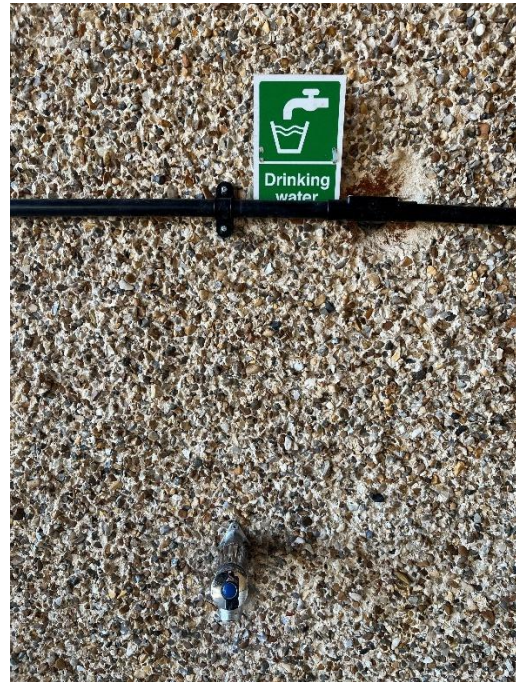


Action 1 – Eliminate Single Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

Single use water bottles were eliminated through no single use bottles being provided at the event and sailors and visitors were informed of the availability of water refill stations onsite and encouraged to come with their reusable water bottles.



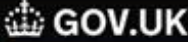
The pre-event Handbook highlighted to competitors and volunteers to bring their own water bottle to the event. It also described the location of the provided refill stations.

Venue Information

- **Parking :** **All vehicles** are to be parked either along the causeway or by the pre training area. Car park marshals (pink bibs) will be available to help if needed.
- **Venue contact:** HISC Staff will be on site for the whole event, please email reception@hisc.co.uk or phone 02392 463768. Reception will be open 0900-1700
- **Cafeteria:** The Cafeteria breakfast service is from 0830. The snack bar is also open from 10am onwards.
- **Water Refill Points:** HISC encourages visitors to bring their own reusable drinking containers. There is a dedicated water bottle refill point outside the snack bar and main bar.
- **Post Racing snack:** Please remember to grab your post racing snack from the Snack bar.
- **Waste bins:** Please adhere to the signage for these.

Action 2 – Eliminate Plastic straws

Image below shows the press release from the UK Government on their ban on the supply and use of Plastic straws since 1st October 2020.



Menu

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Marine](#) > [Marine protection and wildlife](#)

Press release

Start of ban on plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds

Ministers continue fight against plastic waste to protect natural environments and marine wildlife.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [The Rt Hon George Eustice MP](#)

Published 1 October 2020



Every year in England we use 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds. Credit: Marine Conservation Society.

Related content

[Carrier bag charge: summary of data in England](#)

The ban on supplying plastic straws and stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds has come into force in England today (Thursday 1 October), marking yet another major step in the Government's fight against single-use plastic waste to protect our environment and clean up our oceans.

Just one month after ministers confirmed the single-use plastic bag charge would be increased to 10p and extended to all retailers, today's commencement of the ban will further ensure the country builds back greener.

It is estimated [we use 4.7 billion plastic straws](#), 316 million plastic stirrers, and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England every year, many of which find their way into our ocean. By banning the supply of these items, we can further protect our marine wildlife and move one step closer to our ambition of eliminating all avoidable plastic waste, [as set out in our 25 Year Environment Plan](#).

Action 3 – Serve Food with Plastic Free Dinnerware

The two restaurants at Hayling Island Sailing Club have plastic free dinnerware. The main seated restaurant has only metal dinnerware, then in their snack bar both metal and wooden dinnerware for a takeout option for the sailors.

