Sailing Forward

Safe Harbor is proud to be working with Sailors for the Sea on our Safe Harbor Race Weekend to minimize the impact the event and the participants that attend them have on the environment. After achieving Platinum certification at our 1st, and 2nd Annual Safe Harbor Race Weekend Regatta, we are committed to continuing our environmental goals in all of our future Race Weekends.

Safe Harbor is the happy custodian of more than 130 waterfront properties throughout North America and the Caribbean. We are always innovating in favor of the health of these precious resources. At Safe Harbor, caring for our people and the natural environment we operate in is integral to the success of our business. Our mindset is one of constant improvement. In 2023, we have aimed to ensure that our strategic Framework remains aligned with key stakeholder preferences and business priorities.
Overview

01 Elimination of Single-Use Items

02 Community Involvement

03 Responsible Waste Management

04 Environmental Stewardship

05 Green Boating
Elimination of Single-Use Items
Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

We passed out reusable metal water bottles to the sailors and competitors, and had water refill stations at our properties. We also partnered with Boxed Water to provide our Members with a boxed water alternative. For every social media post with #BetterPlanet and #SafeHarborRaceWeekend, they pledged to plant 4 trees in their National Forests.

Eliminate Plastic Straws

We only offered Earth Plus paper straws at the regatta. These straws are also used at our on property restaurant Belle's Café.
Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

All caterers involved with the regatta and evening events had to use environmentally friendly sound alternatives to single-use plastics. Dinner was served on real plates, metal reusable cutlery was used, and all drinks were served in glassware.

Skip Bags or Go Reusable

We provided reusable gift bags for all our Race Weekend participants.

Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

Race Weekend continues to provide awards that are practical items or upcycled trophies. We had silver goblets, crystal trophies, and sustainable cutting boards thanks to our local friends at Soundview Millworks.
Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

We publicized our sustainable efforts prior to, during, and after Race Weekend. Main channels included: e-blasts, social media, website, digital signage, along with Clean Regatta brochures. We also promoted our sustainability efforts through our partnerships with brands like Beau Lake, MARKSETBOT, North Sails and X Shore. We also sent e-blasts to 55,000+ Members and included our sustainable partners on each e-blast.
Involve Local Organizations

We partnered with Soundview Millworks (CT) to provide sustainable awards. We also partnered with X Shore (electric boats), Flite e-foils, Cake electric motorbikes, and BMW to get our attending Members on the water and on the roads. BMW had their electric cars on display for a ride and drive experience. We also partnered with Mark Set Bots to provide robotic race markers VS traditional marks that require anchor, chain and additional on-the-water personnel and vessels. We contracted with all local caterers, florists, signage companies, etc. - nobody traveled or shipped in our materials, lowering our carbon footprint.
★ Post Educational and Reusable Signage

We used as much digital signage as we could and re-used all of our previous static signage.

Example: TVs ran logos (including SFS Clean Regattas) and messaging throughout all social events. We also re-used our Race Weekend wooden "sculpture" from previous two years.

★ Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainability

We served local food throughout the entire weekend. All three caterers used during Safe Harbor Race Weekend are based on Aquidneck Island.
Responsible Waste Management
Organize a Green Team

Our green team on the water. Our volunteers are a combination of on-shore and on-the-water personnel. Many are local (Rhode Island-based) sailors and race committee volunteers who have experience with regatta management. Others are local volunteers who are familiar with Safe Harbor Newport Shipyard and the local sailing circuit in Newport. We usually have approximately 30 volunteers across the weekend, and they are aware of our mission to host a “Clean Regatta” through recycling, composting, and keeping the local waters clean & free of trash/debris. In our Notice of Race, we establish that Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 47 be in effect for trash disposal.
Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

We recycle at all of our properties as well as compost! These are out all year long for our members and showcased at Race Weekend. You can also see that we ensure proper bin placement.

Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

We already compost at our properties through local hauler The Compost Plant - super easy for us to continue this process throughout Race Weekend. For composting, we ask that our caterers compost uneaten food. We also use china, glassware & cloth napkins at the larger parties to avoid using single-use plastic/paper.
Use Paperless Event Management

We communicated with e-blasts for all of our logistics for the event, including QR codes for the agenda! We also used YachtScoring.com for all racing-related information and communication. We leaned heavily into the digital route: e-blasts, social media posts, digital signage, directing sailors to our website, etc., instead of utilizing paper for race information.
Environmental Stewardship
Host a Beach or Marina Clean-Up

In 2017, Safe Harbor was honored to partner with the Seabin Project as one of only 6 Global Pilot Partners in the world. At launch, we were proud to be the first organization in North America to install the innovative Seabin technology into our locations. At Safe Harbor New England Boatworks (a host location of Safe Harbor Race Weekend), we have installed a similar technology, the marina trash skimmer, which collects debris.
Promote Alternative Transportation

We provided X Shore (electric boat) transportation to any location our Members want to go to throughout the weekend. We also offered electric BMW rides as well as Cake electric bikes!
Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Through enterprise-wide initiatives like our Environmental Management System to partnering with solution-minded environmental organizations, we actively participate and invest in building a cleaner tomorrow for future generations. We also invested in creating a sustainability report, which you can visit: Sustainability - Safe Harbor Marinas (shmarinas.com)
Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Our Vice President of ESG (Environmental & Social Governance) was in attendance promoting Safe Harbors sustainability efforts throughout the weekend.

Our journey is just beginning, but I am so proud of all we have done in just under two years.

Of all responsibilities that fall within my role, I think authentic, meaningful engagement with my colleagues at Safe Harbor is one of the most important.

A corporate sustainability program, even if informed by external benchmarks, should emanate from the intrinsic values of our people — my job is to harness that energy. What ideas do our Teammates have for environmental stewardship? What is their vision for our properties, and how does that vision overlap with our Harbors' global sustainability commitments?

This report showcases some of the ways our Teammates contributed to environmental stewardship even before our program launched — in many ways, the motivation for a cleaner, sustainable future was at Safe Harbor before my time. That said, I am thrilled that so many Teammates have stepped up to be involved in our new corporate initiatives, like the Coastal Habitat Restoration Program ("CHRP") and our sustainability-related working groups.

Nevertheless, we are not shy about the challenges ahead. The regulatory landscape is changing quickly, and not every sustainability challenge in our industry has a clear-cut solution.

At each juncture, however, we are rising to the challenge and asking first, "what is the right thing to do," and second, "what is the right solution to the problem?" Our journey is just beginning, but I am so proud of all we have done in just under two years.
Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

We serve vegetarian options at Belle’s Café on property and at all of our social events.
Green Boating
Use Eco-Smart Management Techniques

We partnered with Mark Set Bot and rented robotic race marks for the entire Race Weekend!
Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

The marina trash skimmer not only collects debris, but oil slick from the water as well. We also have our marina team clean the marina on a regular basis with skimmers.
Encourage Green Boating Practices

We partnered with X Shore to get our Members on the water, without burning fuel, to watch Safe Harbor Race Weekend in action. We also promoted sailing and cutting back on fuel when applicable.
The Friday night event was hosted at “The Point” at Safe Harbor New England Boatworks, which is one of the most sustainable venues in the area created by Safe Harbor. In lieu of transporting all the dredging material generated from the marina expansion project to offsite dumping grounds either in Narragansett Bay or offshore, Safe Harbor was able to re-purpose that material on the piece of our property that we now refer to as “The Point”. Once the new venue/area was created, we experienced the view and realized the opportunity to host events.
We also used fabric wristbands (not plastic/Tyvek) and our Members used the same wristband throughout the weekend instead of us providing new wristbands daily for access. We distributed them in reusable bags.