Harbour recognise that collaboration and partnership with a wide range of stakeholders is necessary to achieve our goals and are committed to working with internal and external stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers, and the wider community. This will be central to the success of our sustainability initiatives. Open communication channels will be fostered to gather feedback and incorporate diverse perspectives.

In conclusion, this plan serves as a framework to guide us on our journey towards sustainability, with the aim of going further than compliance and achieving the necessary balance to become a sustainable organisation.

The plan reflects our dedication to finding solutions and playing our part in combating the significant issues of climate change, biodiversity decline and social inequality. We hope to contribute positively to the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we are confident that our commitment to sustainability will not only improve our organisational resilience, but also inspire positive change within our industry and open opportunities for Falmouth to become part of the solution and make the most of opportunities that may arise.

Foreword from our CEO

2025 saw Falmouth Harbour meet most of its sustainability targets set for that year resulting in a 39% reduction in CO_2e related to the switch over to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which is 50-90% less carbon intensive that fossil diesel.

We were also shortlisted for the Port Sustainability Award in last years' British Ports Annual (BPA) awards and were proud to win the BPA award for best SME Port.

A full review of our progress against the targets set in 2025 are detailed, where relevant, in this document and our new or revised actions are set out to take us through this upcoming year. Our goals remain unchanged with the achievement of targets building year on year to achieve them.

As always we aim to be as transparent as possible and hope that this plan helps to clarify our abilities in relation to what we can do.

This year the focus is on consolidation of already completed actions and planning on how to achieve long-term goals, some of which we have targeted to reach by 2030.

Miles Carden CEO

Falmouth Harbour

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Falmouth Harbour Sustainability action plan 2026

Introduction

Falmouth Harbour (FH) is a Trust Port with statutory duties and powers. FH offers shelter for vessels of all sizes in an unrivalled natural environment. Our purpose is to sustainably and safely manage Falmouth Harbour to ensure it thrives commercially for the benefit of the local economy, environment, and local communities.

Falmouth Harbour has three areas of activity:

1. Harbour services: overall corporate activity, environmental responsibility, navigational safety, emergency response and regulatory compliance.
2. Falmouth Haven: lead on leisure activity, boat moorings, marinas, quays, a boatyard and launch slipway.
3. Falmouth Pilot Services: provide 24/7 pilotage service to commercial vessels.

Through the development and implementation of an integrated management system based on the requirements of international standards for Environment[1], Occupational Health and Safety[2], Quality Assurance[3] and the Ports & Marine Facilities Safety Code[4] we have developed processes to manage identified risks, implement adequate controls and ensure compliance with legislation. The systems in place and externally audited.

Falmouth Harbour continues to improve its processes and ways of working to become sustainable. This is driven by employees, the commissioners, and external stakeholders.

Climate change is already impacting on our operations due to increasing extreme weather events[5], adding to infrastructure resilience costs and will soon be impacting on our land-based infrastructure through increasing sea levels.

The shocking loss of biodiversity and changes in distribution of mobile species is already apparent. If allowed to progress unchecked will have huge repercussions on ocean health and us as humans who all rely so heavily on the ecosystem services such as food, carbon sequestration and oxygen production our natural environment provides us with every day.

We rely heavily on the marine environment for our mental and physical health, so to protect and provide access to it is essential for our staff, community, and visitors.

To be able to act positively to address the above imperatives, it is essential we remain a viable organisation. With no public funding, we rely upon the surplus made through charging for our services and use of infrastructure.

These imperatives make it clear that sustainable operations are essential. In 2022, we developed our first sustainability plan. We review our plan annually and this is the 2025 review and action plan.

[1] BS EN ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use
[2] BS EN ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use
[3] BS EN ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems – Requirements
[4] Ports and marine facilities safety code - GOV.UK
[5] The year in weather: 2025 - Met Office

Defining Sustainability & benchmarking performance

A sustainable organisation is defined as one that works to benefit all people, communities, and the planet[6].

The UN sustainable development goals [7]that directly apply to Falmouth Harbour are in the table below, we indirectly contribute to many of the other goals as well.

UN Sustainable Development Goal		Relevant Targets
	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	**11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage **11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces
	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse
	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

[6] The UK B Corporation Movement
[7] THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development

Scope

This plan applies to Falmouth Harbours activities primarily and other related aspects of harbour users when we can or feel we have adequate control / influence to be able to have a positive impact. We also need to ensure actions are truly sustainable for us as an organisation considering economic and social factors alongside environmental.

It is important to note that we are part of the wider shipping, ports and harbours ecosystem which will take time to make the necessary changes to decarbonise and find solutions to minimise impacts on our natural world.

Shipping remains the most sustainable way of transporting goods around the world with 'the global maritime industry is responsible for facilitating over 80% of the world's trade. However, it also generates 3% of greenhouse gas emissions'[8].

