

2024 Hospice Cup Sustainability Report



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ABOUT HOSPICE CUP

The Hospice Cup regatta is America's largest charity yacht race, with more than 100 boats and nearly 1,000 sailors coming together annually from across the country. Sanctioned by the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association and hosted by Sailing Club of the Chesapeake, it has grown into a premier racing event and a destination for competitive sailors, all sailing to support the gift of hospice for those contending with advanced and terminal illness.

The belief that everyone deserves compassion, dignity, comfort, and choice is central to our mission. That's why we partner with organizations that enable access to care choices, including relief from the symptoms of serious illness for under and uninsured patients.

REGION'S LARGEST SUSTAINABLE REGATTA

This event is lucky to call the Chesapeake Bay watershed home, so we place a high priority on care and stewardship of our local environment and wildlife. We are a registered Clean Regatta with Oceana's Sailors for the Sea, partnering with sponsors, businesses, and organizations who share this commitment to protecting local shorelines and minimizing waste.



SUSTAINABILITY MISSION & VISION

As the sustainability leader among Chesapeake Bay regattas, our mission is to advance environmental stewardship by minimizing our ecological footprint, striving for zero waste, promoting alternatives to single-use materials, and encouraging responsible practices in every aspect of yacht racing. We aim to set a new standard for sustainable regattas, inspiring participants, sponsors, and the broader sailboat racing community to embrace innovative, ecologically conscious practices that ensure the protection and preservation of our waterways.

Our vision for Hospice Cup is to be the model for environmental sustainability across the entire yacht racing community. As we empower racers to embrace practices that enhance the beauty and health of the Chesapeake Bay, our greater ambition is that sailors feel inspired to adopt environmental discipline across their every sailing experience and bring it to every racecourse they compete on, in our region and beyond. Through collaboration, ideation, and education, we want to leave a legacy where every race and racer contributes to a cleaner future for all marine ecosystems.

ROUTINE BEST PRACTICES

Hospice Cup has long been the leader in sustainable practices in Chesapeake Bay racing. Key actions by race organizers historically include:

- Deployment of an all-volunteer Green Team
- Hire of paid expertise and consulting for responsible waste disposal
- Reusable drinkware at shore party
- Use of water filling stations
- Compost bins for food waste disposal
- Locally sourced seafood at awards event
- Return of oyster shells to the Chesapeake Bay



2024 GOAL SETTING

A registered clean regatta with Oceana’s Sailors for the Sea, Hospice Cup targeted zero-waste status for the first time in its history. Actionable goals included:

- Elimination of single-use water bottles and set up of a water refill station
- Exclusion of plastic straws from event
- Service of food using only plastic-free dinnerware
- Reusable bags for skipper gifts
- Awarding of practical items or perpetual trophies for race winners
- Publicity of sustainability efforts
- Involvement of local organizations
- Display of educational and reusable signage
- Sustainable service of local food and locally-sourced seafood
- Organization of a Green Team
- Well-marked and properly placed waste bins
- Diversion of food waste from landfill
- Paperless Event Management
- Volunteer-led marina cleanup
- Promotion of alternative transportation
- Increased awareness of wildlife and habitat protection
- Availability of vegetarian and vegan food options
- Use of eco-smart race management techniques
- Prevention of toxins from entering the Chesapeake Bay and adjacent waterways
- Encouragement of green boating practices among the racing and spectating fleets

HOSPICE CUP GREEN TEAM



With support and partnership from Compass Real Estate, Team One Newport, Annapolis Green, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, race organizers recruited, trained, and outfitted 17 volunteers committed to this year's Hospice Cup Green Team.

2024 Green Team activities included directing shore party guests to water refill stations and waste disposal areas, waste removal from the party venue immediately following the awards event, and participation in the marina cleanup event the day after the regatta.

GREEN TEAM VOLUNTEERS



Brien Jones-Lantzy



Carolyn Kammeier



Rick Chubb



Laura Gingerich



Scott Anderson



Christine Lasser



Zeus Rodriguez



Brie Healy



Erik Brydges



Allison Gingerich



Jake Boertlein



Diane Bevington



John Richard



Helen Hale



Steve Hale



Michael Sciriano



Jane Millman

REGATTA & SHORE PARTY REPORTING



This year's skipper bags and regatta giveaways included a variety of premium reusable, practical, and upcycled goods all packaged into reusable dry bags. Crew meals from Bread & Butter Kitchen featured locally-sourced food, including vegan and vegetarian options. A water refill station was sited for the first time at the check-in and skipper bag pickup before moving to its shore party location.

On the water, skippers encouraged their crews to avoid single-use plastic bottles and instead bring reusable water bottles to this year's race. Sailing instructions encouraged the use of reusable drink containers and collection of any trash found in local waters. Digital-only race documents were used to outline regatta parameters to racers.

On-shore, racers were encouraged to walk or carpool to the post-race party. Sustainability efforts included reusable drinkware and biodegradable dining utensils and dishes. Dinner and beverage service at this year's shore party utilized reusable cups and bamboo dinnerware. Plastic straws were not permitted at the event. Organizers departed from the practice of using and disposing of paper tickets for entry, food, beverage, and raffle purchases. Instead admission, payments, and donations were managed through RFID-chip equipped wristbands worn by each guest. Wristbands were made from bamboo and recycled PET and many were collected for recycling after the event.

