

CORPUS CHRISTI

SUSTAINABILITY EVENT PLAN



GREEN TEAM

Developed by the Corpus Christi Yacht Club Green Team
for the
2018 Youth Sailing World Championships, July 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?	3
PLANNING YOUR EVENT.	4
• Pre-event Actions	4
• Post-event Actions	4
SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE / BEST PRACTICES	5
• Waste Management	5
• No Single-Use Plastics or Styrofoam!	7
• Communication / Branding.	9
• Product Vendors	9
• Sustainable Food	9
HEALTHY BAYS	10
• Reduction of Pollutants from Runoff.	10
• Litter Prevention	10
• Wildlife	11
• Wildlife Plan.	12
ENERGY MANAGEMENT / REDUCTION OF CARBON EMISSIONS	13
• Alternative Energy.	13
• Carbon Offsets.	13
• Transportation.	13
EDUCATION & OUTREACH.	14
• Promote Benefits of Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship	14
RESOURCES	15
• Corpus Christi Conservation Groups	15
• Locally Sourced Food	15
• T-Shirts.	15
• Carbon Offsets.	15
• State Resources	15
• Texas City Sustainability Commissions.	16
• National / International Resources	16
APPENDIX	17
• Green Team Members, 2018 Youth Sailing World Championships	17
PUBLISHER AND AUTHORS	18

INTRODUCTION

The City of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Yacht Club hosted the 2018 Youth Sailing World Championships from July 14-21, 2018. 382 sailors from over 66 countries participated in the regatta. The 2018 Youth Sailing World Championships was the first World Sailing Championship to focus on Sustainability and Ocean Conservation and the first to achieve the Platinum Level Clean Regatta Certification under the Sailors for the Sea guidelines. The Local Organizing Committee created a Green Team Committee (GTC) to guide the 2018 YSWC toward a more sustainable future. The GTC included leaders from local and state conservation groups, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and key personnel from the City of Corpus Christi. See Appendix 1 for a list of the GTC members.

The GTC created this Sustainability Event Plan to provide guidelines and resources for other organizations in Corpus Christi to run more sustainable events. The Green Team's goal with this plan is to encourage other groups to voluntarily make their events more sustainable and to improve their community by reducing the use of plastics and reducing the amount of waste generated during public events. While some aspects of this plan may seem tailored to an outdoor, competitive event, any kind of event where large numbers of people interact can benefit from following best practices.

This plan is meant to be a living document that can be updated as new knowledge and developments related to sustainability enable organizers to plan and run more sustainable events. We invite others to add to the plan so that future events and the community may benefit. New ideas and lessons learned can be added as an appendix to this living document.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

There are many definitions of sustainability. The United Nation's 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future noted that "sustainable development should meet the needs of the present without compromising the well-being of future generations". In 2000, the Earth Charter broadened the definition of sustainability to include the idea of a global society "founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace." The International Olympic Committee's official definition of sustainability states that, "when making decisions, we ensure feasibility, and we seek to maximize positive impact and minimize negative impact in the social, economic and environmental spheres."

This Corpus Christi Sustainability Event Plan will focus mainly on the environmental and educational aspects of sustainability. The GTC hopes that this document will continue to be updated and include more information on economic and social aspects of sustainability in the future.

BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE EVENTS:

- Environmental leadership and education of the community
- Increased awareness to reduce waste, energy and the consumption of materials
- Diverting waste from landfills which are quickly reaching maximum capacity to recycling centers and/or industrial composting facilities
- Encouraging the use of sustainable services and commodities and expanding their markets



PLANNING YOUR EVENT

PRE-EVENT ACTIONS

1. ASSEMBLE A 'GREEN TEAM'

- a. Nominate a well-organized, passionate leader with excellent communication skills to lead the Green Team.
- b. Invite the Community to help with the sustainability challenges.
- c. Include stakeholders on the event Green Team.

2. DETERMINE WHAT YOUR SUSTAINABILITY GOAL(S) ARE

- a. Create and establish expectations.
- b. Identify specific goals and measurable objectives.
- c. Establish clear and achievable guidelines for all constituencies: municipal employees, elected officials, competitors, guests, volunteers, media, etc.