There is work afoot to reduce global maritime emissions with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) developing ambitious goals[9] and key shipping lines such as Maersk already bringing online vessels capable of sailing on green methanol with further vessels on the way. Unfortunately the IMO were unsuccessful in driving these goals forward in 2025. However the expansion of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme[10] to domestic shipping in June 2026 may result in increased drive from shipping companies to find efficiencies and alternatives fuels to reduce emissions.

Shipping is a key driver of local commerce creating essential employment opportunities outside of seasonal tourism with a wide variety of vessels utilising local port services including ship refit and repair, bunkering, cruise calls and cargo operations.

Falmouth Harbour is keen to ensure we remain relevant and are working hard to develop with the changing world and make the most of opportunities this necessary change can sometimes present.

[8] https://impact.economist.com/ocean/global-maritime-trends-2050/
[9] https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Revised-GHG-reduction-strategy-for-global-shipping-adopted-.aspx
[10] UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS): a policy overview - GOV.UK

Where this plan sits

This plan describes targets / actions which, if successfully completed, will enable us to work towards our high-level organisational objectives listed below:

- **Sustainable Growth** – Establish a surplus balance sheet, improve efficiency, and increase business resilience.
- **Great place to Work** – Deliver an excellent working environment for our people, where we all love to work, feel safe, work hard and have pride in Falmouth Harbour
- **Stakeholder Dividend** – Invest and deliver new income streams, grow jobs, improve infrastructure, increase local GVA, provide continued improvement in customer.
- **Safe Harbour** – Manage our Harbour to ensure a high level of safety, PMSC Compliance and security for all users.
- **Sustainability** – an industry leader and advocate for change through supporting policy shift and demonstrating and highlighting good practice in industry.

Some of the objectives listed above are more relevant to this plan than others. The goals section below identifies which of our goals and actions feed into the relevant objective.

The actions are then further developed into SMARTE targets to ensure they are achievable and measurable.

Our Sustainability Goals

Our established sustainability objective is to 'become an industry leader and advocate for change through supporting policy shift and demonstrating and highlighting good practice in industry'. To achieve this, we have identified what goals we can put in place to work towards this overriding objective. Our goals are split into the following categories:

- Environmental sustainability
- Social sustainability
- Economic sustainability

Environmental Sustainability

The impacts of human activity on the environment have never been better understood. Urgent action is required to ensure the world remains able to support our communities in the way we have become accustomed.

Falmouth Harbour is committed to play its part and plans to manage identified environmental impacts to contribute positively to the wider climate and nature crises where possible.

Assessing impacts

To ensure Falmouth Harbour fully understand its impacts and remains compliant with legislation an integrated management system has been implemented which includes the requirements of the ISO14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) standard. This system is externally verified by NQA[11] for Falmouth Pilot Services. The EMS includes an aspects and impacts register. Reviewed annually this register reviews our activities and assesses how they impact on the environment (positively or negatively) and then assesses their significance allowing prioritisation.

Our key areas of focus

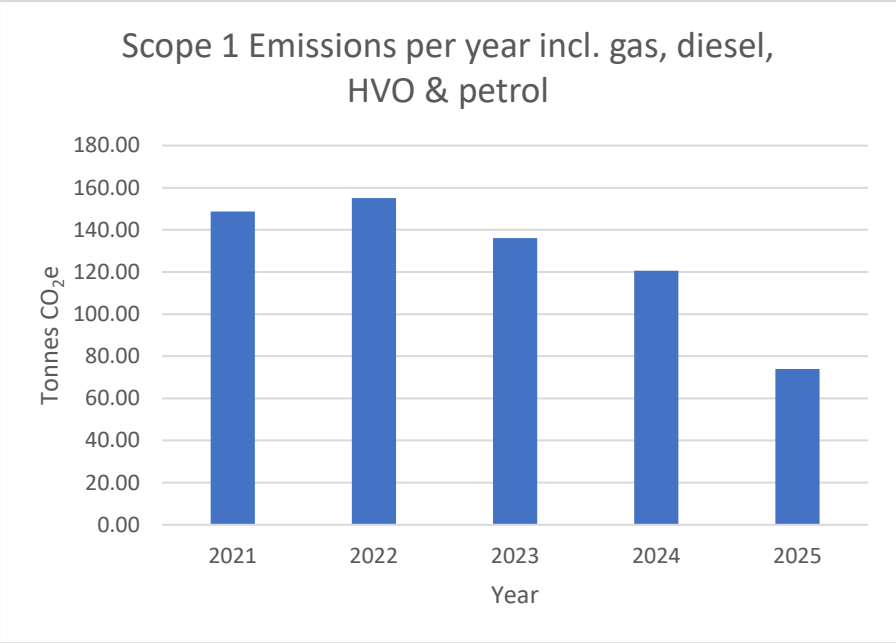
- Carbon emissions and adaptation – Reduce our emissions and prepare to adapt to related impacts such as sea level rise and extreme weather events.
- Biodiversity – Restoring and protecting habitats looking for solutions to coexist with nature.
- Waste: Minimising waste to reduce costs and associated impacts.
- Pollution: Understand and reduce pollution arising from our activities.

