CLEAN REGATTA
SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

SAILORS FOR THE SEA PLATINUM AWARD
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Introduction
Following the launch of the Port of Dover's sustainability statement – ‘Targeting Our Sustainable Future’

The Port of Dover Regatta returned for the first time since 2019, the first event since the launch of the sustainability statement. One of our continual targets was ‘Zero Impact Events’. In order to continue achieving this target we adopted sustainable event management, including making our return of the Regatta a clean one. Sailors For the Sea’s Clean Regattas is the world’s leading sustainability certification for all on-the-water, near-the-water, and water-loving events. Since the program’s inception in 2006, over 3,000 events have shown their commitments to sustainability by hosting Clean Regattas. Clean Regattas is a self-assessment tool with powerful resources and support that awards certification levels from Participant to Platinum. It outlines a total of 20 Best Practices, these action items are the most impactful ways you can make meaningful changes at your event.

After two years of pandemic restrictions, the Port of Dover and Destination Dover were delighted to see the return of a successful clean regatta.

Regatta Report Information
Report submitted by
Lanisha Joseph, Environment Advisor

Name of Regatta: Port of Dover Regatta 2022
Date of Regatta: 06/08/2022

Names of Green team;

- Megan Turner, Port of Dover
- Lanisha Joseph, Port of Dover
- Ben Crake, Port of Dover
- Diederick Smet, Destination Dover
- Olivia Beardsmore, Destination Dover
Best Practices

Best practices are 20 high-impact ways to make your event sustainable. These fall under 5 overarching best practices:

- **Elimination of Single Use Items**
  1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations
  2. Eliminate Plastic Straws
  3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware
  4. Use or provide reusable bags
  5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled trophy

- **Community Involvement**
  6. Publicise Your Sustainability Efforts
  7. Involve Local Organisations
  8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage
  9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

- **Responsible Waste Management**
  10. Organise a Green team
  11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage
  12. Divert Food Waste from the landfill
  13. Use Paperless Event Management

- **Environmental Stewardship**
  14. Host a Beach or Marine Clean-up
  15. Promote Alternative Transportation
  16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection
  17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan alternatives

- **Green Boating**
  18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques
  19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water
  20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

The following sections describe the combined efforts of the Port of Dover and Destination Dover to achieve a Clean Regatta by adopting sustainability best practices recommended by the Sailors For The Sea – Clean Regatta Program. Each section addresses the 20 best practices.
Elimination of Single Use Items

To ensure we were eliminating single-use items, free reusable water bottles were handed out by the Port of Dover, made using 100% ocean diverted plastic. Water refill stations located at the Marina allow marina users to refill their personal water bottles.

All vendor communications sent out prior to the Regatta start date encouraged vendors and concessions to adopt sustainable best practices. Pricing options offered a standard stall price and a sustainable stand price for following and implementing best practices (Top Right) as well as vendors could. Stall prices were inflated for vendors who did not want to comply with offering sustainable alternatives. For future events these changes will be reinforced with vendors who do not want to comply not being allowed to host a stall at the upcoming event. This will allow us to continually achieve zero impact from our events and best practices 1-4.

As part of eliminating single-use items, the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club held a Commodores cup race where winners were awarded with the perpetual Commodores cup. The Port of Dover hosted a raffle with prizes such as practical items, experience days and discounts, such as Dover Sea Safari tickets, Tug boat trip and return ferry crossings and more (Bottom Right). All the awards and prizes mentioned contributed to best practice 5; Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or upcycled Trophy.
Community Involvement

Ahead of the Regatta, we publicly released our port wide sustainability efforts to ‘Targeting Our Sustainable Future’. Within this document we addressed our carbon commitments and continual targets (Right). Our Port of Dover stand (Top and Bottom left) also displayed our target zeros with members from the environment team on hand to answer any sustainability questions, through this we were able to engage with the local community and businesses on initiatives towards decarbonisation.

A range of local organisations and charities such as ‘Dover Outreach Centre’ (Top left), the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity (Top Middle), White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (Top Right) were invited down to the Port of Dover Regatta. All funds raised throughout the day were awarded to this year’s two charity partners: Dover RNLI (Bottom Left) and Dover Food Bank (Bottom Right).
All Regatta signage, including banners and bunting, were made from Envirotech PVC Free Blockout, which is 100% recyclable. The intention is for them to be re-used, so banners and posters excluded a date to ensure their use in future regattas (Top). The Wildlife signage along the seafront has become a permanent feature; all visitors will have the opportunity to take a look and learn more about the species living in the area designed and created by the Port of Dover.

The Environment Team produced a wildlife game (Bottom Left and Right), where participants could learn about 6 different species found at the Port of Dover alongside some fun facts; fact sheets were located around the Regatta area; all contestants were provided with a map and question paper to be returned, marked, and recycled upon completion. Winners could choose from a reusable bottle, metal keyring, or keep their Port of Dover pen / pencil used to answer the quiz as prizes.

The Port of Dover welcomed 77 vendors down to this year’s Regatta, from craft and gifts to cooked burgers and light refreshments. All vendors were encouraged to provide/ source locally produced food and items. All 11 food vendors were local to Dover, Kent. Existing concessions and restaurants such as Big Pan foods, Café on the Curve and Marco Pierre White Chophouse allowed visitors to enjoy and experience dining in Dover.