3. ENGAGE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC

- a. Reach out to the Chamber of Commerce, Corpus Christi Convention & Visitor's Bureau, business associations, and business owners.
- b. Create partnerships with local environmental groups, elementary/middle/high schools and universities
- c. Contact police, fire, waste management and other relevant City of Corpus Christi branches

4. GENERATE AWARENESS AND PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

- a. Get the word out, communicate to attendees about your sustainable event through press releases and news stories.
- b. Share your sustainability messaging on websites and through social media.
- c. Send out Information with registration or ticket purchase.

5. VOLUNTEERS - DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS ARE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE EVENT.

6. ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- a. Local: Get on the agenda for the city council meeting to explain the sustainability strategy of your event. Seek their written support. It's best to send a draft letter ahead, so they can approve it in public session.
- b. County: Meet with the county commissioner, ask for her/his written support and get on the county commissioner's meeting agenda and seek their written support.
- c. State: Make the state representative and senator aware of the sustainability efforts of your event, either by meeting with them or mailing them a description of the event initiatives.
- d. Federal: Identify and approach the local environmental police officer and the senior chief of the nearest USCG station and solicit the support of their assets.

POST-EVENT ACTIONS

1. Measure your successes – have an after-event discussion and evaluation of what measures were successful and which ones need improvements.
2. Gather photos or other documentation and inform the media so the community can learn more about sustainable events and feel pride in the efforts that are being implemented in their community.
3. Publish a sustainability report, documenting all activities and accomplishments of your event.
4. Identify any new or missed opportunities that may help contribute toward greater sustainability of future events in Corpus Christi.
5. Add to this plan as new knowledge and developments in sustainability enable future organizers to plan and run more sustainable events.

SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE / BEST PRACTICES

This section provides guidelines to help organize a sustainable event, including best practices, resources, and tips.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

CREATE A WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Communicate with the companies contracted to haul the different types of waste to understand and comply with their disposal requirements.
- Make waste management centralized and easy to navigate
 - Provide clearly marked bins for:
 - (1) Returning (bottles and cans)
 - (2) Recycling (cardboard, plastic, paper, aluminum, etc.)
 - (3) Composting
 - (4) Landfill Waste
 - (5) Reusing (dinnerware, etc.)
 - Ensure that the number of recycling receptacles to trash receptacles reflects a 1:1 ratio. Every trash bin should have a recycling bin next to it. If you are able to compost, then a compost bin should also be next to all recycle and trash bins.
- To divert the maximum amount of waste away from the landfill, inform food vendors well in advance which types of plates, to-go containers, utensils and cups will be acceptable for recycling and composting.
 - When possible, washable and reusable plates, cups and utensils are the best option.
 - If industrial composting will not be available, avoid compostable cups and utensils that will only break down in high heat composting systems and will not be accepted by the city's recycling facility.
 - For recycling, plastics #1-3 are preferred. Avoid #s 4-8.
 - Consider creating a list (with photos) of recommended plates, to-go containers, utensils and cups, along with a list of suppliers, to hand out to the vendors. A list of suppliers of eco-friendly disposable suppliers can be found at the Debris Free Ocean website
- Before the event educate your staff/volunteers ("green team") and your guests about which waste items belong in which waste bin.
- Station volunteers at the waste stations to guide event participants on putting recyclables in the recycling containers, trash in the trash containers, and compostable products in the composting container, etc.
- Create a Litter Cleanup Operations Team, responsible for keeping the venue free from trash.

LOCAL PRIVATE WASTE AND RECYCLING HAULERS:

- Republic Services. Tel: 361-698-5000 [republicservices.com/communities/special-events](https://www.republicservices.com/communities/special-events)
- Dumpster rentals - Coastal Trailer Trash. Tel: 361-653-0417

NATIONAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS:

- TerraCycle –Offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers, and retailers around the world to help you collect and recycle your hard-to-recycle waste including hard plastics cleaned up from the beach. [terracycle.com/en-US](https://www.terracycle.com/en-US)

COMPOST

The City of Corpus Christi currently does not offer industrial composting facilities. However, there are local agricultural farmers who will take food scraps for composting. There are also local pig farmers who will take food waste. The Islander Green Team of TAMUCC has an active composting facility on campus.