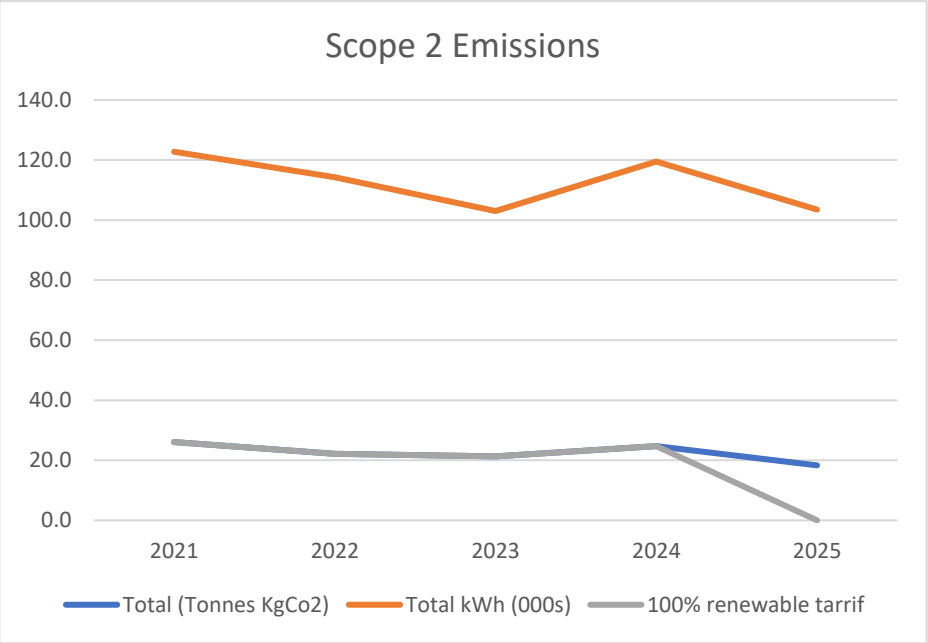
Fig 3. Flat periwinkle on Falmouth Harbour Seawall tiles taken in December 2023

[11] ISO 14001 Certification - Environmental Management | NQA

Carbon Emissions and Adaptation

Climate change is already impacting Falmouth Harbour. The impact of increased storminess increases our operational costs such as having to strengthen moorings and introduce more control of strops used to ensure vessels stay safely on moorings. The Met Office have stated that 2025 was the warmest and sunniest year since records began[12]. We are committed to reducing emissions. We track our emissions using the Green House Gas protocol guidelines and measure our scope 1 and 2 emissions.





Scope 1 CO_2e has been reduced this year by 46 tonnes representing a 39% reduction compared with 2024. This falls short of the targeted reduction of 50% which is due to a slight delay in transferring some vessels over to HVO. Scope 1 emissions are calculated using the no. of litres of fuel / kWh of gas used multiplied by the relevant emission factor[13].

Scope 2 emissions have been reduced 100% this year by changing our supplier to Ecotricity who offer 100% renewable energy. We understand this is not the full picture so have included our electricity usage to ensure we continue to report on and reduce usage where possible by finding efficiencies.

[12] https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/blog/2025/the-met-office-year-in-weather-2025
[13] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2025

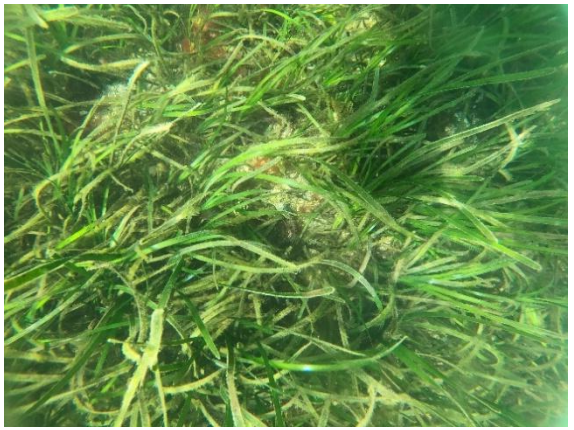
Biodiversity

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world[14] and Cornwall is no exception[15] as such the UK Government are taking steps to ensure that nature is protected and restored wherever possible. The Environment Act places a biodiversity duty on all public authorities, as defined under the legislation[16], to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies, specific objectives, and act to deliver them.

Cornwall Council have developed a Local Nature Recovery Strategy[17] for land, including intertidal and a Marine Nature Recovery Framework[18] for the marine environment. A further more targeted plan for the Fal & Helford has been produced[19] along with a Maerl Action plan[20]. These strategies and plans have been reviewed to ensure that Falmouth Harbour goals and objectives are aligned.

The Marine Nature Recovery Framework has identified 10 priorities:

1. Seagrass
2. Maerl
3. Kelp reef
4. Native Oysters
5. Polychaetes (worms) in mud and reef
6. Tuna
7. Seals
8. Cetaceans (whales and dolphins)
9. Sharks and Rays
10. Seabirds



It is great to have these guiding documents and Falmouth Harbour recognises the importance of nature and the ecosystem services it provides to us as an organisation. However even with this knowledge in place it is still sometimes difficult to fully integrate these considerations when making strategic and day to day decisions.

