

2025 Hospice Cup Sustainability Report



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Table Of Contents

About Hospice Cup

Sustainability Vision & Mission

Historical Best Practices

2025 Goal Setting

Our Green Team

Regatta & Shore Party Reporting

Partnerships

Key Takeaways

What's Next In 2026



ABOUT HOSPICE CUP

The Hospice Cup regatta is America's largest charity yacht race, with nearly 100 boats and 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 with support from Storm Trysail Club and Severn Sailing Association, 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 platinum level Clean Regatta certified by Sailors for the Sea, and we partner 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 race course 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.

HISTORICAL 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



2025 GOAL SETTING

A platinum certified clean regatta with Oceana’s Sailors for the Sea, Hospice Cup targeted zero-waste status for its second consecutive year. 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
- 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 Chesapeake Bay Trust, Compass Real Estate, Team One Newport, Naptown Taps, South River Floors, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, race organizers recruited, trained, and outfitted 15 volunteers committed to this year's Hospice Cup Green Team.

2025 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 at the awards party venue and neighboring Annapolis Maritime Museum.

GREEN TEAM VOLUNTEERS



Brien Jones-Lantzy



Carolyn Kammeier



Rick Chubb



Laura Gingerich



Christine Lasser



Sean & Jen Simmons



John Richard



Brie Healy



Erik Brydges



Matt Sheridan



Jake Boertlein



Diane Bevington



**Francesca
Zelachowski**



Lesley Jones

REGATTA & SHORE PARTY REPORTING



This year, Hospice Cup kicked off with a skipper's meeting that featured a locally sourced breakfast-for-dinner taco bar from Bread & Butter Kitchen, a weather briefing, and sustainability guidance from Chesapeake Bay Trust Program Manager Grace Dho who shared on-the-water best practices with racers.

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

On race day, skippers and crew were encouraged to avoid single-use plastic bottles and instead bring reusable water bottles to the race. Sailing instructions encouraged the use of reusable drink containers and collection of any trash found in local waters.

On-shore, racers were encouraged to walk or carpool to the post-race party. Biodegradable wooden and bamboo dining utensils and dishes were utilized during the awards party. An improvement over last year, reusable cups were handed out at the party check-in area instead of at the bars, with instructions that guests use them for the duration of the party and not throw them out. Plastic straws were not permitted at the event. RFID-equipped wristbands were made from bamboo and recycled PET, eliminated the need for drink tickets, and were collected for recycling after the event.

Celebrity oyster shucker Gardner "Oyster Ninja" Douglas prepared oysters harvested by Orchard Point Oysters in 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 nearly 500 pounds to be diverted from landfill. 200 pounds of oyster shells were returned to the Chesapeake Bay - 3 times the previous year's savings.

During the awards ceremony, Hospice Cup presented racers in first, second, and third place in each class with dopp kits made of recycled racing sails by 727 Sailbags. Perpetual trophies were awarded for specific achievements with functional ceramic bowls and pitchers for the take-home trophies.

Green Team volunteers capped off the weekend's sustainable efforts with the second annual Mimosa Marina Cleanup the following morning, removing additional 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. This year's cleanup was expanded to neighboring Annapolis Maritime Museum as well, with volunteers in both locations collecting 75 pounds of trash. The marina cleanup was promoted locally by the Alliance and by the Hospice Cup regatta. Volunteers were incentivized with a Hospice Cup branded Mimosa Marina Cleanup reusable tumbler.



Complimentary oysters, appetizers, and cake will be available from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Crews from Virginia and Maryland will also be onsite making smash burgers & burgers go directly to Hospice Cup to support its partners are strongly encouraged at the bars.

LUNCHES & CREW GEAR
Crew lunches made by Hospice Cup partner Bread & Butter Kitchen on September 10th at <https://breadsandbutter.com/020624>. Hospice Cup shore 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, privileges, or to learn about Hospice Cup, Inc., see www.hospicecup.org.

22 SUSTAINABILITY
The Hospice Cup is a Registered Clean Regatta; we place a high priority on care stewardship of local environment and wildlife. As skipper and competitors their own role in protecting our shorelines and the greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed 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, REUS is prohibited 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 leftover from 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
- House Chips
- 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

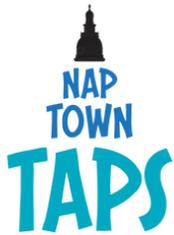
SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

In 2025, Hospice Cup teamed up with regatta sponsor Bacon Sails, a consignment retailer long committed to community reuse by keeping old sails, boat parts, and gear in circulation. Bacon Sails hosted a lively knot-tying competition at the awards party, awarding a pair of winch handles and a gift certificate to shop their pre-loved inventory to the fastest sailor to tie five knots—proving sustainability can be both fun and rewarding.





PARTNERSHIPS THAT MADE SUCCESS POSSIBLE



KEY TAKEAWAYS



In 2025, Hospice Cup took a major step forward in integrating sustainability into every aspect of the regatta. Years of community engagement, strong volunteer support, and established partnerships allowed organizers to accelerate progress without reinventing core systems. Guidance from Sailors for the Sea provided a practical framework that helped shape goals, policies, and on-site practices.

A critical new element in the programming was the addition of the pre-race skipper's meeting. Having an environmental professional address competitors during this meeting, clearly connecting the sustainability expectations in the sailing instructions to real-world action, drove home the importance of initiatives that were outlined in the race documents both to those who read them and those who did not. Added communication with guests checking into the shore party about our environmental commitments and how those standards apply to their attendance and participation also improved the event's green principles in practice.

Feedback from sailors and shore-side attendees confirmed a broader understanding over previous years of the enhanced efforts. Organizers found the improvements to be cost-effective and straightforward to implement, and crucial to attracting additional sponsors and partners eager to align their brands with visible, values-driven initiatives.

NEXT STEPS IN 2026

As Hospice Cup looks toward the next regatta, the focus shifts from the establishing of sustainability practices now to refining and expanding their impact. Building on the strong foundation set this year, organizers aim to move beyond awareness toward measurable outcomes, with an emphasis on waste reduction, material recovery, and improved on-site systems. Clear targets will be set for reducing landfill-bound waste and increasing participation in reuse and recycling programs across both race operations and shore-side activities.

To support these goals, Hospice Cup plans to deepen integration of sustainability into race operations by formalizing volunteer roles focused on environmental stewardship, strengthening data collection and post-event reporting, and piloting new tools to track performance over time. With continued growth in attendance and enthusiasm, the event also intends to broaden engagement through interactive education, expanded sponsor participation tied to sustainability outcomes, and new incentives that reward teams demonstrating leadership in responsible sailing and event participation.



HOSPICE CUP



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