

Detailed  
report

# Sustainability Programme

Progress update, April 2018

VOLVO  
OCEAN  
RACE  
ROUND THE WORLD





# Sustainability Programme progress update

- Ocean Health
- Plastic Pollution
- Ocean Summits
- Education
- Clean Seas
- The Globe
- Science
- Engagement

Volvo Ocean Race Sustainability Programme offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect the urgent worldwide issue of ocean health and plastic pollution to a high profile sports event. By utilising the global reach and timeframe of the race, the sustainability programme has so far delivered significant impact.

This has been achieved by maximising our impact through campaigning for action against marine plastic pollution. Meanwhile we are working to minimise our footprint by focussing on our own production practices. In the end we plan to leave a lasting positive legacy through our outreach, education programme, scientific data, leadership by our sailors and teams, and our ongoing communications channels.

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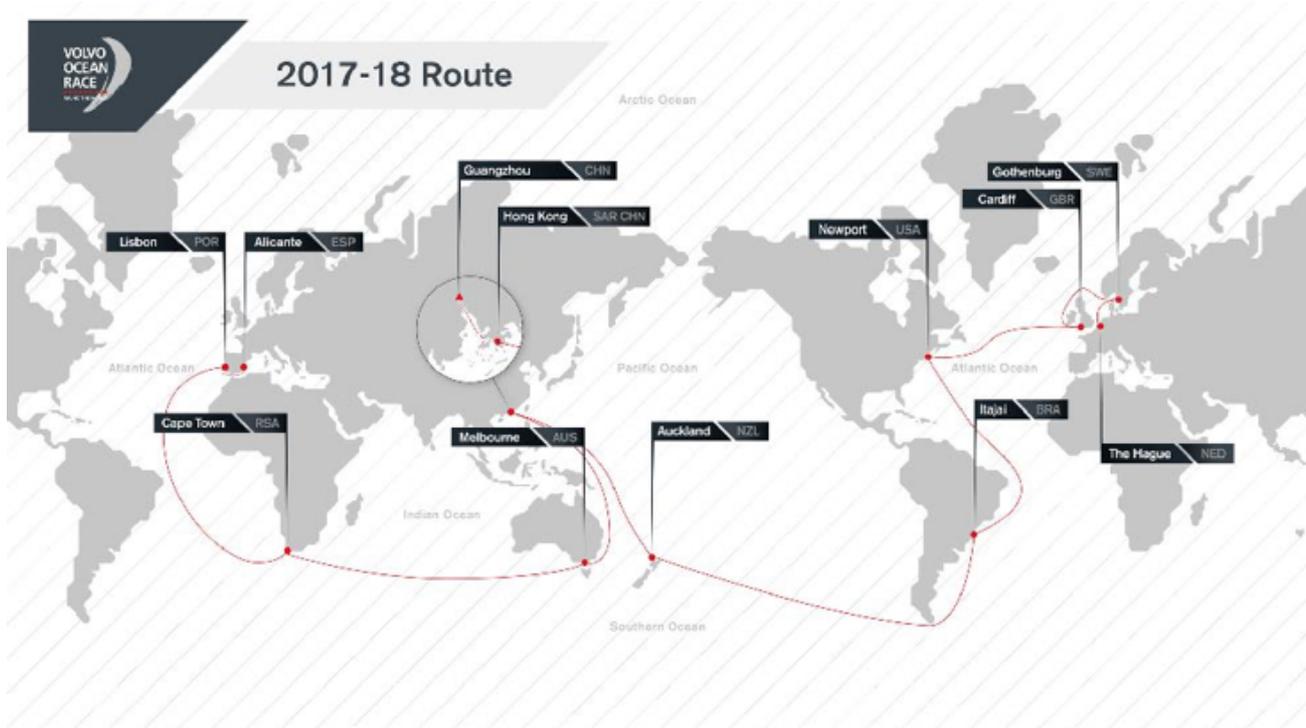
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This progress update highlights our sustainability programme efforts from Alicante start though to Itajai stopover. It is intended to give a snapshot of key features of our sustainability programme. It does not cover every sustainability objective and target, operational detail or programme initiative. This document is available for public readership.





# We're on the home straight

- Alicante
- Lisbon
- Cape Town
- Melbourne
- Guangzhou
- Hong Kong
- Auckland
- Itajai

We're now well over halfway in our race round the world and our Sustainability Programme has made real impact.

Race Village visitors, online fans and followers in the millions have been touched by our campaign - real experiences on plastic reduction in our Race Villages, inspiring and informative video content on screens, news stories and social media, signing up to the Clean Seas campaign, participating in our Education Programme, attending beach cleans, TedX talks, and even an ocean film festival. Our Ocean Summits have brought the top thinkers and doers together and our ground-breaking Science Programme is collecting unprecedented datasets.

The following pages highlight some of our achievements so far!