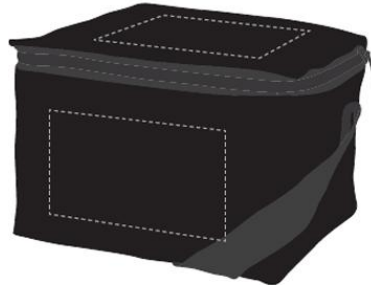


Action 4 – Skips Bags or Go Reuseable

Volunteer packed lunches were provided in paper bags from the catering team. Most volunteers were given re-useable lunch bags by us at previous event and continued using them - proving the effectiveness of the idea.

PRINTING CONCERNS:
SMALL DETAILS
MAY FILL IN

ACTUAL ARTWORK SIZE:



TOP OF THE BAG



FRONT OF THE BAG



The pre-event handbook also encouraged Sailors to bring a reusable lunch bag.

Sustainability

- Help us be more sustainable by considering how you travel to the venue and between the venue and your accommodation. Some sustainable travel options in venue could include:

- Car sharing
- Walking
- Cycling



- We'd like to gather as much information as possible regarding travel to and from the event. We'd really appreciate it if you could complete the following survey: [2026 RYA Youth National Championships - Travel Form](#)
- We need your help to protect the environment and maintain boating activity. Therefore, we expect only clean boats, trailers, and kit to arrive and clean boats and kit to leave the site, any boats that arrive fouled may be turned away. Please see this [Check Clean Dry](#) video from The Green Blue.

- We are discouraging the use of plastic bags so please remember to bring reusable lunch bags with you



- Don't forget to [Check, Clean and Dry](#) your dinghy/craft before you go home to remove the salt and any invasive animal or plant matter to prevent them spreading to other waterways.



Action 5 – Award Practical items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

All trophies are re-used from previous years; names are engraved into the plaques.



The medals do not have a date or venue on them so therefore can be used year after year. It is only the medal ribbon that has the date on, and a minimum order is placed for these each year. Medals are made from metal (not plastic).



Action 6 – Publicise Your Sustainability Efforts

Photo below from Social Media Post. This was posted on the Royal Yachting Association and The Green Blue Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.



Royal Yachting Association (RYA)
 23,755 followers
 1w • 🌐

Did you find [The Green Blue](#) at the 2026 RYA Youth Nationals? We brought sustainability to the shoreline for you to come and get involved!

Sailors took the Boating Pledge and chatted with the team about simple ways dinghy sailors can protect our waters, and recycle old kit. ♻️

👉 Sailors met local organisations like the [Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust](#) to explore marine specimens from Hayling Island.

🌱 [Solent Seascape Project](#) taught sailors how seagrass and habitat restoration is helping protect our waters

🦪 Harbour Oyster Project came with live oysters in action to show how they improve water quality

🗑️ [Final Straw Foundation CIO](#) joined us for a beach clean and water quality testing.

[#RYAYouthNationals](#) [#TheGreenBlue](#)







 You and 17 others


 1 comment



 Like


 Comment

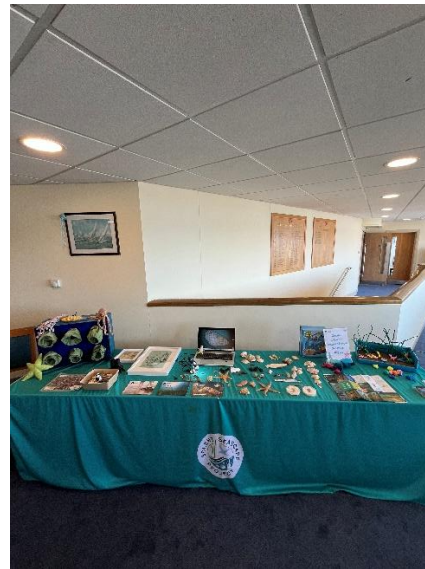

 Repost


 Send

Action 7 – Involve Local Organisations

For the event, we collaborated with the following local organisations:

Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is committed to creating a wilder future where wildlife thrives, nature powers solutions, communities are connected, and both people and planet flourish. The marine team are currently working on the Solent Seascape Project, restoring seagrass meadows and engaging the public in the Solent's amazing marine life.