Local waterman Ron Wolfe shucked oysters harvested from Chesapeake Bay waters and burgers period owner Christian Douglas prepared smashburgers using locally sourced ingredients, wrapping them in petroleum-free compostable deli paper. Well-labeled compost bins collected food-related waste, enabling more than 400 pounds to be diverted from landfill. 68 pounds of oyster shells were returned to the Chesapeake Bay.

During the awards ceremony, Hospice Cup presented racers in first, second, and third place in each class with the Ocean Bottle. The trophies funded the collection of 1,125 pounds of plastic from the ocean, equivalent to 45,000 plastic water bottles. Perpetual trophies were awarded for specific achievements with watch and trinket boxes for the take-home trophies.

Green Team volunteers capped off the weekend's sustainable efforts with a Mimosa Marina Cleanup the following morning, removing an additional 40 pounds of trash from the water, beach, and grounds at Horn Point Marina using trash grabbers, gloves, and bags donated by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Opportunities to join the marina cleanup were promoted locally by the Alliance and by the Hospice Cup regatta, resulting in high volunteer turnout. Volunteers were incentivized with a Hospice Cup branded Mimosa Marina Cleanup reusable tumbler.



Complimentary oysters, appetizers, and cake will be available from 11:00am-2:00pm. All proceeds from the sale of burgers will also be gratefully making oysters, burgers & beer go directly to Hospice Cup to support its purposes are strongly encouraged at the bars.

LUNCHES & CREW GEAR
 Crew lunches made by Hospice Cup partner Bread & Butter Kitchen on September 10th at <https://tabelog.com/VA/VA6A1>. Hospice Cup crew gear may be ordered at www.hospicecup.org/mesh. Additional Hospice Cup gear will be available at the shore party.

21 CHARITY
 Hospice Cup is a charity event. Proceeds are donated to Hospice Cup, Inc. to support hospice care in Virginia and Maryland. For information about making a tax-deductible donation, please contact www.hospicecup.org.

22 SUSTAINABILITY
 The Hospice Cup is a Registered Clean Regatta; we place a high priority on caring stewardship of local environment and wildlife. As skippers and competitors take their own role in protecting our shorelines and the greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed, we encourage their crews to avoid single-use plastic bottles and instead bring reusable bottles to this year's race. Plastic straws, bags, and other single-use plastics are discouraged aboard all participating boats. Furthermore, RRS \$5 penalty for water. Crews are also encouraged to retrieve any trash items seen floating in the water, on the way out, and on the way back. Trash items before the race other provisioning should be disposed of responsibly ashore. Small biodegradable items accumulated underway can be brought to our shore party for disposal if desired.

Charity regatta with delicious and easy to grab crew lunches at the 2024 Hospice Cup!

On the Menu

Deli sandwich with choice of meat, cheese, and bread
 Fruit
 Homemade Cookie

Roasted Sweet Potato & Black Bean Bowl
 Quinoa, red onion, cilantro, pepita, & honey lime
 Homemade Cookie

GF House Salad + Chicken
 Homemade Cookie

Harvest Salad
 Kale & quinoa, sweet potato, feta, red onion, craisins, pepitas, & honey lime dressing
 Homemade Cookie

SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS STORY

Sailing Instructions encouraged use of reusable drink containers and collection of any trash found in local waters. The crew of RP45 Katsu took the suggestion to heart, retrieving a 30-gallon plastic drum from the Chesapeake Bay on their way home from the racecourse and proudly hauling it into the awards party where it was recycled for use holding refreshments for thirsty racers.





PARTNERSHIPS THAT MADE SUCCESS POSSIBLE



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Hospice Cup grew its sustainability initiatives heavily in 2024. Having an already-strong culture of volunteerism, existing relationships with local organizations, and a tradition of responsible practices meant that race organizers had a strong foundation to build from and weren't starting from scratch. Access to Sailors for the Sea's library of resources served as a remarkable asset for internal standard-setting and ideation.

In a post-race survey asking for verbatim feedback:

- 62% of guests called out the presence of local food options as a highlight of the event
- 33% of attendees identified RFID-enabled wristbands for admission, payment, and donation as a value-add
- 28% of racers indicated they viewed the sustainability recommendations outlined in the Sailing Instructions
- 12% mentioned the collectibility of reusable drinkware each year from Hospice Cup

Overall, race participants and shore party guests conclusively communicated their satisfaction with Hospice Cup's sustainability advancements, assuaging early uncertainty around changes in experience. Moreover, race organizers routinely acknowledged both the ease and affordability of building in updates to the regatta's sustainability program. We also observed an increase in sponsorship as a result of added elements for brand placement.

FORWARD LOOKING IN 2025

Thinking about the next Hospice Cup regatta, we are eager to build on the success of this year's event. We also acknowledge the need for continued progress. As we identify areas that require additional development, we noticed that one-third of post regatta survey respondents confessed that despite promotion to skippers, rank-and-file race crew did not know about the availability of crew lunches. Working with the resources made available by Sailors for the Sea, Hospice Cup team members have plans for outreach to other Clean Regatta registered and certified race organizers to pursue new opportunities for ideation and collaboration around this challenge and others.

With attendance at the shore party more than doubling in 2024 and enthusiasm already growing for the 2025 race and awards party, Hospice Cup is ambitious to step up its engagement on sustainability topics with existing racers through continued message penetration, new-to-the-regatta racers through a fun "first-timers" program, and to all competitors through competition for a prospective perpetual award celebrating outstanding stewardship.



HOSPICE CUP



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