[View our half-way video](#)

# Key figures

- 15 000 pledge to reduce their plastic footprint and help fight ocean plastic pollution with UN Environment's Clean Seas
- New Zealand becomes the 42nd country and Itajai the first city in South America to sign up to Clean Seas.
- 275 000 visitors to theGlobe in our Race Villages to view our sustainability films and Clean Seas exhibition.
- 64 500 students are Champions for the Sea through our ocean health and plastic pollution Education Programme, downloaded in 37 countries.
- 10 000 students have attended our ocean health workshops in the Race Village.
- 1 480 000 views of our sustainability video content.
- Avoided an estimated 238 000 single use plastic bottles in our Race Villages through our water refill stations.
- 180 000 single use cable ties avoided through re-usable bungee straps.
- 85% of potential single use plastic service ware avoided through our single use plastic bans.
- 19 scientific drifter buoys successfully deployed.
- Oceanographic measurements recorded at 2142 points.
- 40 microplastics samples analysed.
- 900 representatives from government, industry, science, academia and ocean advocates gathered to hear specialist speakers at our Ocean Summits and side events.

# Ocean Summit

**Alicante . Cape Town . Hong Kong**  
Newport . Cardiff . Gothenburg . The Hague

**Showcasing innovative  
solutions to the ocean  
plastic pollution crisis.**



# Ocean Summits

Alicante  
Cape Town  
Hong Kong

83 speakers  
510 guests

The Ocean Summits bring together the worlds of sport, government, science and ocean advocacy, to discuss innovative solutions to the global crisis of ocean plastic pollution. Those attending have had an invaluable opportunity to exchange ideas and form collaborations.

## Upcoming Ocean Summits:

Newport - 18 May 2018  
Cardiff - 5 June 2018  
Gothenburg - 18 June 2018  
The Hague - 28 & 29th June 2018



# Alicante

## 18 October 2017

### Volvo Pavilion

The first of our Ocean Summits for the 2017/18 Volvo Ocean Race was held in Alicante.

The speaker list was an impressive combination of Spanish and international representatives across government, business, innovators and advocates.

At this summit two notable commitments were made:

- The Spanish Government announced that it would be joining the UN Environment Clean Seas Campaign.
- The Mayor of Alicante announced an education campaign on plastic in all schools in the city, and that events he attended in an official capacity would not serve or sell drinking water in disposable plastic bottles.

[View the highlight video.](#)

## Speakers:

**Erik Solheim:** Executive Director, [United Nations Environment](#).

**Raquel Orts Nebot:** Directora general de Sostenibilidad, [Costa y del Mar](#).

**Elena Cebrián Calvo:** Consejera de Agricultura, Medio Ambiente, [Cambio Climático y Desarrollo Rural](#).

**Mark Towill:** Team Director, [Vestas 11th Hour Racing](#).

**Jenna Jambeck:** Associate Professor, [University of Georgia](#).

**Dr. Paulo Mirpuri:** President, [Mirpuri Foundation](#).

**Niklas Kilberg:** Senior Manager Sustainability, [Volvo Car Group](#).

**Karmenu Vella:** European Commissioner, [Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#).

**Peter Thomson:** [UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean](#).

**Jesus Gago:** [Spanish Institute of Oceanography](#).

**Daniel Rolleri:** Director, [Asociación Ambiente Europeo](#).

**Dee Caffari:** Skipper, [Turn the Tide on Plastic race team](#).

**Wendy Schmidt:** President, [Schmidt Family Foundation](#).

**Kerstin Stranimaier:** [Planet Possible, AkzoNobel](#).

**Ignacio Marco:** [Plastics Europe's Iberian region](#).

**Thomas Kimber:** [Karūn](#).

**Nigel Musto:** [Musto](#).

**Pete Ceglinski:** [Seabin Project](#).

**Sian Sutherland:** [A Plastic Planet](#).

**Emily Penn:** [Skipper & Ocean Advocate](#).

**Gabriel Echávarri:** [Mayor of Alicante](#).



# Cape Town

## 7 & 8 Dec 2017

### Nedbank Auditorium

In Cape Town the Ocean Summit took on a two-day format, with local partners co-presenting the event.

At this Ocean Summit we released our ground-breaking data on the amount of microplastics in European waters. [More](#). Other commitments included:

- **V&A Waterfront**, which welcomes 24 million visitors each year, pledged to eliminate single-use plastic bags and bottles.
- Our Cape Town delivery partner for Volvo Ocean Race, **WorldSport**, declared their commitment to sustainable event management at all future events, using the Volvo Ocean Race as a benchmark.