A recent paper published by the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) calls for natural capital to be classified as Critical National Infrastructure[21] as the loss of nature will severely impact essential services, economic stability and national security. This is potentially something that Falmouth Harbour could consider at an organisational level.

[14] State of Nature 2023 - report on the UK's current biodiversity
[15] State of Nature Cornwall 2020 Report.pdf (cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk)
[16] Environment Act 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
[17] Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's Talk Cornwall
[18] Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Marine Nature Recovery Framework | Let's Talk Cornwall
[19] Fal & Helford Marine Nature Recovery REPORT ONLY_3Cs_2025.pdf
[20] Maerl Report 1
[21] ISEP Policy Paper: Natural Capital is Critical Infrastructure

Waste and Pollution

Waste and pollution also place pressures on the environment. We are looking into how we can reduce both by reviewing current practices.

Waste

The circular economy, where one organisation's waste is valuable to another organisation, is something we are interested in and are taking steps to review our purchasing practices to see whether there are opportunities to contribute more to a circular economy.

In addition to this to ensure we minimise general waste by streaming all waste to maximise recycling.

Pollution

Our activities use and produce pollutants i.e. antifoul paint is used on the majority of our vessels and our vessels produce emissions containing air pollutants. We are committed to taking steps to reduce pollution as demonstrated by:

- Wash water capture and treatment
- Trial of non-biocidal antifoul systems on harbour vessels
- Installation of black water reception facilities on North Quay

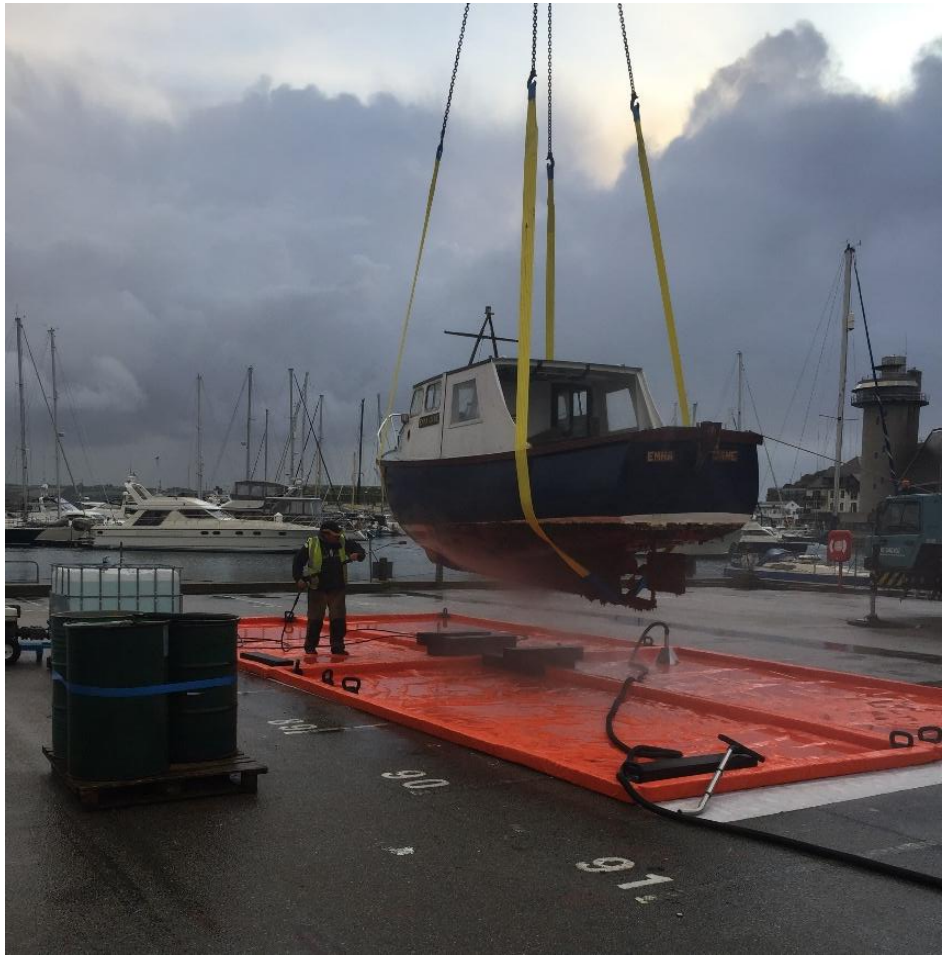


Fig 6. Picture of boat wash water capture mats implemented in 2019

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Environmental Sustainability Goals

