



2018 VINEYARD CUP

Sustainability Report

This is the fourth year of Sail Martha's Vineyard hosting the Vineyard Cup regatta as a **LOCALLY** Sourced / **ZERO** Waste event. SailMV is committed to managing this event in an environmentally responsible manner and to promoting awareness about the health of our oceans.

Event Snapshot:

- 3 day event
- 72 vessels racing
- 200+ people in attendance each day
- Over 900 meals served
- Only 3 ft³ of waste to landfill!

As an organization that both works and plays on the ocean, Sail Martha's Vineyard is deeply committed to operating in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. In addition to running an environmentally conscious event, SailMV strives to spread awareness about ocean issues, particularly marine debris.

As has been done in the past, SailMV eliminates paper waste by sharing all information electronically. SailMV's sustainability policy and goals are also shared with competitors to make sure they understand the ethos of the Vineyard Cup.

The major waste reduction involves our post-racing dinners. SailMV uses real plates, forks, glasses, and napkins. SailMV also uses a GREEN TEAM of kids from the summer sailing camp that help guests properly sort their waste into: compost, return, recycle, re-use, and trash. At the end of the three-day event, the trash bound for the landfill fit inside a 1.5'x2'x1' box! This 3ft³ of waste was mostly thin plastic wrapping.

In addition to reducing landfill bound waste, SailMV strives to source all food locally. This year SailMV teamed up with the MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust for Friday's dinner. Not only was dinner delicious seafood caught by local Island fishermen, but SailMV was able to showcase this wonderful and important marine organization that helps keep fishing alive on the Island.

A new initiative at the Vineyard Cup this year was to have an "Ocean Awareness Tent" to engage both children and adults with ocean issues. There were 7 different environmental groups in attendance: BiodiversityWorks, MV Shellfish Group, Great Pond Foundation, MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust, Sailors for the Sea, Sea Education Association, Vineyard Conservation Society. Each group had information and an activity - from fish printing, to canvas bag decorating, to exploring ocean pH and acidification, etc. Competitors and children alike were busy visiting each group, learning, and making.

SailMV also added a pledge for competitors and guests to sign in support of reducing trash in our oceans. This was inspired by the UN's Clean Seas campaign.

The 2018 Vineyard Cup achieved Platinum Level Status from Sailors for the Sea for the environmental efforts with this regatta. Sail MV plans to purchase carbon credits to offset the carbon footprint from this event. In 2017, credits were purchased from the Ocean Foundation's SeaGrass Grow program.

Sustainability Initiatives at the 2018 Vineyard Cup:

- A Notice of Expectations to competitors outlined SailMV's sustainability policy, efforts, and expectations for competitors (ie. no single-use plastic water bottles on their boats!)
- Paperless communication (NOR, sailing instructions, course diagrams, etc.) were available online, they were not printed on paper
- Reusable signage
- A pledge for competitors/guests to sign in support of reducing trash in our oceans
- Reusable dinnerware (plates, utensils, glasses, napkins)
- Locally sourced food
 - Friday's dinner was in collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust. All of the fish was caught by local island fishermen!
 - Saturday's pigs were from local farms, and all veggies for each dinner came from the Island
- Collected and properly sorted waste from each post-race dinner
 - 4 categories: compost, recycling, re-use, trash
- Saturday included an "Ocean Awareness Tent" with local environmental groups that provided learning materials and activities for kids (and adults!)

Thank you to our competitors, our GREEN TEAM kids, our many volunteers, and 11th Hour Racing for supporting our sustainability efforts!