[View the behind the scenes video.](#)

## Speakers:

**Bruce Parker-Forsyth:** CEO, [WorldSport South Africa](#).  
**Brigitte Burnett:** Head of Sustainability, [Nedbank Group](#).  
**Emily Penn:** [Skipper & Ocean Advocate](#).  
**Ivone Mirpuri:** Medical Advisor, [Mirpuri Foundation](#).  
**Niklas Kilberg & Toste Tanhua:** [Science Programme](#).  
**Lilly Barclay & Sian Sutherland:** [A Plastic Planet](#).  
**Captain Ravi Naicker:** [SAMSA](#).  
**Professor Peter Ryan:** [Percy Fitzpatrick Institute](#).  
**Dee Caffari:** Skipper, [Turn the Tide on Plastic](#).  
**Chris Bertish:** [Speaker, waterman and adventurer](#).  
**Thomas Perschak:** Photographer, [National Geographic](#).  
**John Duncan:** [Marine Programme WWF-SA](#).  
**Leslie Carlisle:** [&Beyond - Oceans Without Borders](#).  
**André Veneman:** Corporate Director of Sustainability, [AkzoNobel](#).  
**Richard Hardiman:** [RanMarine](#).  
**Bengt Rittri:** Founder, [BlueWater](#).  
**Brian Bauer:** [Algramo](#).  
**Charlie Enright:** Skipper, [Vestas 11th Hour Racing](#).  
**Boyan Slat:** [The Ocean Clean Up](#).  
**Riaan Manser:** [Pioneering explorer](#).  
**Dr Tony Ribbink:** CEO, [Sustainable Seas Trust](#).  
**Anton Hanekom:** Executive Director, [Plastics SA](#).  
**Yolan Friedman:** [Endangered Wildlife Trust - Source to Sea](#).  
**Catherine Morris:** [Green Home](#).  
**Hayley Mclellan:** [2 Oceans Aquarium](#).  
**Gregory Player:** [Clean C](#).  
**Chandru Wadhvani:** [Extrupet](#).  
**Bonnie Horbach:** [Dutch Consulate General, Cape Town](#).  
**Ian Dommissie:** [Ecobrick](#).  
**Chris Whyte:** [Use-It](#).  
**Andrew Venter:** [Wildlands](#).  
**Adnan Awad:** [International Ocean Institute - Africa Region](#).



# Hong Kong

22 Jan 2018  
Volvo Pavilion

The Ocean Summit in Hong Kong presented another opportunity to bring local and international speakers and guests together to focus on plastic pollution, with a focus on Asian waters.

- Daisy Lo, assistant director of environmental protection, **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)** government, pledged to explore ways to reduce plastic at source, revealed plans for a \$HK20 million fund for upgrading plastic recycling facilities and talked of Government efforts to clean up the marine environment.
- Race Team **AkzoNobel** was announced as the second team to use the on-board data gathering equipment to measure water quality and composition, as well as microplastics in some of the world's remotest oceans.

[View behind the scenes video.](#)

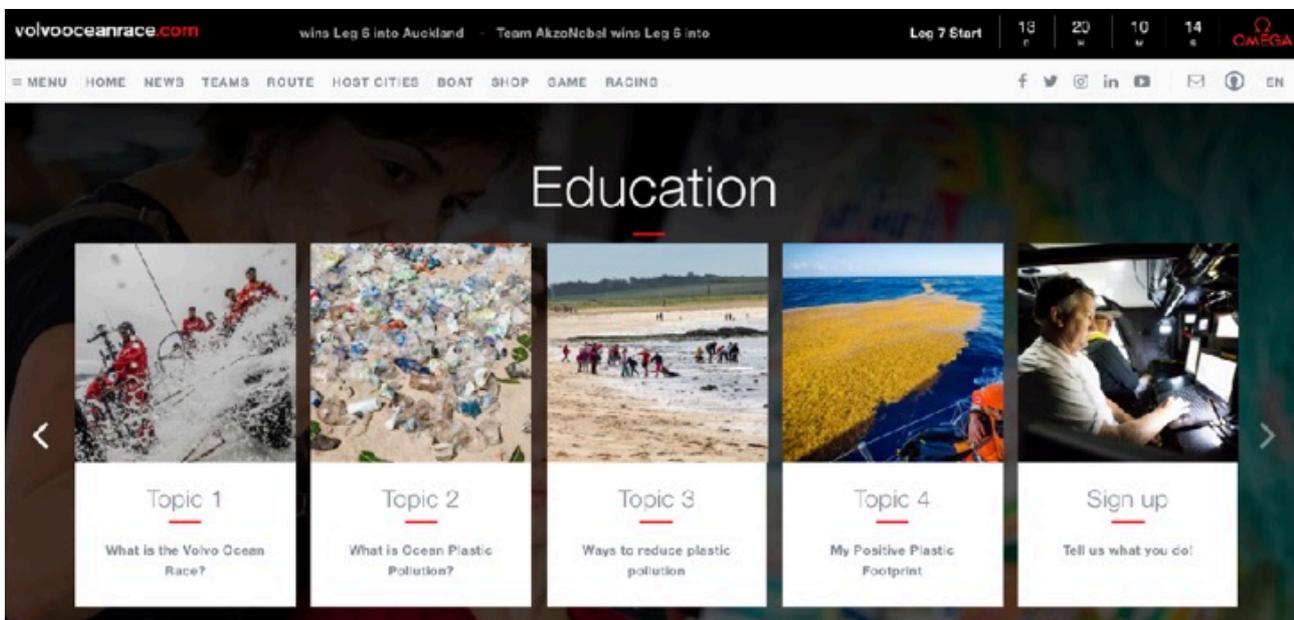
## Speakers:

**Ms Daisy Lo:** Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, [Environment Bureau](#).  
**Sam Barratt:** Chief of Public Advocacy & Communications, [United Nations Environment](#).  
**Dr Steven Wong:** Founder and Managing Director [Fukutomi Company Limited](#) & President, China Scrap Plastics Association.  
**Patrick Yeung:** Oceans Conservation, [WWF](#).  
**Stuart Templar:** Director of Sustainability, [Volvo Cars](#).  
**Dr Ivone Mirpuri:** Medical Advisor, [Mirpuri Foundation](#).  
**Paul Zimmerman:** CEO, [Designing Hong Kong](#).  
**Stiv Wilson:** [The Story of Stuff](#).  
**Froilan Grate:** Asia Pacific Co-ordinator, [GAIA](#), President, [Mother Earth Foundation](#).  
**Tiza Mafira:** The Plastic Bag Diet (Jakarta).  
**Oscar Wezenbeek:** Marine and Protective Coatings.  
**Safia Qureshi:** [The Cup Club](#).  
**Malin Ripa:** Senior Vice President CSR Management, [Volvo Group](#).  
**Anders Jacobson:** Co-Founder and CEO, [BlueWater](#).  
**Christopher Wahlborg:** [Stena Recycling AB](#).  
**Ellie Cottrell:** Grade 12 Student at the Canadian International School of Hong Kong.



# Ocean Health Education Programme

37 countries  
64 500 students



Our education resources are available in English, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Chinese, Swedish and will soon be presented in French.

The resources, which are free to download, include presentations, teacher's guide, student booklets, worksheets and quizzes that can easily be integrated into international curricula.

The programme covers a range of different subjects including language, geography, history STEM and art.

[volvoceanrace.com/education](http://volvoceanrace.com/education)



# Race Village Workshops

10 710 students

[Watch the video](#)



Thousands of school children have visited the Race Village as part of our schools excursion programme. They learn about the Race and the importance of preventing plastic pollution, through various activities arranged by the local stopover partners.

Each day that school kids visit, they are able to attend workshops delivered by our Sustainability Education Programme Manager Lucy Hunt.

[volvoceanrace.com/education](http://volvoceanrace.com/education)



## Connecting schools across the globe

Cape Town  
+ The Hague

In Cape Town alongside the **Dutch Wavemakers** we arranged a Skype call in with a school in The Hague where children in Cape Town were able to speak with the children in The Netherlands all about water and ocean plastic pollution.

# Clean Seas Campaign



# Our work to help turn the tide on plastic #CleanSeas

Volvo Ocean Race has adopted the United Nations Environment Clean Seas campaign as our foundation call to action to help turn the tide on plastic. Our campaign includes:

- a mission-based race team
- branding across highly visibility race assets including all race boats and many race village components
- logo inclusion on staff and sailors uniforms
- The Globe (installation & video onsite)
- calls for individuals, groups, companies and governments to sign up to Clean Seas 'make the pledge'
- exposure across all communications platforms
- video and social media content
- website exposure





View our video summarising our Clean Seas campaign at Volvo Ocean Race.

# We're racing against plastic pollution.

Aligning the **UN Environment Clean Seas** campaign with Volvo Ocean Race through our Sustainability Programme has given additional legitimacy both to our efforts and has linked the issues around plastic pollution to the wider advocacy role of UN Environment.

A vital part of the campaign and media strategy is to provide solutions to the plastic crisis affecting our seas.

The #CleanSeas pledge platform has allowed Volvo Ocean Race to offer our supporters and visitors a mechanism to take steps in their own lives to address their use of single-use plastics.

Furthermore, our call to arms is directed to all businesses, groups and governments we meet as we race around the world.





We encourage governments, companies, groups, NGOs and individuals to 'sign up' to Clean Seas and commit to taking action to reduce their plastic footprint and to help prevent plastic pollution.

This is done through our advocacy in the Race Village, at our Ocean Summits, and through all our communications with stakeholders.

We have pledge kiosks within the Race Village and a direct link on our website.