The closest industrial composting facilities are located in San Antonio. If your event will be using compostable cutlery or dishware, keep in mind that these **MUST** go to an industrial composter. For large events where using reusable china plates, metal utensils, and cloth napkins are not possible, please consider partnering with an industrial composter in San Antonio and trucking the compost to their facility.

- Provide compost bins where all trash and recycle bins are located.
- Use clear signage.
- To reduce contamination, food vendors should be using compostable food packaging and overall reduction of food packaging should be encouraged.

TIP!

To ensure that items will compost fully in an industrial facility, they should be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute:



BPI®

COMPOSTABLE
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # SAMPLE

COMPOSTING RESOURCES:

- Islander Green Team of TAMUCC
6300 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi TX, 78412. Tel. 361-825-5525
islandergreen.tamucc.edu
- New Earth Composting
7800 IH 10 East, San Antonio, TX, 78219. Tel. 210-661-5180
newearthcompost.com

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

The environmental impact of food waste is vast. A few impacts range from waste of freshwater to produce food, waste of energy and natural resources to process, transport, cook, and store food, methane gas emissions from breakdown of organic materials in landfills, and other impacts. A sustainable event should make efforts to reduce food waste. Donations of excess food (leftovers) should be made to a food bank or shelter.

- Make efforts to reduce food waste
- Donate excess food to a food bank or shelter.
- Send leftovers home with the volunteers.

COASTAL BEND FOOD DONATION:

- Coastal Bend Food Bank
826 Krill Street, Corpus Christi TX, 78408. Tel. 361-887-6291
coastalbendfb@feedingamerica.org



NO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS OR STYROFOAM!

ELIMINATE SINGLE USE WATER BOTTLES

- Provide, sell or encourage people to bring their own reusable water bottle and straw (if needed).
- Provide a water filling station with reusable cups or make it clear that guests need to bring their own reusable water bottle

WATER REFILLING STATIONS:

- Water Monster, a local Texas company, sells and rents 125-gallon tanks for athletic events in hotter weather. watermonster.us
- Use 5-gallon water jugs with [dolphin pumps](#)

DO NOT PROVIDE / USE PLASTIC STRAWS

As of early 2018, data from Ocean Conservancy's [TIDES system](#) shows us that straws/stirrers are the 11th most found ocean trash in cleanups, making up about 3% of recovered trash. Straws are especially dangerous to seabirds and turtles.

ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC STRAWS:

- [Paper straws](#) #strawfreeocean - \$0.04/straw.
- [Hay!Straws](#) - \$0.08/straw
- [Navy anchor straws](#) - \$0.04-0.12/straw
- [Bambu Straws](#) - \$1.42/straw

AVOID INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED PLASTIC PRODUCTS (condiments, sugar, foods, etc.)

- Reduce or eliminate single-use plastics for food packaging

CHOOSE REUSABLE DINNERWARE

If it is not possible to use reusable dinnerware, cutlery, and napkins, then choose compostable or recyclable options. (NO PLASTIC or STYROFOAM!)

TIP!

Serve food options that do not require utensils (i.e., sandwiches, tacos, corn on the cob, etc. vs. chili or pasta)

ENCOURAGE REUSABLE BAGS AND REUSABLE CONTAINERS

- Provide a discount on food items if participants bring their own reusable containers.

TIP!

