

2026 Hospice Cup Sustainability Report



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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 PLATINUM CERTIFIED CLEAN 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 drink-ware at shore party
- Practical Perpetual and Class Trophies
- 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



2026 GOAL SETTING

A platinum certified clean regatta with Oceana's Sailors for the Sea, Hospice Cup targeted zero-waste status for its third 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 buckets 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
- Availability of vegetarian and vegan food options
- Prevention of toxins from entering the Chesapeake Bay and adjacent waterways
- Promotion and provision of alternative transportation
- Reduction of day-of emissions
- Inspiration to future action

HOSPICE CUP GREEN TEAM



With support and partnership from Team One Newport, The Key School, Naptown Taps, and South River Floors, race organizers recruited, trained, and outfitted 7 volunteers committed to this year's Hospice Cup Green Team.

2026 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.

GREEN TEAM VOLUNTEERS



Rick Chubb



Christine Lasser



John Richard



Diane Bevington



Caitlin Whately



Mallory Patterson



Meredith Glacken

REGATTA & SHORE PARTY REPORTING



Prior to race day, sailors received memos via email as well as in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions that included on-the-water best practices for competitors and spectators.

At race check in on the day of the regatta, racers picked up skipper “bags” and regatta giveaways that once again included a variety of premium reusable, practical, and upcycled goods. This year’s skipper bag goodies were held in reusable buckets. 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 reduce emissions by walking or carpooling to the post-race party. Biodegradable dining utensils and meal containers were utilized during the awards party. Reusable cups were again 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. There were also compostable cups at each of the bars in the event a guest misplaced their reusable cup. Plastic straws were not permitted at the event.

Phil Plack of Annapolis Oyster Company prepared oysters harvested from Chesapeake Bay waters. Well-labeled compost bins collected food-related waste, enabling 250 pounds to be diverted from landfill. 300 pounds of oyster shells were returned to the Chesapeake Bay – a 30% increase over the previous year’s savings.

During the awards ceremony, Hospice Cup presented racers in first, second, and third place in each class with coasters made of recycled bamboo that featured the image of our 2026 Hospice Cup Art Competition winner. Perpetual trophies were awarded for specific achievements with functional cocktail shakers for the take-home trophies.

Green Team volunteers capped off the weekend’s sustainable efforts with the third 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. Volunteers collected 40 pounds of trash. The marina cleanup was promoted locally by the Hospice Cup regatta. Volunteers were incentivized with a Hospice Cup branded Mimosa Marina Cleanup reusable tumbler.



PARTNERSHIPS THAT MADE SUCCESS POSSIBLE



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Years of community engagement, strong volunteer support, and established partnerships allowed organizers to continue making progress. Guidance from Sailors for the Sea provided a practical framework that helped shape goals, policies, and on-site practices.

Continued 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 2027

In 2027, Hospice Cup will build on the strong sustainability foundation established in recent years, with a focus on turning successful practices into measurable, lasting impact.

Priorities will include strengthening data collection and reporting and continuing to improve waste, water, and reuse systems throughout race operations and the shore party. The Green Team will play an expanded role in implementing and tracking these efforts.

Hospice Cup will also look for new ways to engage sailors, sponsors, volunteers, and guests through education, incentives, and partnerships—using the regatta as an opportunity to promote practical stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay both on and off the water.



HOSPICE CUP



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