# Making pledges to #CleanSeas

15 000 pledges

[volvooceanrace.com/pledge](http://volvooceanrace.com/pledge)





# Clean Seas Commitments

New Zealand Government

HiFly

Musto

GAC

Our race sponsors **GAC Pindar** (Official Logistics Provider) and **Musto** (Official Supplier of Sailing Apparel and Footwear) have both joined the Clean Seas campaign, making commitments and taking action in their own businesses. [Read more.](#)

During the Auckland stopover, **New Zealand Government** became the 42nd country to officially partner with Clean Seas. This was celebrated at an event hosted in the Volvo Pavilion, with key ocean health and plastic pollution organisations, campaigns and other stakeholders. [Read more.](#) [View the news.](#)

At the Auckland stopover too, airline **HiFly**, also officially signed to Clean Seas and committed to eliminate the use of avoidable and single use plastics on their aircraft and in their offices before the end of 2019. **HiFly** is owned by the same group as the not-for-profit **Mirpuri Foundation**. [View the news.](#)



Sefanaia Nawadra of UN Environment, Bianca Cook sailor on Turn the Tide on Plastic, and Hon Eugenie Sage, at NZ signing to Clean Seas.



Paulo Mirpuri and Hi Fly staff sign to Clean Seas.



# Clean Seas Commitments

## City of Itajai signs Future of Oceans Seminar

In a first for Brazil and South America, the port city of Itajai has signed up to the United Nations Environment Clean Seas campaign, at an event in the Race Village.

Volnei Moratoni, the Mayor of Itajai, in the state of Santa Catarina, signed up to the ambitious campaign, and laid out his ambitions to tackle the crisis affecting our seas. The mayor was inspired to sign up to the campaign after visiting New Zealand during the Volvo Ocean Race stopover. In Auckland, the New Zealand government signed up to the campaign.

Government commitments include working on new laws and regulations to tackle plastic pollution, informing citizens about the issue, encouraging the private sector to change, and formally partnering with UN Environment on this issue.

The signing was at the Future of the Oceans seminar held at the Itajai Race Village during the stopover. Organised by FAMAI, the city's environmental department, the event had 400 guests. Speakers included Mirpuri Foundation's Silvia Mirpuri speaking on the effects of plastic pollution on human health.

[Read the news.](#) [Watch the Video](#)

*Below: Itajai city council's environmental secretary Victor Silvestre (L), Mayor of Itajai Volnei Moratoni and Head Campaigner for UN Environment Clean Seas Brasil Fernanda Altoé Daltro (R)*



# Clean Seas pledges and selfie booth



# Branding

## Turn the Tide on Plastic Race Team



# Branding

## Turn the Tide on Plastic Race Team



# Clean Seas Branding

On the boom of all race boats





theGlobe



# theGlobe video reveals the issue of ocean plastic pollution

275 000 visitors to  
theGlobe

theGlobe is an installation hosting a 20 minute video where people can learn about Volvo Ocean Race, its history, the current edition, about ocean plastic pollution and what action they can take. It includes a Clean Seas exhibition.

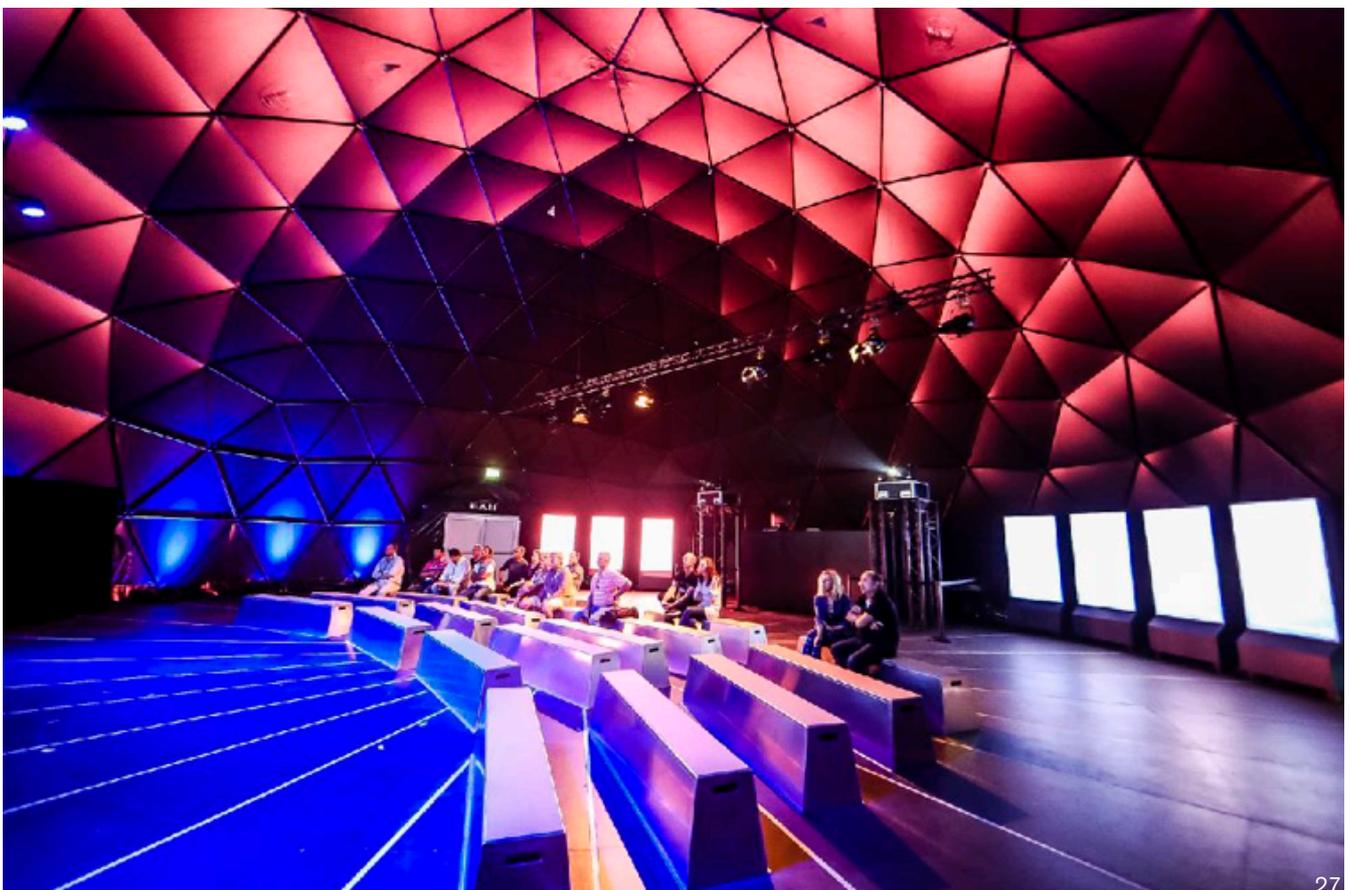
theGlobe is also the venue of our onsite school kid's Ocean Health workshops. In Cape Town it also was the venue for a three night TedX Salon focussed on plastic pollution and Ocean Health.



