

At the USAWS Mid-Winter Meeting the Board of Directors, at the request of the Waterways Education Committee, agreed to fly the Ecoflag at major USAWS events. The Ecoflag was created by the Global Sports Alliance and the United Nations Environment Program as a symbol of environment awareness and commitment to sustainable sports. You can learn more about this program through their website [gsa-usa.org](http://gsa-usa.org). While at the site click on news, and on the left side of the page GSA USAction! Nov 08. As you are most likely aware water sports can be a carbon intensive activity. but with proper diligence we can reduce or offset our carbon footprint. Some ways to accomplish that would be to partner with a carbon offset organization such as [carbonfund.org](http://carbonfund.org) , or [thelocaltrust.org](http://thelocaltrust.org)

The American Kneeboard Association (AKA) was the first of our sport disciplines to do so. I applaud them and urge other disciplines to follow their lead. Here is a portion of a press release from Carbonfund.org.

**"Fort Lauderdale, FL, August 11, 2008 - The American Kneeboard Association National Championship announced today that it is offsetting its carbon emissions with Carbonfund.org, one of the country's leading carbon offset organizations. The AKA National Championships organizers have offset competitors', officials', and families' travel to and from the Championships, their hotel stays, meals, and all local travel and towboat emissions emitted while pulling events. The organizers have scheduled all events within a 2.5-mile radius to reduce travel and will take several additional measures to reduce the use of non-renewable resources during the Championships. The commitment establishes The American Kneeboard Association as an environmental leader in the USA Waterski community and demonstrates the proactive steps the AKA is taking in the fight against global climate change."**

Here are some suggestions that you can do to help make your event environmentally friendly. if you wish to fly the flag at your event contact Brandon at USAWS headquarters or Leon at [LLarsonUSAWS@aol.com](mailto:LLarsonUSAWS@aol.com)



## **RECOMMENDED ECOFLAG EVENT GUIDELINES**

The Global Sports Alliance (GSA) is a coalition of sports and outdoor recreation enthusiasts working together for environmental awareness and action. Flying the GSA's Ecoflag at an event represents the organizer's commitment to "consider the environment" and signifies that the event strives to adhere to the principles of "Ecoplay". These principles are outlined below along with some ways that they might be incorporated.

## **PROTECT AND ENRICH NATURE**

Natural areas are diligently protected from event damage.

The Ecoflag is prominently displayed to remind participants to “Think environment!” Efforts are made to educate participants and spectators about stewardship.

Anti-litter outreach in effect.

Event is recognized as a celebration of a clean and healthy environment.

Leave areas in better condition than we found them.

## **REDUCE ENERGY**

Reduce energy use with energy efficient equipment, lighting, etc.

Event is accessible by mass transportation.

Encourage carpooling, biking, walking to the event.

Use high-efficiency or alternative-fuel support vehicles.

Power needs supplied from some renewable sources.

## **REDUCE MATERIAL CONSUMPTION**

Provide progressive recycling arrangements.

Discourage disposable bottles. Promote reusable sport bottles.

Print literature on recycled paper with non-toxic ink.

Registration not paper-based.

Supplies, gear, etc. made from recycled materials.

Renting or borrowing preferred over purchase for items infrequently used.

## **PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY**

Promote the event’s environmental attributes.

Event apparel of natural or recycled fabrics.

Promote the use of high quality, durable gear.

Invest in local environmental charities.

Encourage youth involvement.

Involve local artists / artisans.

Source locally produced foods.

GSA's mission is to mobilize the sports community to lessen our environmental impact and to leave a healthy environment for our future generations.