To go the extra mile, all Regatta equipment, hire, and other resources were sourced locally to reduce the distance travelled and help the local community. These were the most impactful ways to achieve best practice 9; Serve local food or source sustainably.
Responsible Waste Management

All volunteers were briefed on the clean regatta best practices. These volunteers alongside organisers and Port of Dover stand holders made up some of our green team. The green team consisted of sustainability managers, environment advisors and assistants, event managers and more, all dedicated to overseeing and the implementation of specific best practices.

The Port of Dover already operates a zero waste to landfill continual improvement target so additional signage was placed on bins (Left and middle) to educate visitors of the waste journey encouraging people to utilise waste facilities. In other areas clear waste segregation
was already in place (Right) so visitors were encouraged by the green team to use the correct receptacle. All waste, including food waste, whether placed in the correct bin or not, is sorted at the Port’s waste contractor site. 96% of the waste produced by the port and at this event could be recycled, with the remaining 4% being used at a waste to energy plant.

All event management was co-ordinated via emails, video conferences and in person meetings. All registration for vendors and competition participants was completed online. Signage on the day of the regatta included QR codes for visitors to scan and download the programme and event map. This avoided printing thousands of paper programmes, as QR codes provide benefits such as editing and modifying the content even after they have been mounted onto existing signage.

Environmental Stewardship

To achieve best practice 14; Host a Beach or Marina Clean Up, Beach and river cleans are held on multiple occasions throughout the year as part of our ‘Employee Volunteering Scheme’. Port of Dover employees are awarded a volunteer day where they can choose to attend a beach clean along Shakespeare beach or River clean along the River Dour. The ports cleaning contractor and Regatta volunteers were on hand to clean up throughout the day as well as carry out a detailed clean of the beach after the event. Previous beach cleans were scheduled throughout Volunteer week in June and upcoming Beach cleans in October alongside White Cliffs Countryside Partnership.

Road closures around the event site reduced the number of cars entering the area. A ‘Park and Ride’ option was made available from the Cruise terminal over to the Regatta site, all visitors were advised to use public transport or low carbon options. Click2Cycle Bike hire launched earlier this year using the latest app technology so ‘customers can be on their way with just a few clicks on a mobile phone’. Along the seafront in Dover bike stands provide the option of push or electrical bikes that can be picked up and dropped off at other local stands such as Dover Castle, Dover White Cliffs and seafront. A pop up bike stage was
located on the promenade on the day of the Regatta; this along with encouraging visitors to leave their cars at home, travel via public transport and hire the bikes to get around the local area contributed to best practice 15; Promoting Alternative Transport.

To increase awareness of wildlife and habitat protection under best practice 16, the Port of Dover have installed educational seafront wildlife area signage located within our wildlife beds (Bottom Left and Right). Visitors to the Regatta were able to learn more about species of flora and fauna found along the seafront and in the vegetated shingle. The existing wildlife area is managed by promoting natural colonisation allowing wild plants to self-seed, encouraging a natural balance of plants providing food and shelter for a range of species such as the Rare Fiery Clearwing Moth (*Pyropteron chrysidiformis*) that can only be found in a few coastal areas including Dover. It is highly protected under schedule 5 of the wildlife and countryside Act but takes shelter and finds food in the Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*).

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) display has previously incorporated marine and air displays. For the Port of Dover 2022 Regatta there was only a marine display (Top). This was organised to reduce the impact and disturbance on any local, nesting or fledging young birds such as Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falcon peregrinus*) and Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) in the local area. As the event was hosted from 10am –
6pm, this finished during daylight hours, so a firework display was not performed. For future regattas to avoid wildlife disturbances from noise and air pollution, firework displays will not be part of the program. This falls in line with our target zero’s covering zero air quality impact and zero harm from our activities.

Our new plant-based concession stand ‘Pek’, located on the Marina Curve, offered a tasty plant-based alternative. All vendors and concession menus across the event offered at least a vegetarian or vegan alternative as part of best practice 17.
Green Boating

To achieve best practice 19; Prevent toxins from entering the water. Spill kits were located around the Ports estate (Bottom Left). A map was also made available on request. Should a spill occur members of the green team were fully trained in spill response and hold MCA Marine spill qualifications ranging from 2P-4P response levels. All vendors were located away from the quay edge to eliminate the potential of toxins entering straight into the water.

Unlike a traditional Regatta, The Port of Dover Regatta is unique in focusing on hosting a community day out for the local area. We therefore had no need to use eco smart-race management techniques but encouraged green boating practices by encouraging visitors to pledge to become Sailors for the Sea Green boaters. These pledge sheets were located on the Port of Dover Sustainability stand. Our community raft race communications were sent encouraging participating teams to create rafts using sustainable materials. This was further communicated within the entry packs, containing in depth conditions of entry, focusing on sustainability and environmental consciousness to prevent toxins from entering the sea. Raft entries included materials such as clip top drums, cones and recycled wood.
A big congratulations to Dover RNLI who won the community raft race (Top).
The Port of Dover would like to thank Sailors for the Sea for providing a program that manages and contributes to targeting our sustainable future. We will continue to participate in hosting a clean regatta, improving on this year’s best practices and the ways we can make the most meaningful changes aligning with our continual improvement target; Zero Impact from Our Events.

Thank you to all our visitors and sponsors for attending and supporting the return of the Port of Dover Regatta. We look forward to seeing you again next year.