# Clean Seas Exhibition in theGlobe



The Globe includes Clean Seas exhibition panels.



# Film and workshops in theGlobe



*Race Village visitors in The Globe view a 20 minute film which has three sections on ocean health and plastic pollution.*



*Sustainability Education Programme Manager Lucy Hunt conducting education workshops in The Globe.*

# Sustainability Outreach





## Expanding our reach and amplifying our message

Our Sustainability Education Programme Manager Lucy Hunt visits offsite locations to conduct workshops, presentations and briefings at each stopover to expand our impact. Examples include:

- Visiting the Irish Consulate and promoting the programme to 250 Irish ex-pat teachers in Hong Kong.
- Workshops on Ocean Health to all Race Academy students.
- Holding special workshops to local groups such as underprivileged students attending sailing schools and women-only groups.
- Offsite school visits.



Bianca Cook visits Churchill Park School in Auckland.

# Inspiring the next generation

During the leg of the Race from Hong Kong to Auckland, **Turn the Tide on Plastic** race team's Bianca Cook, the first Kiwi woman to sail in the race around the world in 16 years, was shocked at how much debris and plastic she saw in the waters.

During the New Zealand stopover, Bianca took her mission to Churchill Park School in Auckland where she shared her experiences of life at sea and the plastic problem.



Watch a video of Bianca's school visit.





# Scallywag schools programme Hong Kong



*[Watch Dalton School of Learning video](#)*

Dalton School of Learning undertook the Volvo Ocean Race education programme prior to the Race. They arranged a call in with sailors from SHK Scallywag while they were at sea.

The students then came to the race village to attend a sustainability workshop and meet the team!

# AkzoNobel

## AkzoNobel

Human Cities  
Guangzhou  
Turtle release  
Cape Town

Sailors from team **AkzoNobel** joined company employees and residents from a neighbourhood in downtown Guangzhou, China, to unveil a special mural created by the winner of a student design competition.

Four team members – Olympic gold medalist Martine Grael, and Volvo Ocean Race veterans Chris Nicholson, Jules Salter and Luke Molloy – attended the event, when they had the opportunity to add the finishing touches to the winning design – which adorns the side of a traditional building.

The mural design, themed around ocean sustainability, was chosen last year as part of AkzoNobel’s sixth China Student Sustainability Awards.



*Rescue, rehab and release*





# Volvo Cars hosts beach cleans at each stopover

At each stopover Volvo Cars hosts a beach clean, in association with a local environmental organisation.

Volvo Car's executive management team have been joined by Volvo Cars employees, race team crew and sailors, Volvo Ocean Race staff and local community groups and individuals.



*Watch a video of the Takapuna Beach clean NZ.*





# 11th Hour Racing grantee programme

At every Volvo Ocean Race stopover our Founding Principal Sustainability Partner **11th Hour Racing**, visits a local not-for-profit organisation with their team **Vestas 11th Hour Racing** to learn more about their environmental work – and deliver a \$10,000 grant for their project.