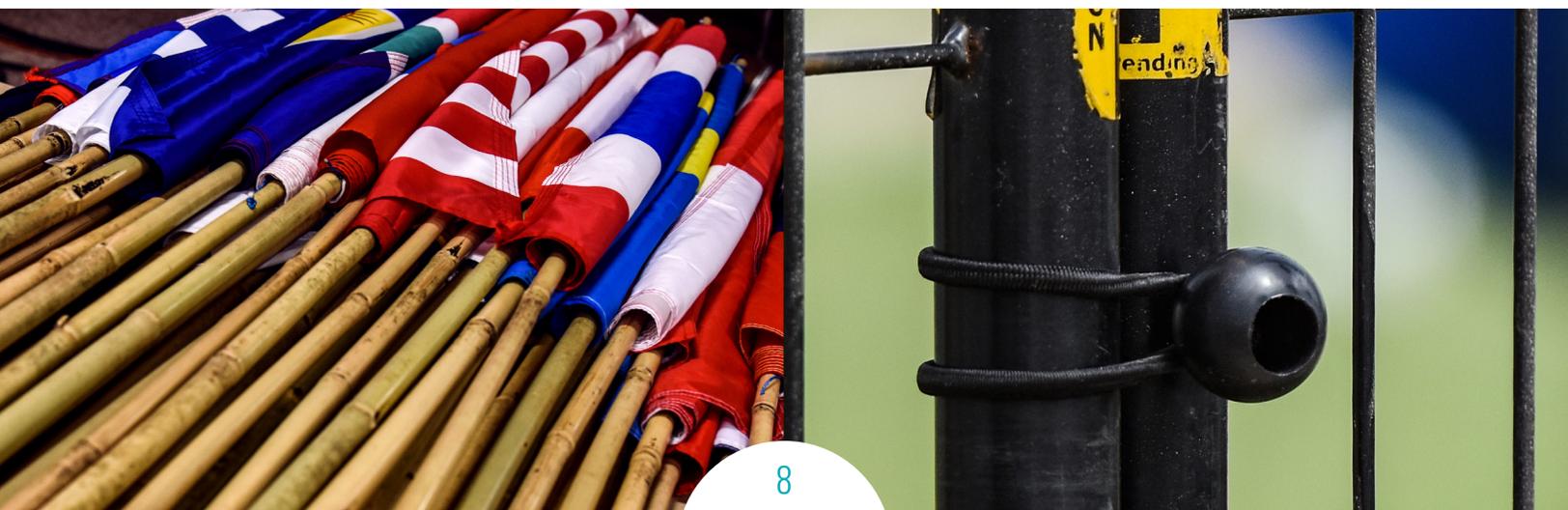
Functional memorabilia such as canvas bags and water bottles with the event logo can be offered for sale to discourage the use of single-use plastic items.

SEEK OUT ALTERNATIVES FOR SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Examples of unique solutions include:

- Use metal or bamboo as flag poles instead of PVC.
- Use bungee cords or rope to attach banners to fencing and any place where zip ties would normally be used.

BAN ALL STYROFOAM AND BALLOONS



COMMUNICATION / BRANDING

- Use digital instead of paper communication whenever possible (event details, directions, social activities, etc.)
- If paper is necessary, use 100% recycled paper.
- Create reusable signs for a recurring event.
- Create an app for your event which details up-to-date information. Team App is a great platform that allows event organizers to communicate with staff/volunteers/participants instantly.
- Choose water based, eco-friendly inks for printing.
- Use an alternative to a printed foam board
 - Blue Wave Printing
bluewaveprinting.com
- Use non-PVC alternatives when creating branding. Suggestions for your printer:
 - xcelproducts.com
 - cooleygroup.com

LOCAL DIGITAL MEDIA RESOURCES:

- Richline Technical Services
114 N. Mesquite St., Corpus Christi TX, 78401. Tel. 361-882-6257
richline.cc

PRODUCT VENDORS

- Use vendors which are environmentally conscious.
- If you get t-shirts or other promotional clothing, purchase event t-shirts made of recycled plastics.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

- Work with your catering company to make sure that food is locally sourced as much as possible and that vegetarian options are available.
- Ensure that all seafood offered is sustainably caught and/or locally sourced.

TIP!

The G.U.L.F. (Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries), Gulf Wild, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch are great resources to help identify sustainable seafood options.



HEALTHY BAYS

REDUCTION OF POLLUTANTS FROM RUNOFF

The City of Corpus Christi operates a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, also called an MS4. An MS4 describes a system in which the storm water runoff does not connect with a wastewater collection system or treatment plant. The Storm Water drainage system is a system of roadside ditches, underground pipes and culverts, and major collector ditches which channel rainfall runoff untreated directly to our bays. Pet waste left on the ground can be carried by foot traffic or can be transported into the drainage system by rain or irrigation. Pet waste contains pathogenic bacteria and other parasites. Cigarette butts are the most commonly encountered littered item during beach clean-ups. Most cigarette filters contain a core of cellulose acetate and two layers of wrapping that are made of paper and/or rayon. Used cigarette filters are full of toxins, which can leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that come into contact with them.

