

Islington Eco-Moorings FAQs

This document has been compiled to help answer questions relating to the trial Islington eco-mooring zone.

What is the eco-mooring zone?

The eco-mooring zone is an area of canal that has additional measures to reduce pollution. The Islington eco-mooring zone provides electric charging points along the towpath between Kings Cross and Angel. Canal boats are able to hook up to the mains electricity and avoid running engines or generators for their on-board needs or for charging batteries and to avoid using solid fuel stoves for heating or cooking by using suitable alternatives.

Can I burn solid fuels whilst moored in the eco-mooring zone?

There is no prohibition on solid fuel stoves during the trial. However, in line with existing rules, boaters will be expected to only burn smokeless fuels and will be progressively encouraged to reduce the use of solid-fuel stoves over the two-year trial period. There will be a programme of engagement, education and support for boaters to explore alternatives to solid-fuel stoves and the technical issues around adapting boats to alternative forms of heating.

How can I book a mooring in the Islington eco-mooring zone?

Mooring permits can be booked online via the Canal & River Trust website.

Where can I view the Terms & Conditions for the site?

The mooring site Terms & Conditions will be available on line and you will get a copy of the site Terms & Conditions when you book a mooring permit.

What if my boat doesn't have the capability to plug in to the charging points, can I still moor?

Yes, but you must obey the site rules.

Why did the Trust launch the Eco Zone?

The canal network in many parts of London, including Islington, is densely populated by canal boats and the trend is for the continued growth in boat numbers. Finding towpath mooring space can be difficult, often leading to double-mooring or triple-mooring. The density of the boats and the topography of this part of the Regent's Canal (a deep cutting to the east of the Islington Tunnel and high buildings creating a canyon effect to the west of the Tunnel) can contribute to high levels of air pollution around these moorings, in terms of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. This is because many boats run on diesel engines and generator to charge batteries or for electric power, and burn solid fuels for heating and sometimes cooking. This is a source of concern for the health of boaters themselves, as well as other sensitive local receptors such as schools, homes and businesses.

While the contribution of canal boats to air pollution is relatively minor in relation to other sources of air pollution, air quality plans encourage everyone to make changes in behaviour to help reduce overall levels of pollution.

The Council and the Trust are working in partnership to create a cleaner and safer environment on and around the Regent's Canal for boaters and residents. Funding has been secured from the DEFRA Air Quality Fund to deliver the Eco- Mooring Zone and a programme of engagement, education and support for boaters.

Where should I go if I want more information about how to set my boat up to run from an onshore power supply?

All boats are different so there is no one way to set your boat up for running off an onshore supply. We would recommend having a conversation with a qualified boat builder / boatyard to get an idea of the right system for you and the costs involved.

Do I need an account to use the electricity bollards once they are installed?

Yes, as well as booking a mooring permit you will need to set up a Meter-Macs account. This allows you to pay to have credit to use at the eco-mooring site. You will be provided with a unique pin that you will need to type in to the keypad on the electricity bollard. You will then be able to use the electricity and the costs of your usage will be charged to your account.

How many bollards are installed and where they are?

The installation of electric charging points was in three phases:

Phase 1

Islington Visitor Mooring (Noel Road) – 3 bollards/12 hook-ups

Phase 2

Kings Cross Treaty St. Visitor Mooring & Treaty St. towpath moorings (York Way to Treaty St.) – 5 bollards/20 hook-ups

Phase 3

Caledonian Road towpath moorings (Caledonian Road to Islington Tunnel) – 1 bollard/2 hook-ups

How can I provide feedback on the eco-mooring zone if I encounter any issues?

Written feedback can be made to Enquiries.londonsoutheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk