

Report 2025

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

Once again this year, we provided water dispensers with free drinking water for our sailors and guests during Kiel Week. These were clearly visible at various locations across the event site in Kiel-Schilksee.

In addition, the “Blauer Engel” eco-certified deposit system was again used at every Kiel Week stand this year. Every cup can be returned at every stand, which makes it easy for guests to handle. The cups are washed at a central facility, which operates particularly efficiently.



2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

Plastic straws have not been used at any of our bars or food stands on the event site since 2018. We pursue a no-straw policy. All exhibitors and caterers must adhere to it.

Some stands get creative with alternative solutions and use reusable straws, straws made from cornstarch or even pasta straws.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

We completely avoid the use of plastic in our catering. We use porcelain crockery, metal cutlery and reusable cups for our buffets.

At the food stands in our food & beverage areas, only reusable tableware is permitted. The only exceptions are uncoated cardboard, edible tableware alternatives, and napkins.



4. Skip Bags or Go Reusable

The use and distribution of plastic bags are prohibited throughout Kiel Week. And as a matter of principle, we also try to avoid unnecessary packaging and, where possible, offer no bags at all. At check-in, each team receives a bag made from 100% organic cotton, which can be reused during the entire event and afterwards. Packed lunches for our volunteers are also prepared without plastic.



5. Award Practical Items or Use a Prepetual or Upcycled Trophy

Since over a hundred years, we have been awarding perpetual trophies. These are passed on to the respective winners each year. If we use new prizes, we cooperate with producers who work exclusively with sustainable products.



6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

Instagram Post - @kielerwochesailing

<https://www.instagram.com/kielerwochesailing/reel/DLclPa9pe7D/?hl=de>

<https://www.instagram.com/kielerwochesailing/reel/DLZ89AGvknS/?hl=de>

We publish our sustainability concept and efforts on our website (Nachhaltige Kieler Woche), as well as on our social media accounts. For example, we share posts about the water dispensers or our waste separation.

We also refer to our measures for a sustainable organization of the event in the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

7. Involve Local Organizations

For many years, we have been working with the “Drachensee” foundation ([Startseite - Stiftung Drachensee](#)), a local and inclusive employer that ensures people with disabilities have access to meaningful work opportunities.

On top of that, many of our partners are based in Kiel or northern Germany. So we not only support big companies, but also small manufacturers.

Some of our exhibitors in the on-site shopping area, for example, make jackets, bags and cushions from old sailcloth and giving it a new lease of life.

Our local sponsoring partner Remondis is very committed to sustainability.

Thanks to advanced recycling systems, almost all the waste at the Kiel Week can be reused and recycled.



8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

We have been using steles for our signage for many years. We also display a lot of information digitally on our LED screens and on the screen on stage, so we can easily change the content at any time.



9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

In cooperation with our local caterer from Kiel, we offer freshly produced food with mostly local ingredients. The packed lunches for our volunteers also include regional products.



10. Organize a Green Team

Our entire event teams is trained to pay attention to a sustainable lifestyle and event organization. Whenever possible, we use bicycles or carpool to avoid unnecessary CO2 emissions. The majority of our team does not eat meat, and we consider sustainability in every step of the event organization



11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

Our Remondis waste sorting stations are marked with signs explaining which type of waste belongs in which bin. This raises awareness of proper waste separation in a clear and user-friendly way. We use these signs every year.



12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

The Kiel Week contracts stipulate that leftover food should not be thrown away, but donated. To this end, we work together with foodsharing Kiel e.V.

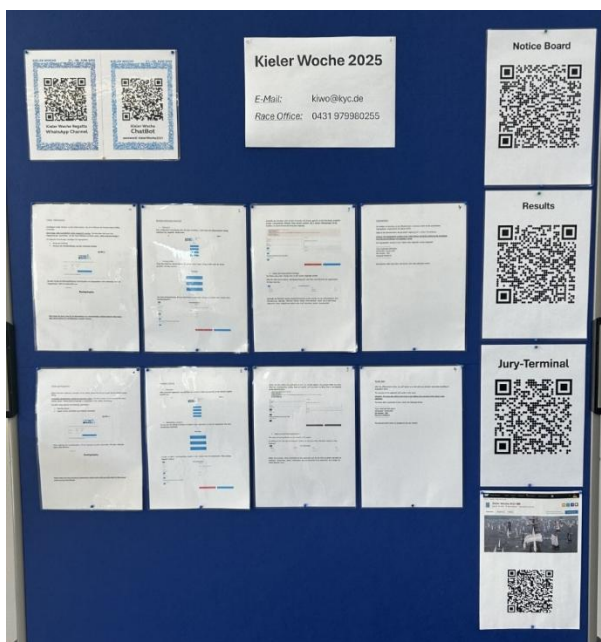
(Foodsharing Kiel e.V | Facebook), a local initiative that collects the leftovers from buffets and stands and distributes them to those in need. Even processed food can be passed on.

Our local bakery partner also participates in the TooGoodtoGo system and sells the day's leftovers at a reasonable price, e.g. to students.

As a zero waste city, Kiel generally endeavours to avoid all waste and recycle any waste that is produced. We are working closely with the Zero Waste Team during Kiel Week to set a best practice example.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

Our race management operates entirely digitally and without paper. No announcements, changes, or results have been printed since 2018. Sailing Instructions and Notices of Race are also published exclusively online. As soon as the sailors go out on the water, they must check in at the RFID stations using an RFID wristband. When they return, they must check out again. This is an important safety measure that ensures there is always a digital record of who is on the water and who is not. Our team is equipped with tablets to work efficiently and avoid using paper resources.



14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

The beach and marina area is cleaned up every morning by our event volunteers during Kiel Week. We also organised a harbour clean-up together with Torqeedo, which has helped to create more awareness that sailors should leave their boat park clean and clear away their garbage themselves.



15. Prevent Toxins from Entering the water

There is a separate washing area for boats on the event area in Kiel-Schilksee harbor. The dirty water is collected there and cannot get into the groundwater. Only clean water is allowed to enter the washing area.



16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

As we did last year, we spent several days collecting dead seaweed with the help of the ship “Seekuh.”

This served two purposes: firstly, to clear the water of seaweed so that the foiling classes would not be hindered or endangered, and secondly, to draw attention to the great opportunities offered by intact seaweed beds:

Seaweed helps to bind CO₂ and serves as an important food source for many animal species.



17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Our volunteers receive a freshly prepared hot meal every evening and a package with food for the day. There is always the choice between a meat-based, a vegetarian or vegan meal. There is also a wide range of vegan alternatives available for visitors and participants, with almost every food stand offering vegetarian or vegan food.

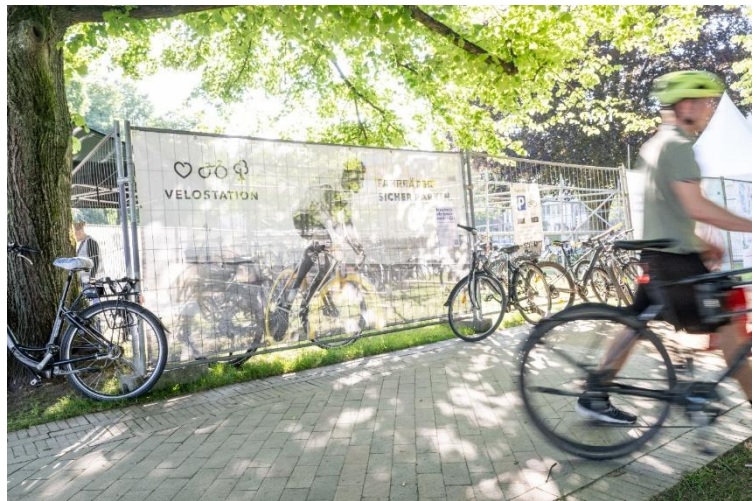


18. Promote Alternative Transportation

It is very important to us that visitors and participants of Kiel Week consider their travel options, so we point out in various places that it is best to arrive on foot or by bike. We have revised our online travel guide and updated it for this year.

There are secure bicycle parking areas and the option to use rental bikes. A discounted public transport ticket is also available for Kiel Week. In addition, bus routes from the city center to the port area will run more frequently to reduce long waiting times and make travel by public transport more attractive.

Moreover, we offer carpooling for sailors, the jury, and officials.



19. Reduce Day-of Event Emissions

Our event team is accommodated on site during the Event, which saves on travel and reduces emissions. In addition, the regatta courses were relocated, shortening travel distances and making access to the competitions quicker and easier.

20. Inspire Future Action

Kiel Week aims to be a pioneer in green boats. We therefore strive to ensure that boats made from sustainable materials are used in the regatta organization and that environmentally friendly propulsion systems are implemented.

Just like last year, the e-motor manufacturer Torqeedo was present on site and gave a presentation on the possibilities of e-drives.

The electric motor has already been used on site: the inclusive boat from the association “Wir sind Wir Inclusion in Sailing e. V.” used it to give people with disabilities a great sailing experience on the water (<http://www.wir-sind-wir.org/regattabegleitfahrten-fuerrollstuhlfahrerinnen-kieler-woche-2024/>)