Grantees so far:

**Alicante:** [Asociación De Naturalistas Del Sureste](#)

**Lisbon:** [Circular Economy Portugal](#)

**Cape Town:** [Environmental Monitoring Group](#)

**Melbourne:** [Take 3](#)

**Hong Kong:** [Ocean Recovery Alliance](#)

**Auckland:** [Orca Research Trust](#)

The **Vestas 11th Hour Racing** team base also has a public exhibition installation with information and activities relating to renewable energy, ocean health and plastic pollution. This team base is one of the most popularly visited in the Race Village.



# Dongfeng Race Team supports WWF

DongFeng supports WWF ([www.wwf.org](http://www.wwf.org)) and engages children visiting the race village with onsite activities.





# Official Logistics Partner makes Clean Sea commitments

At the Lisbon stopover, GAC brought together a number of stakeholders including AkzoNobel, Musto and Lisbon City Hall to host an art day for a local not-for-profit organisation, Centro de Reabilitação e Integração de Deficientes (CRID). Teenagers from CRID's partner school, Salesianos do Estoril, and all involved had a fun time while learning how to reduce ocean plastic pollution. See the movie [here](#).

In Hong Kong, GAC took youngsters from a local primary school to the Race Village to learn about plastic pollution. Back home, GAC's Lynne Elliott set about encouraging all GAC companies in Europe to take the #cleanseas pledge and has asked all individuals to do the same this month.

Meanwhile, GAC UK has provided all staff with a reusable branded bottle to stamp out plastic bottles in the workplace, and reusable coffee cups for colleagues on the road.

GAC's goal is to have all six elements of the company's Clean Seas pledge in place by the time the Volvo Ocean Race arrives in Cardiff.



# Volvo Penta's Creative Race

At the Itajai stopover, Volvo Penta and Volvo Ocean Race held a one day creative hack-a-thon with design school Redhook School.

Young creative professionals were charged with the brief of designing a campaign or project to engage boat owners (with Volvo Penta engines) in the issue of marine plastic pollution.

Huge numbers of ideas were generated including a game, including geo-tagging of marine litter on the existing Volvo Penta app, art exhibition, communications campaigns and using plastic as a currency to incentivise its collection.



# Engagement

## We're racing against plastic pollution

Our oceans are awash with plastic litter. It's estimated there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050.

### What can you do?

Redesign your life, your workplace, your community.

Radically reduce disposable plastic use and the chance of it ending up as ocean plastic pollution.

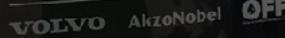
Founding Principal Partner



Principal Partner



Main Partners



We Support



# Voicing our message in the Race Village

We have devised many ways to engage Race Village visitors in our Ocean Health and avoiding plastic pollution mission. Information panels are throughout the Race Village with various messages and ideas of what people can do to help make a difference. Our videos are aired on screens on the stage, way finding towers and within the Volvo activation deck.

Our MC includes sustainability messages in announcements and through compere roles. Other ways to engage Race Village visitors include our green team talking to people about these issues, presentation and talks on the main stage or in special events onsite, workshops, seminars, installations,, films and exhibitions.



# Race Village messaging



# Race Village activations engage our visitors

At each stopover Volvo Ocean Race and our local delivery partners create interactive, entertaining and inspiring activities for Race Village visitors to participate in, all centred around Ocean Health and plastic pollution.

So far we've had kids workshop zones, installations, exhibitions, competitions, films, talks and arts activities. Some of these activities were programmed by the local delivery partner, included in sponsor activations, or community collaborations.

*Plastic waste artwork made at CoCreate's design challenge, Cape Town*



# Race village activations



Top left: Ocean health exhibition, Guangzhou

Top right: Learning Lab, Hong Kong.

Centre left: NZ VR Project, Auckland.

Centre right: Ocean Life Festival at the V&A, Cape Town.

Bottom left: FAMAI installation, Itajai.

Bottom right: Exhibition by Veleiro de Expedições Científicas Oceanográficas, Itajai

# More than 90% of people view fighting plastic pollution as extremely important

We have surveyed more than 10 000 people from Australia, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and US through online surveys and in our Race Villages, to understand the level of knowledge and interest in the issue of ocean plastic pollution, and what action they take to reduce their own plastic footprint.

The good news is that more than 90% view fighting plastic pollution as extremely important, and less than 5% had never heard of the issue.

Of those surveyed in the Race Village 15% of respondents heard about this issue for the first time because of Volvo Ocean Race.

Around 85% of people use a refillable water bottle, but only 40% brought it to the Race Village. The remaining people either didn't know to or forgot to bring their bottle, More effective messaging is required.

Actions taken to reduce their own disposable plastic footprint commonly included using a refillable water bottle, re-usable shopping bags, recycling and not littering. Only 5% had taken plastic litter off the beach in the past week.

The good news is that only 8% of people revealed they do not recycle at home.