Objective: **become an industry leader and advocate for change through supporting policy shift and demonstrating and highlighting good practice in industry.**				
Carbon emissions	**Adaptation**	**Biodiversity**	**Waste**	**Pollution**
2030 Goal: Reduce Green House Gas emissions and strive to become a net zero organisation for scope 1 & 2	**2030 Goal:** Understand & strengthen resilience to climate change related impacts on our infrastructure	**2030 Goal:** Increase biodiversity by managing at least 30% of our harbour well for nature.	**2030 Goal:** Reduce waste to a minimum and contribute to the circular economy	**2030 Goal:** Reduce pollution to a minimum by exploring alternatives
Strategy Increased efficiency of Pilot boat service Electric rib to replace fossil fuel use Understand scope 3	**Strategy** Commission Marine Plan work to include consideration of future scenarios. Continue to assess infrastructure	**Strategy** Increased use of Advanced Mooring Systems Investigate philanthropic investment opportunities for passive restoration work	**Strategy** Increase understanding of our waste and look for methods to reduce through circular economy or increased recycling and reuse	**Strategy** Increase understanding of polluting activities and research methods by which to reduce / replace.
2026 Action Review progress and opportunities for further decarbonisation and produce a report on what would be required to reach 2030 goal. Continue to use HVO and offer for sale to harbour users, aiming for 70% reduction compared with 2024.	**2026 Action** Scenario plan to future proof Falmouth Harbour – prepare for 2^0c world by 2050 and stress test for 4^0c	**2026 Action** AMS project Repeat BRUVS & Pac Oyster projects with Uni of Plymouth MSc students. Commercial Anchoring & Maerl Answer the question – What is the potential pathway required for Falmouth Harbour to become a nature positive organisation? Support Pac Oyster control & support native oyster restoration. Ensure Tuna Event follows MNRF	**2026 Action** Continue to remove abandoned vessels and dispose of them. Review bin provision across estate and improve if necessary. Actively remove litter from the ocean when seen. Answer the question – How are we currently contributing to the Circular Economy, where are the gaps and what can we do to reduce waste volumes?	**2026 Action** Review CoSHH assessments to identify & come up with a proposal to move away from Environmentally hazardous substances Support Harbour User Group in actions aimed at improving water quality.
2025 Performance Installed HVO refuelling facility and moved all diesel vessels to HVO resulting in a 39% decrease on CO_2e compared to 2024. Rapid charger installed onto Falmouth Haven pontoons.	**2025 Performance** 1 mooring failure Completed Marine Plan Survey of boat park structure	**2025 Performance** Installed a further 5 AMS to mark sensitive seabeds across Falmouth Harbour waters. Worked to understand extent of anchoring over maerl in the bay BRUVS project completed	**2025 Performance** Proactively monitored harbour to ensure that any abandoned vessels were disposed of.	**2025 Performance** Installed Aquadock to negate need for antifoul on new petrol rib and electric rib if in use. Smart Ports: Clean waters project completed. Falmouth has better water quality than Cattewater and Dartmouth.
Aligned SDG	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**

Social Sustainability

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners were created in 1870. As a trust port we were put in place to ensure money made from harbour charges was invested back into the port for the benefits of its users with the written requirement to “improve” Falmouth Harbour.

We have therefore had a responsibility to the local community for over 150 years. Our actions can have a positive or negative impact on local communities, and we take that seriously.

We ensure we comply with the Guide to Good Governance[22] and consult with the community through the organisation of regular meetings with harbour user representatives through the Harbour User Group forum (formally our Consultative Committee[23]).

We are interested in ensuring that the local community feel included through increasing our transparency as an organisation. This plan is part of that. We communicate with local stakeholders on sustainability issues through regular sustainability newsletters[24], newspaper articles, local publications[25], annual reports[26], and our open days.

We recognise that we need to work closely with our local communities to ensure the success of our sustainability plans, so we do encourage all stakeholders to get involved.

[22] Guidance for Trust Ports Board Members
[23] Meet the Team - Falmouth Harbour, Cornwall
[24] Sustainability Newsletters - Falmouth Harbour, Cornwall
[25] Digital Publication | Life Media
[26] Publications - Falmouth Harbour, Cornwall

Employee Wellbeing

Our employees are our organisation.

We understand the value of our staff and are keen to develop strategies to ensure we meet our objective to be a **Great place to Work** by delivering an excellent working environment for our people, where we all love to work, feel safe, work hard, and have pride in Falmouth Harbour.

To achieve this, we need to:

- Review our current practices and policies and find ways to continually improve them.
- Ensure our current health and safety management system is effectively implemented and continuously improved.

In 2025 we completed a staff survey and plan to work with employees to make sure actions identified through this process are closed.

Fig 7. Pilot Boat 'Arrow'

Community Benefits

Our overriding vision puts community at the heart of all we do as we strive to *'be the UK'S best Harbour to invest in, live beside and visit'.*

The success of our sustainability initiatives positively feed into the above vision and will depend on community acceptance and collaboration. We have been amazed at the positive reactions to our current environmental initiatives associated with the protection and passive restoration of seagrass and maerl locally in partnership with the Ocean Conservation Trust on the Blue Meadows[27] project.

We support local schools and colleges by offering work experience placements which we organise to provide as much benefit as possible to local students.