Harbour Oyster – Harbour Oysters is an initiative from Lottie and Poppy Johns, two sisters who are installing baskets of native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) under pontoons and jetties to improve the water quality and boost local biodiversity.



Final Straw – Final Straw is a registered charity working to combat plastic pollution through community action, education, and collaboration. Founded in 2018 in Emsworth, Hampshire, it's grown from a small group of volunteers into a regionally recognised organisation inspiring change along the South Coast of England and beyond.



KitRound – Kitround is a marketplace built to keep sports kit in play. By reselling and redistributing kit, we reduce waste, cut costs for families, and support participation in sport.

Circular Flow - A neoprene recycle organisation to help divert old wetsuits from ending up in landfill.

Pre-event handbook detailed information about the local organisations and the activities carried out throughout the event.

Sustainability....continued

- The Green Blue Deposit Bin will be on site all week we are collecting used and unwanted sailing kit and equipment for recycling and redistribution. This will then be passed on to our partners Kitround and Circular Flow.
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is committed to creating a wilder future where wildlife thrives, nature powers solutions, communities are connected, and both people and planet flourish. The marine team are currently working on the Solent Seascape Project, restoring seagrass meadows and engaging the public in the Solent's amazing marine life. Come say hi to our staff and volunteers at our stand, where you will discover beautiful marine specimens and get creative moulding your own sea creatures out of clay.
 - HIWWT will be on the Green Blue stand all week with information about seagrass in the Solent including their new boating guide map.
 - On the **3rd and 8th** they will showcase some marine species and talk about what marine life is in the Solent. Also running shore surveys, taking people out to identifying species at HISC.
- Harbour Oysters is an initiative from Lottie and Poppy Johns, two sisters who are installing baskets of native oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) under pontoons and jetties to improve the water quality and boost local biodiversity.
 - Harbour Oyster will be on the Green Blue stand all week running a short quiz on the power of oysters and what they are doing with them.
 - On the **3rd and 8th** they will have a tank of live oysters for people to see and even handle with their 'sponsor an oyster' board.
- Final Straw is a registered charity working to combat plastic pollution through community action, education, and collaboration. Founded in 2018 in Emsworth, Hampshire, we've grown from a small group of volunteers into a regionally recognised organisation inspiring change along the South Coast of England and beyond.
- The Beach Clean will take place from HISC on **7th April from 10:00 to 13:00** (subject to change).






Action 8 – Post Educational and Reuseable Signage

The image below showcases the Check, Clean, Dry signage at the event venue wash downs station reminding sailors to wash down before and after getting off the water.



The photograph below features The HIWWT educational posters.



The photography below features The Green Blue Boating Pledge banner set up at the event venue to encourage sailors, volunteers and spectators to commit to sustainable boating practices. As well as the poster about the kit and equipment deposit bin.





Action 9 – Serve Local food or Source Seafood Sustainably

Email below from Hayling Island Sailing Clubs General Manager outlining the effort made by the club to source a significant proportion of their food and produce locally and sustainably.

Dear Alice

Further to Simon's emails, Hayling Island Sailing Club is pleased to support the RYA Green Blue Sustainability Club Accreditation and can confirm that we make every effort to source a significant proportion of our food and produce locally where possible.

Our catering team works with a number of local suppliers including:

- Premier Fish Ltd for fresh seafood and fish products
- Isaacs of Hayling Island for locally sourced meats and butcher supplies
- Local fruit and vegetable suppliers within the Hampshire and surrounding area supply chain

In addition, HISC offers a range of plant-based and vegetarian menu options across events and daily catering operations to help support more sustainable food choices for members and visitors.

By sourcing locally where practical, we aim to reduce transport miles, support local businesses, and minimise the club's overall environmental footprint during major events such as the RYA Youth Nationals.

