



**PORT OF
DOVER**

Port of Dover Regatta 2025 Sustainability Report



Port of Dover Sustainability Report

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2025 Regatta Sustainability Report!

This report highlights our ongoing commitment to sustainable practices as we strive to achieve the Clean Regatta Platinum Award for the fourth consecutive year.

Our sustainability efforts align with the Clean Regatta programme, which is supported by Sailors for the Sea. Sailors for the Sea provides invaluable resources and expertise that empower us to transform our events into models of environmental responsibility. Their guidance helps us implement effective strategies to minimise our environmental impact, engage our community, and enhance the overall attendee experience.

As part of our dedication to enhancing environmental stewardship, we have released our sustainable event guidance, which is now integrated into our comprehensive event management plan. This guidance ensures that sustainability is a core component of all our events, setting a benchmark for future initiatives.

We invite you to review our previous report, the [2024 sustainability report](#), to understand how we have achieved the Clean Regatta Platinum Award for three consecutive years. This document serves as our submission for the prestigious award once again, and we eagerly anticipate the outcome of the submission demonstrating how our continued efforts have benefit both the environment and the local community.

Thank you for your support as we work towards making every regatta a more sustainable and impactful event.



Regatta Report Information

Report submitted by
Emily Boniface, Environment Advisor

Name of Regatta: Port of Dover Regatta 2025
Date of Regatta: 12th July 2025-13th July 2025

Names of Green Team:

- Emily Boniface, Port of Dover
- Diederik Smet, Port of Dover
- Jenny Beacon, Port of Dover
- Megan Turner, Port of Dover
- Ben Crake, Port of Dover

Best Practices

Best Practices are 20 high-impact ways to making a Regatta event sustainable, created by Sailors for the Sea under their Clean Regatta programme. These fall under the 5 overarching best practices categories below:

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. Skip Bags or Go Reusable
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 Landfill
13. Use Paperless Event Management

Environmental Stewardship

14. Host a Beach or Marine Clean-up
15. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water
16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection
17. Offer Vegetarian and Vegan Alternatives

Climate Awareness

18. Promote Alternative Transportation
19. Reduce day-of Emissions
20. Inspire Future Actions

The following sections throughout the rest of the report highlight the continued efforts the Port of Dover take to achieve a clean regatta by adopting sustainability best practices and improved event management.



Elimination of Single-Use Items

During the Port of Dover Regatta, we made significant strides in implementing Sailors for the Sea's Clean Regatta best practices. To reduce single-use plastics, we provided volunteers with a buffet-style lunch featuring sandwiches on paper plates and napkins, thus minimising individually packaged items. Volunteers were encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles, this approach aligns with best practice 1 by eliminating single-use water bottles, and canned drinks were provided to further support our efforts.

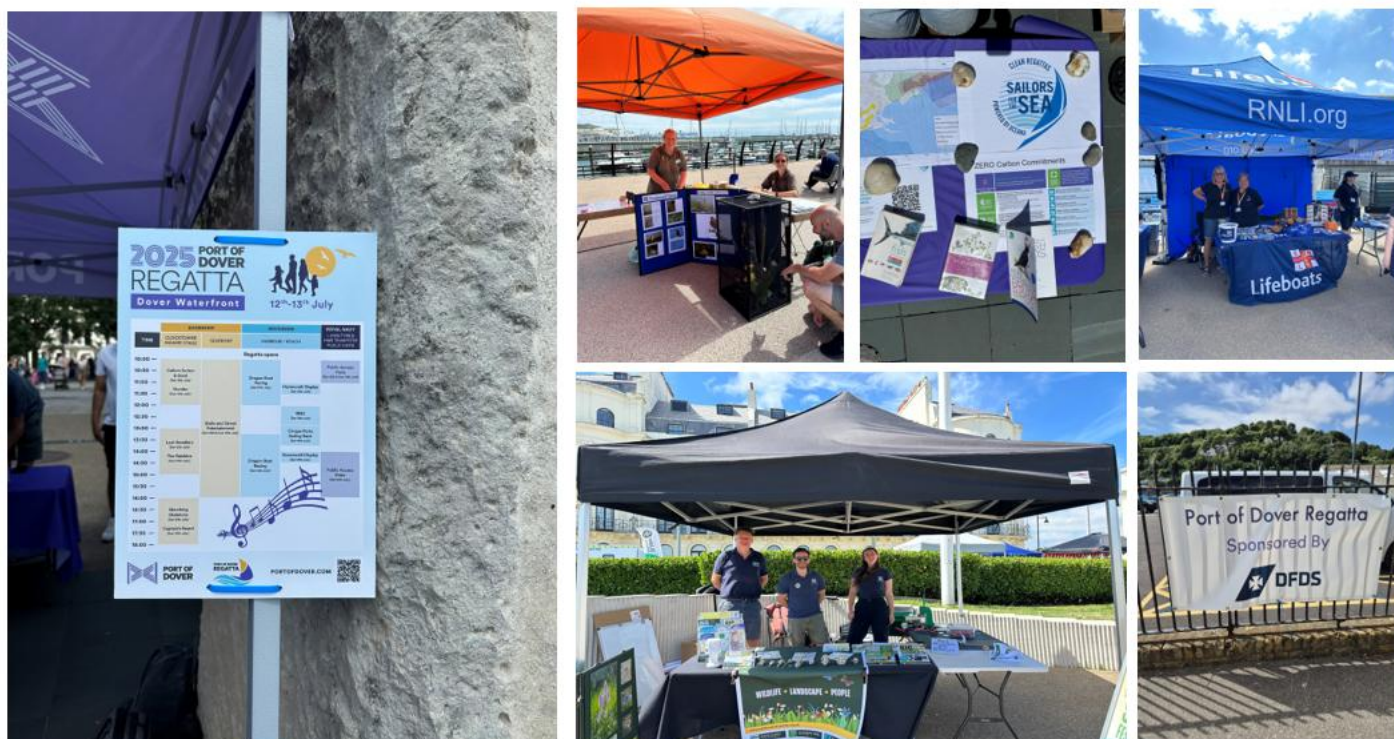
In adherence to best practice 2, we eliminated plastic straws in compliance with UK legislation on single-use plastics, which took effect in October 2023. Food and drink vendors throughout the regatta used compostable, recyclable or reusable cutlery and food packaging, ensuring we met the legal standards and reduced our environmental impact to adhere to best practice 3.

We followed best practice 4 by forgoing goody bags, as they were not part of our regatta format. Instead, we focused on sustainable awards for the races. For best practice 5, dragon boat racers received medals made from durable materials and glass trophies. By opting for practical and perpetual trophies, we reduced the need for single-use items and supported our goal of fostering a more sustainable event.

Also, for best practice 5, the regatta welcome desk hosted a raffle, tickets were made from recycled paper, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability in every detail. The raffle prizes included experience days for families and individuals, promoting eco-friendly activities and creating lasting memories without additional waste.

These efforts underscore our dedication to creating an environmentally responsible regatta and highlight our ongoing commitment to sustainability and community engagement.

Community involvement



Our sustainability efforts remain visible to the public and all relevant stakeholders, at the regatta we displayed our commitments, and they are publicly available on the Port of Dover website, adhering to best practice 6: Publicise your sustainability efforts. Our updated sustainability policy can be found on our website [here](#).

We involved numerous local organisations, as per best practice 7: Involve local organisations, they hosted stands throughout the day that covered a wide range of topics, including environmental conservation, local wildlife, and community initiatives.

Event signage, reused from our regattas from previous years, continues to contribute to best practice 8: Post educational/reusable signage. This approach minimises waste and promotes sustainability by reducing the need for new materials.

In line with best practice 9: Serve local or sustainable food, 12 food vendors participated, offering a variety of local and sustainable food options. These included vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free choices, ensuring a diverse and inclusive menu for all attendees.

By publicising our efforts, engaging local organisations, reusing signage, and serving sustainable food, we reinforced our commitment to sustainability and encouraged attendees to adopt eco-friendly practices.



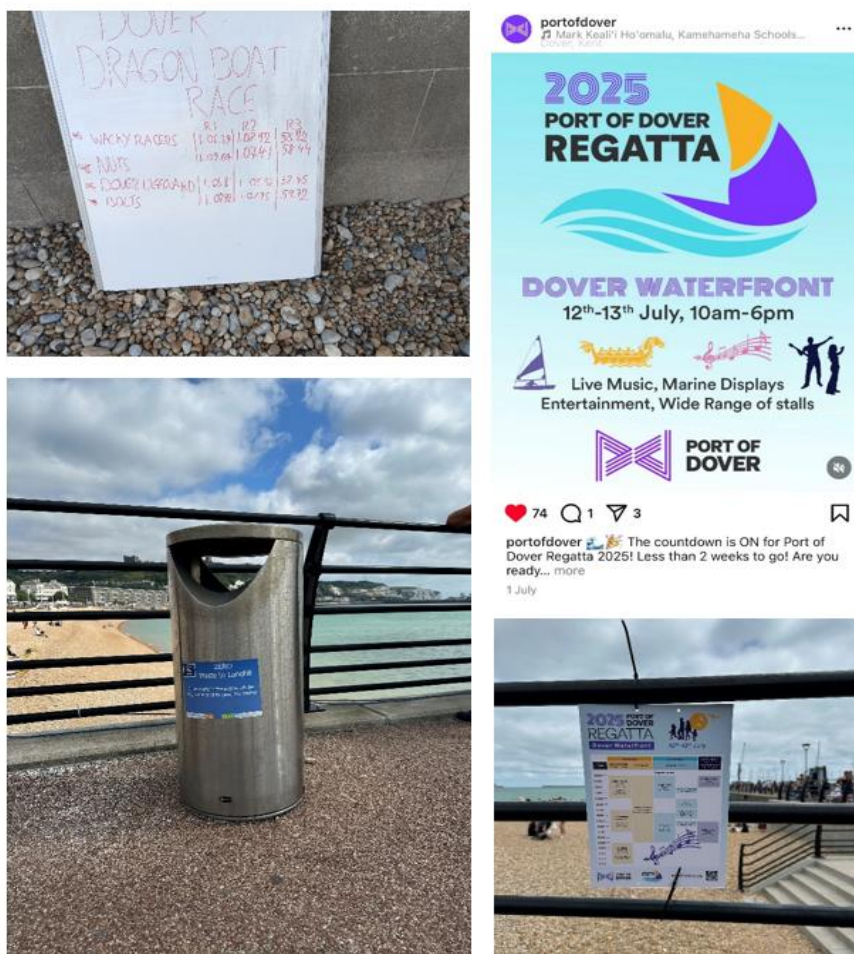
The 2025 Port of Dover Regatta proudly supported 2 charities raising £7000 total. Each year deserving charities are chosen to be recipients of the donated monies. This year's Charities were '[The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust](#)' and the '[Our Finest Dour](#)' project.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust is a Royal Naval and Royal Marine charity that provides financial assistance and support to serving and former Royal Naval ratings and Royal Marine other ranks, known as primary beneficiaries. The charity also supports partners, children and others connected to them. The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust was incorporated under Royal Charter granted on the 2nd May 1922 and receives funding from large donations from organisations, legacies, care homes and Almhouse housing, and fundraising.

Our Finest Dour is a project run by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership which aims to raise awareness of the River Dour in Dover. The River Dour is a rare chalk stream habitat and houses species including brown trout, wagtails and kingfishers. The project so far has set up Riverfly monitoring on the Dour, provided volunteering opportunities, engaged local schools and funded river cleans. The River Dour is significant to the Port of Dover as it runs directly into the Port.

We look forward to seeing and sharing how all donations have made a positive impact.

Responsible Waste Management



The Port of Dover Regatta benefited from the support of over 30 dedicated volunteers on the day of the event. Their roles and responsibilities included community engagement, volunteering as beach marshals during race gatherings and ensuring smooth operations and participant safety. For best practice 10, we organised a Green Team; made up of the environment and sustainability department and event coordinators to oversee and implement our sustainability initiatives.

We ensured the strategic placement of clearly marked waste bins throughout the event, in line with best practice 11: Ensure bin placement and signage, to facilitate proper waste sorting and disposal. Our waste receptacles highlighted our ongoing commitment to achieving 'Zero waste to landfill'. Volunteers and attendees were encouraged to sort their waste correctly, contributing to our continual improvement target of minimising landfill contributions, these help us adhere to best practice 12. Additionally, food vendors were encouraged to donate surplus foods to local charities or composted to reduce environmental impact.

Event signage was reused from previous regattas, this approach minimised waste and promoted sustainability by reducing the need for new materials. All event management utilised digital communication tools and processes, such as Teams, emails, in-person meetings, and social media to coordinate efforts efficiently and sustainably, and on the day, a whiteboard was used to record times for the dragon boat race, helping us adhere to best practice 13: Use paperless event management. With our sustainable event management guidance in place, future events will be planned and executed with a strong focus on sustainability.

Environmental Stewardship



Every September thousands of people across the UK take part in the Great British Beach Clean started by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), promoting citizen science. To coincide with the Great British Beach Clean, we co-host a community beach clean, all results are submitted to the MCS database, this year's event is being held on the 24th September. Look out for our upcoming communications to know where you can join. Last years beach clean took place on the 28th of September and was a huge success, preventing 2083 items of waste from entering the sea. We also have two operational Seabins to remove litter from our marinas, which were collecting litter on the regatta weekend.

To achieve best practice 15, which aims to prevent toxins from entering the water, we introduced oil spill training into our internal e-learning program. Now, all staff across the business will undergo basic awareness training, highlighting potential spills at the Port and best practices for handling them and two members of the green team at the Regatta are MCA 3P oil spill trained in the event of any marine spills.

We continue to raise awareness of the local wildlife and habitats in and around Dover for best practice 16. This year's Environment and Sustainability stand highlighted the impact of 'Native and non-native species' on local ecosystems, a sorting game of common species seen across the UK gave high level detail on native and non-native species, with many participants stunned at the non-native species that they may see every day. The team also collected algae to put under the microscope to get visitors to try and identify, to highlight the different algae species located in the port. The seafront displays signage from the Non-native Species Secretariat campaign 'Check Clean Dry', encouraging boaters to check for invasive species on their vessels before entering the water and after leaving the water.

Our marina resident 'Planet Earth Kitchen,' featured in previous sustainability reports, continues to provide vegan alternatives to all attendees. Food and drink vendors have expanded their dietary selections to include vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. Overall, vendors continue to prioritize vegan and vegetarian choices, contributing to the event's sustainability goals and adhering to best practice 17.

Climate Awareness



The Port of Dover Regatta remains unique in hosting an event for the Dover community, as it currently does not feature a traditional yacht regatta. Nevertheless, we aim to ensure all attendees and participants are encouraged to engage in sustainable practices.

For security and to promote sustainable travel, there was limited vehicle access to the event, encouraging the public to use public transportation or active transport methods, such as cycling or walking, this helps us adhere to best practice 18: Promote Alternative Transportation.

Our day-of emissions were reduced as Port owned vessels and vehicles are powered by HVO. When the Port made the switch to HVO in 2022, vessel emissions created by the Port were reduced by 98%. This helps us adhere to best practice 19: Reduce day-of emissions.

Returning this year were the Dragon Boat races. For the third year in a row, the 'Whacky Racers' claimed victory. We are proud of all dragon boat participants for their perseverance and sportsmanship.

This year featured a sailing race by Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, congratulations to the winner of the Topper Class: Jack Turnball, the Topaz Class: Josh Rodgers and for Best Effort: Molly and Grace!

The environment stand also offered information on how to become a 'green boater' and provided additional details to interested parties in pledging to become a green boater and wider sustainability issues in the maritime environment.

July Water Quality



08/07/2025	01/07/2025	24/06/2025	16/06/2025

Water quality sampling and analysis is carried out at Dover Beach in compliance with the guideline standards from the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC), for the benefit and information of leisure users.

Key:

Excellent bathing water quality

Good bathing water quality

Sufficient bathing water quality

Poor bathing water quality

Advice against bathing

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

For further information please contact the Environment Team at the Port of Dover by emailing: SHEQ@portofdover.com



Scan the QR code for government advice on healthy open swimming practices



As well as striving to implement the 20 best practices throughout our regatta, we continue to strive to achieve higher levels of sustainability beyond these. Bonus opportunities this year include our weekly bathing water analysis.

During the summer months (mid-May – September) weekly bathing water analysis is carried out within the harbour, data is then analysed, and a water quality poster is produced to reassure visitors that the water is safe to swim in. To improve on this, in 2025 we have started conducting bathing water analysis year-round. As Dover is not a designated bathing beach, this analysis is not legally required, yet is still appreciated by the public. Results are posted weekly around the Ports estate including Dover Sea Sports Centre, Marina Office and Marina Car Park, results covering the Regatta weekend were ‘Excellent’.

We would like to once again thank Sailors for the Sea in providing a programme that promotes sustainability in the maritime environment. Implementing these sustainable best practices into our annual Port of Dover Regatta contributes to 'Targeting Our Sustainable Future'.

A big thank you to all visitors and sponsors for attending and supporting this year's regatta. As always, we look forward to seeing you again next year.