1. Provide waste stations and signage to remind pet owners to pick up after their pet. City ordinance 22.11 requires the owner or person in control of an animal to remove any feces deposited by the animal on public or private property. Animal feces deposited upon any other property must be collected and removed daily.
2. Provide cigarette butt disposal stations and include signs about the effects of used cigarette butts on aquatic organisms and the effects of the microplastics created from the cellulose acetate fibers.
3. Ensure that storm drain markers with a “No Dumping” message are installed on all drain inlets in your event’s area. Contact the City of Corpus Christi Storm Water Department for more details: cctexas.com/services/utilities/storm-drain-marker-program

LITTER PREVENTION

The City of Corpus Christi’s storm water drainage system empties directly into our bays. In order to reduce water quality degradation and prevent flooding it is critical to reduce the amount of litter entering the drainage system.

Simple steps to reduce the amount of litter from your event include:

1. Provide lids for your trash cans.
2. Periodically check the waste stations and entire event area to pick up any loose trash items that can be blown into the storm drain and replace full trash bags in cans with new ones before they can overflow.
3. Place screens on the storm drain inlets to prevent litter from entering the bay.





WILDLIFE

The Texas coast provides a habitat for five species of sea turtles. These turtles can be seriously harmed by discarded items such as balloons, plastic bottles, plastic bags, ropes, monofilament line, etc. These five species are all listed as either threatened or endangered and include the leatherback, hawksbill, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley.

Every year birds migrate following the same pathway from their northern breeding grounds to their warmer, southern wintering grounds. With two major migration routes running through Texas (the Central and Mississippi Flyways), the Texas Coast is a haven for migratory birds. Twenty-six species of colonial waterbirds live on the Texas coast.

During the summer months, many birds raise their young along the Texas coast. In our areas, there are about 26 species of colonial waterbirds some of which are ground nester. These birds like low elevation, low vegetation areas and create a nest by hollowing out a small depression in sand or shell to lay their egg which are always very well camouflaged to blend in with their surroundings.

Most wild animals are opportunistic and will concentrate on the easiest food source available. Wild animals need a variety of foods in their diet that may be completely different than what we eat. When food is readily available, animals will gather in abnormally large numbers and can become a nuisance.

Create a wildlife plan:

1. List the places to call if injured wildlife is encountered
2. Post signs showing the negative effects which litter has on wildlife. Remind participants to dispose of garbage properly
3. Survey the area to ensure no nesting birds are present. If nesting birds are identified, fence the area to keep participants out to minimize disturbance to the nests. Educational signage can help increase awareness and understanding of why it is important to keep a distance and leave the birds alone.
4. Remind participants to avoid feeding wildlife.

WILDLIFE PLAN

A local wildlife plan was created by a representative from the Texas Parks & Wildlife for Your World Sailing Championships participants. The plan included information on native species of birds, turtles, and marine life; proper procedures to follow when encountering wildlife; and photos of native species. An infographic of critical information was printed on recycled cardboard signs in several sizes. These were prominently displayed at all venues. The signs after the event were distributed to several local schools, the Texas State Aquarium, and the Harte Research Institute of Gulf of Mexico Studies.

The CC Municipal Marina also has a large wildlife plan next to the fuel dock, with numbers to call for stranded or injured wildlife.

What to Do If You Have a Wildlife Encounter *If you encounter an injured...*

Mammal

- Call the local stranding network at 1-800-9-MAMMAL
- DO NOT return the animal to the sea.
- Keep people and pets away from the animal.
- Do not leave the animal; they need comfort and cannot keep themselves upright.
- Relieve pressure on fins by digging holes under them. To relieve pressure on lungs you can dig a pit under the mammal and fill the pit with water.
- Keep the animal cool and wet by splashing water on the skin. Avoid getting water in the blowhole.
- Apply wet towels or T-shirts and provide a shade if possible.
- Keep the blowhole free of obstruction and take care not to cover the dorsal fin, flippers or tail.
- Apply sun screens or zinc oxide, NOT suntan oil. The dolphin's skin is very sensitive and can burn severely.
- Apply ice packs to the dorsal fin, pectoral flippers, or flukes to keep the animal from overheating, but do not let the ice contact the skin directly.
- If the animal is in the surf, support it upright. Keep water out of the blowhole. If possible, carefully move mammal into shallow water but keep it in the water.
- Be careful around the powerful tail and mouth.



Bottlenose



West Indian Manatee

Bird

- Call the Amos Rehabilitation Keep at 361-749-6793
- If the bird must be captured before help arrives then use a large towel or sheet and throw it over the bird. Most birds will immediately calm down long enough to pick them up and put them in a secure area, such as a pet crate or box.
- Do not rescue shorebirds with sharp beaks. eye protection is needed when handling these birds. Their defense mechanism is to lunge at the face and eyes.
- Keep secured bird in a dark, quiet area until help arrives or it can be taken to the appropriate location.
- Please do not try to feed any bird you rescue.



Brown Pelican



Black Skimmer

Turtle

- Call the area coordinator Donna Shaver at 361-949-8173 ext 226 or 1-866-TURTLE5
- Report the turtle's location, size, proximity to the surf, and condition (alive or dead).
- A stranded sea turtle is one that is found washed ashore or floating, alive or dead. If it is alive, it is generally in a weakened condition.
- If the turtle is alive, stay at the site until an official arrives if possible.



Green Sea Turtle



Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle



Animal Care and Rescue Resources

Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network
1-800-9-MAMMAL

Texas Sealife Center
361-589-4023

Amos Rehabilitation Keep
361-749-6793

Sea Turtle Stranding & Salvage Network
1-866-TURTLE5



ENERGY MANAGEMENT / REDUCTION OF CARBON EMISSIONS

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Consider renting trailer-mounted solar and/or wind generators to replace gasoline generators for food trucks or area lighting.

LOCAL ENERGY RESOURCES:

- SPI Go Green, Gianluca Ferrario. Tel. 956-521-4285
spigogreen.com

CARBON OFFSETS

- Conduct an energy audit of your venue.
- Invest, find sponsorship, or collect donations to offset all or part of your event's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Track participant travel to and from the event and include it in the calculation of the carbon footprint.

See the resources section for more information on carbon offsets.

TRANSPORTATION

- Work with RTA on free bus rides to event, direct route to event from central locations, or shuttles to alleviate traffic jams
- Promote Bicycle Use
 - Promote attendees to ride bicycles to event and provide bike racks
 - Promote use of Zagster bike share program
- Incentivize Carpooling
 - Promote and incentivize carpooling
 - Provide parking discount or VIP parking to carpools



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

PROMOTE BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Invite local environmental groups to host informational booths at your event.
- Include a well-known local, national, or international celebrity to speak about sustainability and ocean conservation
- Use Social Media, event website, etc., to promote sustainable activities.
- Create a photography or art contest with an environmental focus to coincide with the event and display the artwork during the event.
- Reach out to local and regional newspapers, television stations, and magazines to promote your organization's sustainability mission to the community.



RESOURCES

CORPUS CHRISTI CONSERVATION GROUPS

- [TAMUCC Islander Green Team](#)
- [Texas State Aquarium](#)
- [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#)
- [Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program](#)
- [Coastal Bend Bays Foundation](#)
- [Coastal Conservation Association](#)
- [Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve at UT Marine Science Institute](#)
- [Surfrider Foundation – Texas Coastal Bend Chapter](#)

LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD

- Grow Local South Texas growlocalstx.com
- Jaime Bustos at Terra Madre mini farm – 361-232-2309
- Casey Williams – Mesquite Field Farms – 773-957-6551
- Rey Salazar at Xochicalli Farm – 361-228-6077
- The Fishermen’s Market - 361-939-7555

T-SHIRTS

All volunteer and Green Team shirts at the YSWC were made of rPET (recycled polyethylene terephthalate) which comes from post-consumer plastic products, such as water bottles. The shirts were purchased from E-GEN™. E-GEN™ uses significantly more rPET in its development than industry standards. Their products have between 60% and 95% rPET, depending on the exact model t-shirt ordered. The industry standard to be certified is only 30%. E-GEN™ seeks to affect the most positive environmental impact without compromising the integrity of the fabric. theegen.com

CARBON OFFSETS

- [David Suzuki Foundation](#) – What is a carbon offset?
- Carbonfund.org – Calculate the carbon footprint and purchase offsets for a carbon free event.

STATE RESOURCES

- [Take Care of Texas](#) – Informs Texans on the statewide campaign from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Provides helpful information and resources on Texas’ successes in environmental protection. Order free publications and educational materials for kids and adults. takecareoftexas.org
- [Texas Sea Grant’s](#) extension agents and specialists live in coastal communities where they educate, engage and inspire the public in relevant issues related to environmental quality, hazard resiliency, marine fisheries, seafood quality, marketing and economics, coastal community development, marine policy, marine education and aquaculture. texasseagrant.org/whatwedo/

TEXAS CITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSIONS

- Houston – City of Houston Office of Sustainability
- San Antonio – San Antonio Office of Sustainability
- Dallas – Green Dallas
- Austin – Austin Office of Sustainability



NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES

SAILORS FOR THE SEA CLEAN REGATTAS

United boaters to protect the ocean through clean regatta certifications. Certifies boating events through 25 Best Practices. sailorsforthesea.org/programs/clean-regattas

CLEAN MARINA

Clean Marine offers manuals and other resources for implementing Best Management Practices in marinas and boatyards to prevent or reduce water pollution. cleanmarina.org

CLEAN SEAS

a United Nations Environment program. cleanseas.org

11TH HOUR RACING

11th Hour Racing establishes strategic partnerships within the sailing and maritime communities to promote collaborative, systemic change benefitting the health of our ocean – one degree at a time. Since 2010, 11th Hour Racing has been harnessing the power of sport with an innovative and comprehensive approach through three primary areas of engagement: Partners, Grantees, and Ambassadors. 11thhourracing.org

COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE SPORT

Supports event organizers who strive to produce socially and environmentally responsible events through hands-on coaching and a variety of support group programs. Certifies responsible event production practices through our certification program. councilforresponsiblesport.org

MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM, NOAA

Investigates and prevents the adverse impacts of marine debris. Strives to keep the global ocean and its coasts free from the impacts of marine debris. marinedebris.noaa.gov



APPENDIX

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS, 2018 YOUTH SAILING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Elizabeth Kratzig

Green Team Co-Chair, Past Youth World Sailing Competitor

Dr. David McKee

Green Team Co-Chair, Professor Emeritus of Marine Biology, TAMUCC

Adriana Leiva

Natural Resource Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Celina Pulcher

Program Outreach Coordinator for Corpus Christi Dept. of Solid Waste Management

Dianna Bluntzer

Managing Director Corpus Christi Art Center

Dr. Jennifer Pollack

faculty sponsor Marine Science Graduate Student Organization, Harte Research Institute

Jace Tunnell

Director of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Katherine Martin

President of the Marine Science Graduate Student Organization TAMUCC

Leslie Peart

Vice President for Education and Conservation, Texas State Aquarium

Melissa Zamora

Past President Islander Green Team of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

Neil McQueen

Vice-Chair, Surfrider Foundation - Texas Coastal Bend Chapter

Rene Garza

Corpus Christi Marina

Rae Mooney

Project Manager at the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Sheila Rogers

Artist and Conservationist

PUBLISHER AND AUTHORS

CORPUS CHRISTI SUSTAINABLE EVENTS PLAN

Publisher: Corpus Christi Yacht Club

Address: 98 Cooper's Alley, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

Telephone: + 1 361-883-6518

Email: clubmanager@ccyc.com

Website: ccyc.com

Author: Elizabeth Kratzig, Rae Mooney and Neil McQueen

Photos: Jen Edney/World Sailing, James Tomlinson/World Sailing & Adobe Stock

Layout & Design: Miguel Quintanilla | [mqcreative](http://mqcreative.com) Portland TX. mqcreative.cc

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This report is available in English.

For questions contact Elizabeth Kratzig at sailingteamtravel@gmail.com