Please let us know if you require any further information to support the Clean Regattas submission.

Kind regards,

Chris Rainbow

Action 10 – Organise a Green Team

RYA sustainability team supported by volunteers.



Action 11 – Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

The images below depict a series of bins at the event venue designated for general waste, recyclables and hazardous materials such as oil and fuel.



Sailors and visitors were also encouraged to adhere to signages for proper waste disposal in the pre-event handbook.

Venue Information

- **Parking :** All vehicles are to be parked either along the causeway or by the pre training area. Car park marshals (pink bibs) will be available to help if needed.
- **Venue contact:** HISC Staff will be on site for the whole event, please email reception@hisc.co.uk or phone 02392 463768. Reception will be open 0900-1700
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- **Water Refill Points:** HISC encourages visitors to bring their own reusable drinking containers. There is a dedicated water bottle refill point outside the snack bar and main bar.
- **Post Racing snack:** Please remember to grab your post racing snack from the Snack bar.
- **Waste bins:** Please adhere to the signage for these.

Action 12- Divert Food Waste from Landfill

Lunch vouchers were provided for volunteers on shore to reduce the amount of waste. The vouchers do not have the event date on and were reclaimed from the cafe for us to use for future events.

Any leftover packed lunch from volunteers on the water were either given to other volunteers or given to the sailors at the end of each day.

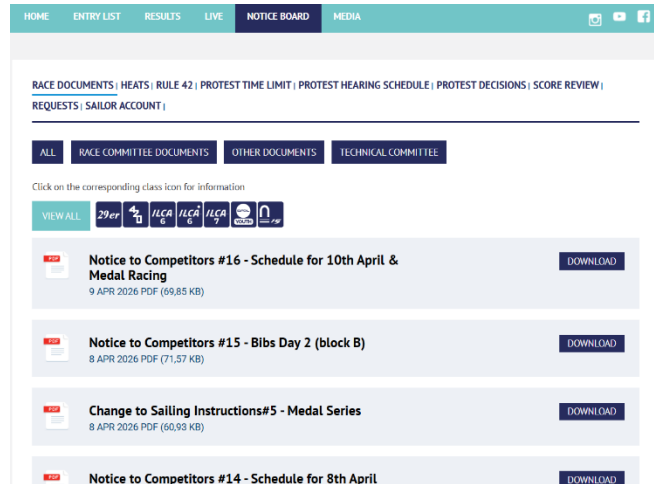


Specific food waste bins were provided at the venue with clear signage and positioned under the plate drop off point.

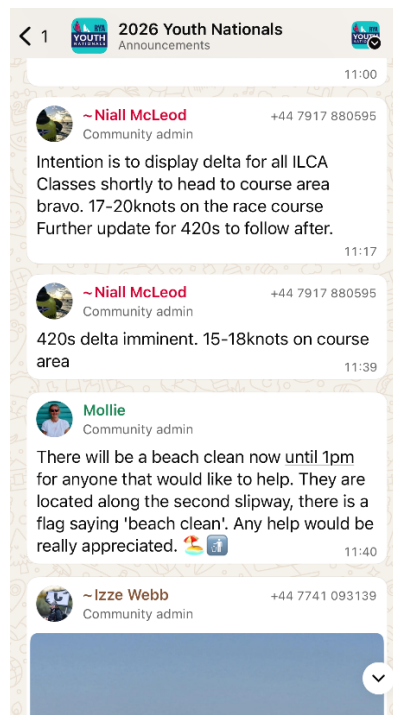


Action 13 – Use Paperless Event Management

The entry system and Official Notice Board was all on a dedicated Youth Nationals website. No Sailing Instructions (or NoR) were printed for competitors or volunteers. A few QR codes were used at the venue to direct sailors and volunteers to correct sites.



WhatsApp was used to communicate with volunteers and parents for the event:



A sustainability prize was introduced to encourage sailors to return trolley tags and accreditations.

Sustainability – PRIZE DRAW!



- You will be issued with your accreditation (including lanyard) and your trolley tag at registration.
- We would like to reuse your accreditations for future events and recycle your trolley tags so please ensure these are handed back at your respective prizegiving.
- When handing this back you will automatically be entered into a **prize draw to win a Musto Backpack!** (returning your accreditation and trolley tag doubles your chances!!)
- **The winners will be announced at Prizegiving on Monday 6th AND Friday 10th April so make sure you're there!**

Action 14 – Host A Beach Clean or Marine Clean up

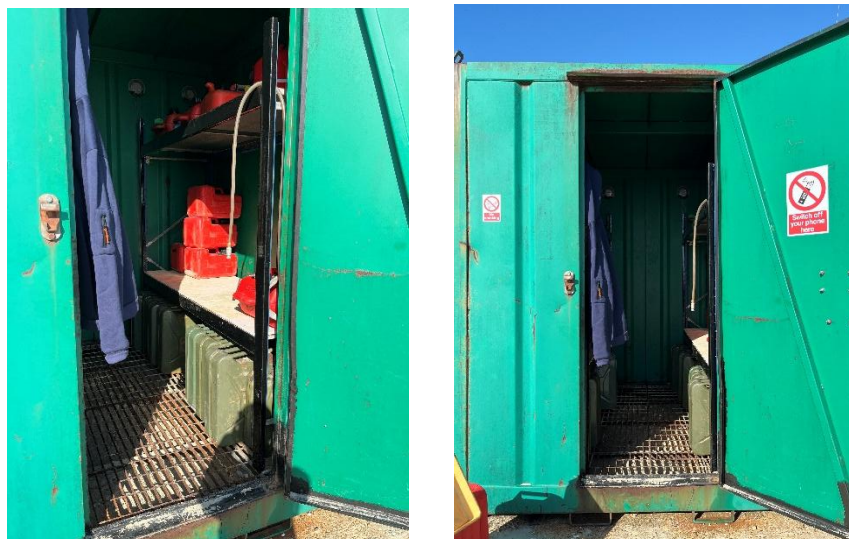
The Green Team and volunteers partaking in a beach clean at the event. Run by the Final Straw Foundation.



Action 15 – Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

The fuelling station at the club is equipped with an integrated drip spill containment system ensuring environmental safety and cleanliness.

All RIBs at the event had a spill kit onboard.



The photographs below depict a comprehensive spill containment kit strategically positioned near the fuelling dock to promptly and efficiently address any accidental discharge that may occur during the refuelling process.



The pre-event handbook gave information around the Check clean Dry process to help protect wildlife and habitats as well as increased awareness of invasive species

Sustainability

- Help us be more sustainable by considering how you travel to the venue and between the venue and your accommodation. Some sustainable travel options in venue could include:

- Car sharing
- Walking
- Cycling



- We'd like to gather as much information as possible regarding travel to and from the event. We'd really appreciate it if you could complete the following survey: [2026 RYA Youth National Championships - Travel Form](#)

- We need your help to protect the environment and maintain boating activity. Therefore, we expect only clean boats, trailers, and kit to arrive and clean boats and kit to leave the site, any boats that arrive fouled may be turned away. Please see this [Check Clean Dry](#) video from The Green Blue.

- We are discouraging the use of plastic bags so please remember to bring reusable lunch bags with you



- Don't forget to [Check, Clean and Dry](#) your dinghy/craft before you go home to remove the salt and any invasive animal or plant matter to prevent them spreading to other waterways.



Action 16 – Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust had local species and habitats on display on their stand informing sailors and parents. They had a microscope to allow a closer view on the species. All the species they have were found by local volunteers across Hayling Island beaches.



Action 17 – Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Photo below should menu options for themed night with vegetarian options and the breakfast menu with vegetarian options.



Email below from Hayling Island Sailing Clubs General Manager outlining the range of plant based and vegetarian menu options.



Dear Alice

Further to Simon's emails, Hayling Island Sailing Club is pleased to support the RYA Green Blue Sustainability Club Accreditation and can confirm that we make every effort to source a significant proportion of our food and produce locally where possible. Our catering team works with a number of local suppliers including:

- Premier Fish Ltd for fresh seafood and fish products
- Isaacs of Hayling Island for locally sourced meats and butcher supplies
- Local fruit and vegetable suppliers within the Hampshire and surrounding area supply chain

In addition, HISC offers a range of plant-based and vegetarian menu options across events and daily catering operations to help support more sustainable food choices for members and visitors.

By sourcing locally where practical, we aim to reduce transport miles, support local businesses, and minimise the club's overall environmental footprint during major events such as the RYA Youth Nationals.

Please let us know if you require any further information to support the Clean Regattas submission.

Kind regards,

Chris Rainbow

Action 18 – Promote Alternative Transport

We collected staff, volunteers and sailors travel data to and from the event.



Thank you for your support at this RYA event, and for completing this form.

All responses are anonymous and will be used only for the purposes stated below.

The RYA recognises that our events have an impact on the environment, and we are working to reduce our environmental impact across all our activity and improve on sustainability.

Answers from this survey will build on the data needed for reporting; provide us with information to implement suitable actions to reduce our impact, and to monitor our progress. If you have any questions please email environment@rya.org.uk.

What is your role at the event? *

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ RYA Staff | ☐ Coach | ☐ Event Partner |
| ☐ RYA Volunteer | ☐ Supporting team for athletes | ☐ Retail / Supplier |
| ☐ Athlete | ☐ Event Board Member | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |

Will you be staying in local accommodation during the event? *

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Yes (hotel) | ☐ Yes (apartment / self catering) | ☐ Unsure |
| ☐ Yes (camping / campervan) | ☐ No | ☐ Other <input type="text"/> |

Travel

Please consider the travel required for a single return trip to attend the event.

If you are travelling to the event over multiple days, please use the most likely / frequent mode of travel.

How do you plan to travel to and from the event? *

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Car / van (alone) | ☐ Flight |
| ☐ Car / van (shared) | ☐ Walk / Cycle |
| ☐ Train | ☐ Unsure |
| ☐ Bus / Coach | |

Please select the main mode of travel to arrive at the event / event accommodation.