Our Harbour Master Team work hard to ensure the safety of our waters is maintained through regular inspection and maintenance of our infrastructure and through monitoring compliance with byelaws.

Our infrastructure is used by many to access the water. This year we plan to investigate how this can be improved and develop a marine plan for the harbour. Further information on this will be forthcoming.

Fig 8. Sea wall tiles attached to a harbour wall in the inner harbour.

[27] Blue Meadows - Seagrass protection, regeneration and restoration.

Falmouth Harbour Sustainability action plan 2026

Social Sustainability Goals

Relevant organisational objective(s):

- **Great place to Work -** Deliver an excellent working environment for our people, where we all love to work, feel safe, work hard and have pride in Falmouth Harbour
- **Stakeholder Dividend -** Invest and deliver new income streams, grow jobs, improve infrastructure, increase local GVA, provide continued improvement in customer services and community benefits.
- **Safe Harbour - Manage our Harbour to ensure a high level of safety, PMSC Compliance and security for all users.**

Employee Wellbeing	Community benefits	Increase stakeholder dividend	Maintain infrastructure	Safe Harbour management
2030 Goal: Increase & maintain employee wellbeing	**2030 Goal** Contribute to Cornwall Council and Falmouth Town Council Motion for the Ocean	**2030 Goal:** Falmouth is a hub of sustainable growth, offering opportunities	**2030 Goal:** Infrastructure is fit for purpose and able to serve community needs.	**2030 Goal:** Navigational safety is maintained
Strategy Develop a people plan to ensure employees are at the heart of the organisation. Maintain and continually improve safety management	**Strategy** Work closely with Cornwall Council and Town Council on Motion for the Ocean pledge	**Strategy** Work with local education providers to provide learning opportunities. Horizon scan for future opportunities	**Strategy** Continue to manage assets well.	**Strategy** Improve local legislation, deliver new HRO and refresh byelaws.
2026 Action Stress Risk assessment to be completed Staff survey actions completed as agreed.	**2026 Action** Work towards implementing recommendations of Marine Nature Recovery Framework.	**2026 Action** Provide work experience opportunities for local secondary and higher education students.	**2026 Action** Implement ISO 14090:2019 Adaptation to climate change. Scenario plan for a 2^0c and 4^0c world.	**2026 Action** Increased patrol hours to 1000 / year
2025 Performance Staff survey completed. New Intranet system introduced to improve communication.	**2025 Performance** Contribute to Ocean for the Motion pledge Develop communications and engagement strategy	**2025 Performance** 195 hours of work experience for 4 Falmouth Marine School students 3 year 10 work experience placements provided Providing an area of the pontoon to support the intertidal seagrass restoration project run by Cornwall Wildlife Trust enabling volunteer access to sort seagrass seeds. Supported a MSc project UoP – Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveillance Supported a PhD project UoE [28]	**2025 Performance** Marine Plan completed and actions taken to assess feasibility of aspects of the plan.	**2025 Performance** Implementation of vessel restriction zone off Gyllyngvase Beach
Aligned SDG	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**

[28] Sewers to Seas: exploring pathogens and antimicrobial resistance on microplastics from hospital wastewater to marine environments

Economic Sustainability

There are potential opportunities for Falmouth as the world adapts to a sustainable future. Pressures on shipping to decarbonise are being driven forward by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)[29] and UK Government[30] through strategies and legislation.

The decarbonisation of energy production through Floating Offshore Wind also presents potential opportunities to support operation and maintenance (O&M) vessels and provide services and support to this industry due to Falmouth's' proximity to the Celtic Sea. Innovation is also being driven by the UK Government through the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition (CMDC) and the wider Innovate UK remit to offer funding for innovative projects to increase efficiencies and look for solutions to environmental problems. Falmouth Harbour are striving to ensure opportunities associated with these changes are maximised so Falmouth remains relevant in a sustainable world. As such we plan to complete some horizon scanning on the following areas.

1. **Ocean Energy and Decarbonisation**
   a. **Offshore Renewables - FLOW O&M and deployment -Green Hydrogen (and derivatives) possibly from FLOW**
   b. **Future Fuels inc transitional fuels HVO**
2. **Ocean Transport Innovation – The Future of**
   a. **Marine Fuels - Bunkering**
   b. **Autonomy**
   c. **Vessels**
3. **Ocean Climate solutions**
   a. **Decarbonisation**
   b. **Ecosystem services**
   c. **Food and Fuel**
   d. **Ocean Data and Monitoring**
4. **Ocean Tourism**
   a. **Future of Cruise**
   b. **Future Sport/recreation/Events**
   c. **Wildlife**
5. **Ocean People**
   a. **New blue skills**
   b. **Wellbeing**

Main opportunities to pursue in next 5 years:

1. **Future Fuels[31]**
2. **Green Corridors[32]**
3. **Offshore Renewables[33]**
4. **Ecosystems services[34]**
5. **Future Marine Vessels**
6. **Ocean Tech - Data and Monitoring**

Internally, we also plan to identify and reduce inefficient work practices and equipment to ensure operating costs are reduced.

[29] Revised GHG reduction strategy for global shipping adopted (imo.org)
[30] Maritime 2050: navigating the future - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[31] Enhanced modelling of maritime's future fuel mix - DNV
[32] Maritime sector given green boost with major COP27 pledge - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[33] Floating Offshore Wind - DNV
[34] Developing-High-Integrity-Natural-Capital-Markets-in-the-UK-Final.pdf (finance.earth)

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Relevant organisational objectives:

- **Sustainable Growth - Establish a surplus balance sheet, improve efficiency, and increase business resilience.**
- **Stakeholder Dividend - Invest and deliver new income streams, grow jobs, improve infrastructure, increase local GVA, provide continued improvement in customer services and community benefits.**

Understand opportunities	Support innovation	Sustainable revenue streams	Improve efficiency
2030 Goal: Falmouth is a centre of sustainable growth	**2030 Goal:** Falmouth is at the forefront of innovation working with organisations collaboratively to achieve sustainable growth and opportunities	**2030 Goal:** Nature restoration activities are operating utilising a sustainably financed model ensuring longevity of projects and secured provision of associated ecosystem services.	**2030 Goal:** To work without waste, contributing to a well-established circular economy. Reduced energy consumption through maximising efficiency of equipment & infrastructure.
Strategy Horizon scan for opportunities to collaborate to ensure Falmouth can offer services required in a sustainable world.	**Strategy** FaBTest is revamped and marketing increased. Fulfil obligations associated with current involvement in innovative projects, communicate results & continue to look for opportunities.	**Strategy** Work with organisations such as the Ocean Conservation Trust to complete projects. Review our own ability to potentially attract philanthropic investment in nature recovery plans	**Strategy** Continuously look for efficiencies working with colleagues and external experts to reduce use and save money
2026 Action Review opportunities for Horizon funding	**2026 Action** Finalise and implement FaBTest Strategy Contribute to Innovate UK projects we are partners with	**2026 Action** Continue to monitor and support marine restoration activities and investigate potential.	**2026 Action** Answer the question – How are we currently contributing to the Circular Economy, where are the gaps and what can we do to reduce waste volumes?
2025 Performance Implemented use of HVO across diesel vessels	**2025 Performance** 2 devices deployed at FaBTest Strategy drafted Rapid charger installed on Falmouth Haven pontoons. Smart Ports Clean Waters project completed.	**2025 Performance** Maerl investigation completed 5 AMS installed over sensitive seabeds.	**2025 Performance** Presented sustainability plan and progress against it to colleagues in staff day.
Aligned SDG	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**	**Aligned SDG**

Risks and Opportunities

As there is no previously forged path to tackle some changes required to meet environmental and sustainability challenges. Innovation is required to and this can be accompanied by risk. Careful assessment and oversight is required to reduce risks to an acceptable level. Ensuring balance Falmouth Harbour remains a sustainable organisation in all regards.

In essence the timeframes required to act within do not allow time to create the perfect plan, therefore it is accepted we need to work with and consider the following with regards to risk and opportunity:

Risk	**Opportunity**
There maybe a need for many solutions at the same time	Not all decarbonisation solutions are expensive. Low-cost solutions can have positive impacts
Inadequate communication of complex concepts can cause delay	Many small steps are OK as long as we know the goal.
Unable to collaborate with organisations	Need to focus on collaboration to achieve goals
Stakeholders don't understand our plan or performance against it.	Issue plan on website and invite comment- issue performance review annually.

This is not an exhaustive list and demonstrates that there is both risk and opportunity throughout.

Risks

Achieving our sustainability goals requires resources and may involve risks that require identification and adequate controls to ensure they are acceptable.

For any large project a project risk register and plan are created and reviewed prior to committing to a project. Once underway the plan and risk register are regularly reviewed by senior management with oversight of the board.

Opportunities

The strategic vision for Falmouth Harbour revolves around seizing opportunities presented by new technologies.

Innovation potentially opens avenues for growth in new markets, ensuring the economic prosperity of the harbour and port. This sustainable economic growth provides opportunities to develop green skills and employment opportunities, bolstering the local community.

The potential significance of innovation means that proactivity is essential. The objective is to actively participate in shaping a sustainable future, utilising advancements in technology and fuels. This approach is essential not only for the economic well-being of the harbour but also for cultivating a positive impact on the local community.

Internal transformation is a key component of this vision. Every member of the organisation must integrate sustainability into their decision-making processes. This holistic approach ensures that sustainability becomes ingrained in the fabric of the business, reinforcing the commitment to a greener and more resilient future for Falmouth Harbour.

Stakeholder Engagement

We recognise that collaboration and partnership with a wide range of stakeholders is necessary to achieve our goals and are committed to working with internal and external stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers, and the wider community. This will be central to the success of our sustainability initiatives.