Approximately how many miles in total will you travel to attend the event? *

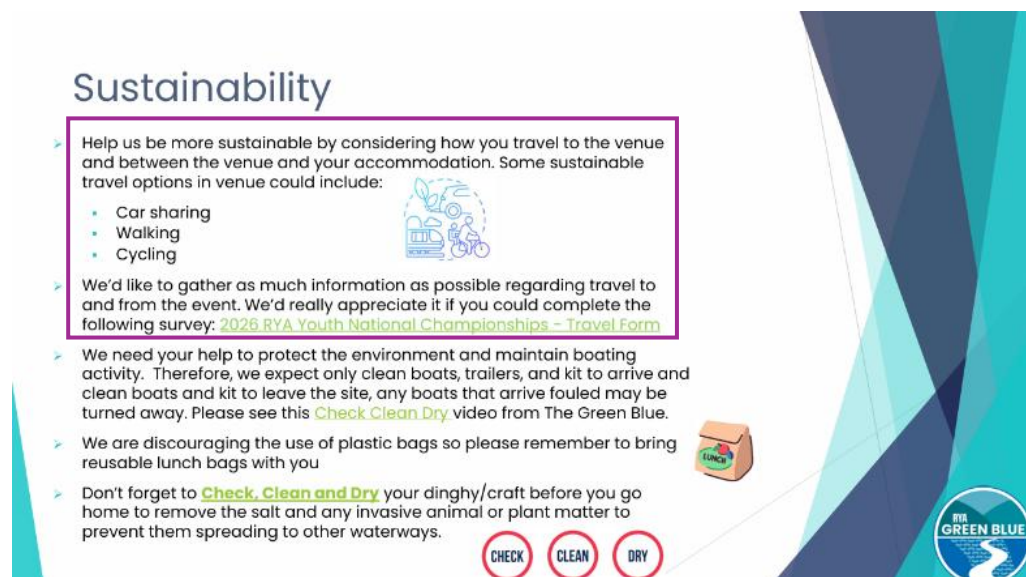
Distance for the total return trip

Would you be open to using a personalised travel management system to plan your visit for future events?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Submit

Sailors and volunteers were encouraged to share transport to and from the event and asked to consider how they would travel to the venue each day if staying locally.



Sustainability

- Help us be more sustainable by considering how you travel to the venue and between the venue and your accommodation. Some sustainable travel options in venue could include:
 - Car sharing
 - Walking
 - Cycling
- We'd like to gather as much information as possible regarding travel to and from the event. We'd really appreciate it if you could complete the following survey: [2026 RYA Youth National Championships - Travel Form](#)
- We need your help to protect the environment and maintain boating activity. Therefore, we expect only clean boats, trailers, and kit to arrive and clean boats and kit to leave the site, any boats that arrive fouled may be turned away. Please see this [Check Clean Dry](#) video from The Green Blue.
- We are discouraging the use of plastic bags so please remember to bring reusable lunch bags with you
- Don't forget to [Check, Clean and Dry](#) your dinghy/craft before you go home to remove the salt and any invasive animal or plant matter to prevent them spreading to other waterways.

CHECK CLEAN DRY

Action 19 – Reduce Day of Event Emissions

Extra RIBs or vessels not needed were in use throughout the event.

RIB drivers were educated on sustainable boating practices such as turning off engine when anchored and reducing throttle to lower carbon emissions.

Sailors and visitors were also encouraged to use lower carbon alternative and local accommodation options in the pre-event communications.

Hayling Island Sailing Club has solar panels across the whole roof of the club, which power the operations of the club house reducing the emissions.



Action 20 – Inspire Future Action

Staff, Volunteers and Sailors were encouraged to take The Green Blue Boating Pledge to Respect, Protect, and Enjoy for cleaner, healthier waters.



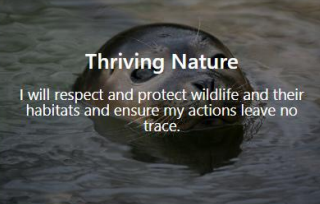
The Boating Pledge



Join Our Sustainable Boating Community!

As boaters, we're the stewards of the waters we navigate, and the places that we love. Every choice we make has an impact and leaves a mark on our environment.

Make the Green Blue Boating Pledge and join a community committed to protecting our waters and nature for future generations to enjoy.

 Greener Choices I will lower my carbon footprint by choosing cleaner energy, seeking greener alternatives and reducing my waste.	 Thriving Nature I will respect and protect wildlife and their habitats and ensure my actions leave no trace.
 Cleaner Waters I will keep our waters clean by handling waste responsibly, preventing spills, and choosing low-impact, non-toxic products.	 Be an Ambassador I will educate myself on responsible boating and inspire others to do the same.

Make Your Pledge Here!

We had deposit bins set up at the event to collect old wetsuits for recycling diverting them from going to landfill. We collected over 85 items which have been collected by our partner organisations to be recycled or redistributed.



Out of the collect items the kit and equipment that could be distributed was sent to our partner Kitround. Using their Kitround 360 they found that our collection had:

- 45.36kg of kit redistributed through Kitround. Preventing over 10,195 landfill year
- 666.3kg CO₂e emissions avoided. Equivalent to motoring a cruising yacht from Southampton to the Azore
- 7,331 Litres of water retained in circulation. Equivalent to filling approximately 45 cruising yacht freshwater tanks