Stakeholders are identified as part of the SMARTE target setting. Stakeholders are engaged in a variety of ways through existing mechanisms such as the Harbour Users Group, website and social media. Open communication channels are fostered to gather feedback and incorporate diverse perspectives.

The integrated management system has internal and external stakeholder communication mechanisms to communicate with stakeholders on a number of levels and through a variety of differing forums.

Monitoring, Measurement and Governance

Monitoring Performance

Performance indicators are used to monitor progress against agreed actions. Where we can we have used the SMARTE methodology to create quantifiable targets, where this is not possible, we use qualitative review of whether we have met the target or not.

These indicators are included in the goals section above.

Performance is regularly reported to the board. All employees have access to these reports through our IT system which is highlighted in our regular internal newsletters. In 2024 we intend reporting performance publicly.

Governance

Falmouth Harbour has a board of seven commissioners and a Chief Executive. Board members are selected on merit after an open recruitment process in accordance with the Port Marine Safety Code and Modernising Trust Ports Guidance.

We recommend board members follow the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) developed NHS guidance to Non- Executive Directors[35] in relation to promoting sustainability. They recommend board members look to:

- Promote the benefits of sustainability.
- Seek evidence from executives that sustainability is integrated into all parts of the organisation.
- Ensure sustainability targets, reporting and governance is established and effective.
- Understand the sustainability risks for the organisation.
- Challenge on sustainability progress and support the identification of sustainability opportunities.
- Ensure all investment, budget and design decisions are undertaken with a sustainability lens.
- Engage and seek out best practice initiatives across the country and join sustainability networks.
- Promote the work of the sustainability team.

As part of the integrated management system (IMS) management review processes are in place to regularly review and assess performance against organisational objectives and agreed actions ensuring adequate resources are made available or actions are prioritised.

Continual Improvement

Continual improvement processes are in place as part of the IMS and are in use for environmental and sustainability topics alongside safety and quality.

Falmouth Harbour operate an anonymous comments system where employees can communicate identified improvements and / or concerns. Feedback is provided on outcomes of review and what actions have been completed in relation to the identified improvement.

[35] J40929_IEMA_Guidance_for_Non-Executive-Directors.pdf

Integration with Business Strategy

This plan is integrated with the wider organisational strategy and links into the overriding objectives for the organisation.

The integration of sustainability into decision making processes is still to be fully implemented and therefore this is an action for 2024.

This year we are also planning to reinvigorate an internal group of employees to contribute towards finding solutions to sustainability challenges and will have representatives from all areas of the organisation.

Training and awareness of environmental and broader sustainability issues are communicated at induction and then throughout the year through regular team and whole organisation meetings where progress against our shared sustainability goals is shared and feedback is encouraged.

Training and Capacity Building

An assessment is planned for this year to understand the need for training in relation to sustainability to aid achieving the goals set out in this document.

This, alongside our sustainability meetings, is planned to foster a culture of sustainability among employees.

Partnerships and Collaboration

In recent years strong partnerships with key organisations have been established enabling us to share successful sustainability outcomes. Collaboration opportunities are welcomed with external organisations to achieve joint sustainability outcomes.

Falmouth Harbour is an active member of the British Ports Association who are very proactive on environmental and sustainability challenges in relation to ports and harbours nationally. More locally our Harbour Master team are members of the Southwest Regional Ports Association (SWRPA) and are active in ensuring compliance obligations relating to safety and emergency response are met in partnership with local organisations.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

As part of the integrated management system, a process is in place to ensure changes in legislation are implemented. A legal register is maintained detailing the legislation and how it applies to the organisation. It also links to the relevant processes in place to ensure compliance requirements are communicated and adequate records maintained.

Our environment manager is a full member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and maintains her continued professional development training. The British Ports Association highlight key legislation and communicates on how ports can comply with requirements.

Review and Communication

The sustainability plan is reviewed annually and revised to ensure it remains relevant to the current wider context and understanding and remains aligned to organisational objectives.

Progress against the plan will be communicated through sustainability newsletters, the Falmouth Harbour website and annual report.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the sustainability plan outlined above stands as a testament to Falmouth Harbours' commitment to ensuring environmental protection and restoration, social responsibility, and economic resilience. Our purpose is clear; to improve Falmouth harbour, this includes our natural marine environment. It is not the time to step back from complex decisions.

This plan attempts to provide a comprehensive approach that integrates sustainable practices into our core operations, we aim not only to minimise our environmental impacts but also to foster positive impacts on the communities we serve.

By embracing innovation, collaboration, and a long-term perspective, we believe that we can pave the way towards a more sustainable future that will enable Falmouth to make the most of opportunities that will arise because of the necessary transition to sustainable practices whilst effectively managing associated risks. Falmouth Harbour could be a national and global leader in the development of an economic cluster around sustainable ocean economy [36]

This plan serves as a blueprint for our journey, and we are dedicated to implementing, monitoring, and adapting our strategies to ensure continual improvement. Together, let us embark on this collective endeavour to create an example of sustainability that others will want to follow and learn from.

[36] The Ocean Is Our Best Chance To Survive Climate Change | TIME