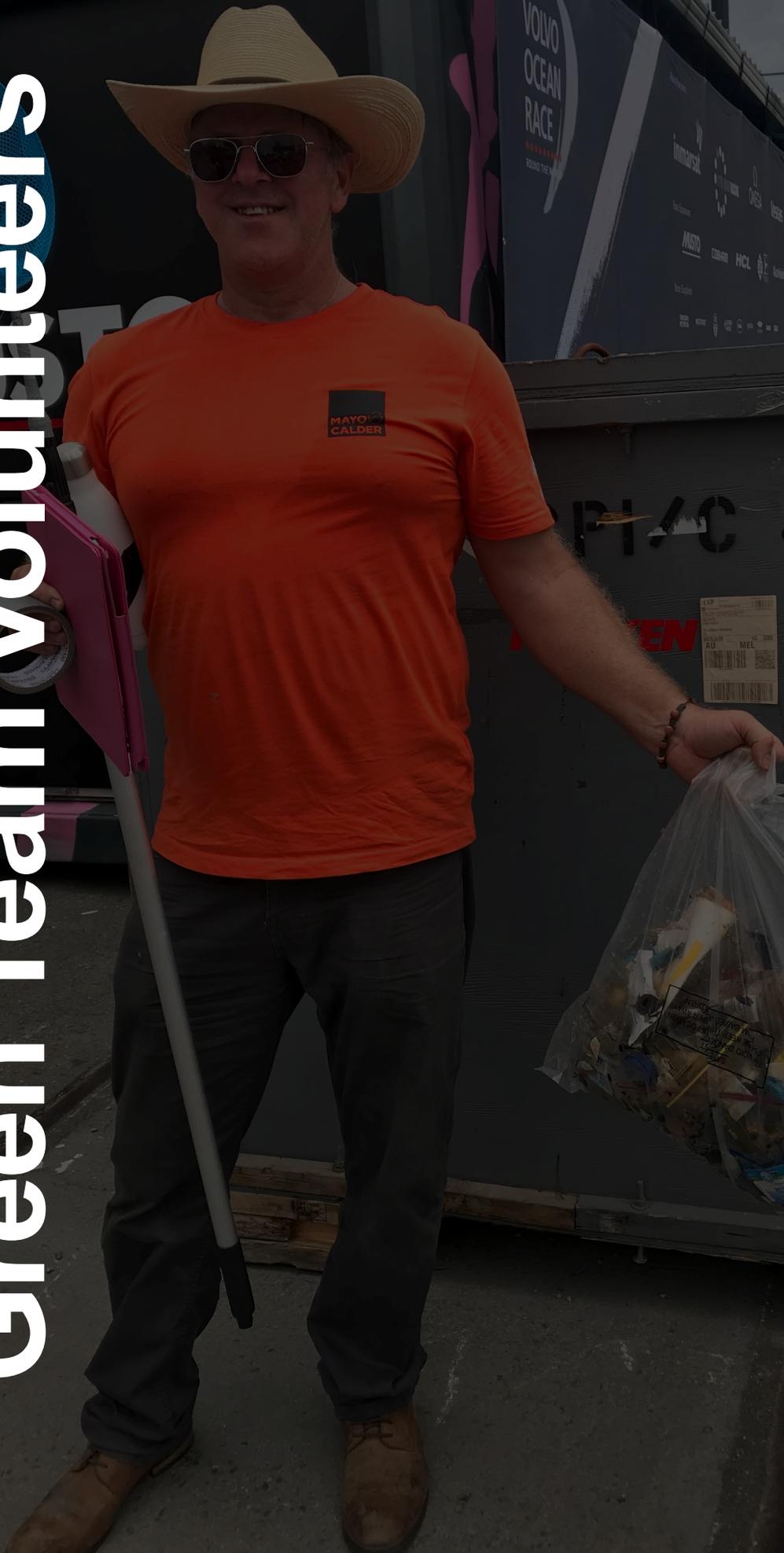
# 1 500 000 views of our sustainability video content

Sharing information, stories, solutions and inspiration about the subject of ocean health and plastic pollution is one of our key programme ambitions.

We create content for our website news and social channels and so far attracted 1 500 000 views.



# Green Team Volunteers



# Volunteer Green Team

## Clean Seas

At each stopover a dedicated 'Green Team' are roving the Race Village to talk to people about ocean health, plastic pollution and the Clean Seas pledge.

We often station them by the resource recovery stations, the water refill points, at The Globe or other areas where valuable conversations can be had.

This engagement is essential to personalise our message. Visitors are really interested and receptive to discuss the issue and share their thoughts on ways to tackle plastic pollution and what they can do in their homes.



# Plastic Reduction



# Reducing single use plastic in our Race Villages

## Avoidance and alternatives

Single use plastic is a major target in our Race Village operations. This includes attempting to completely eliminate disposable plastic bottles, through installing water refill points and using alternatives for other beverages such as wet-pour, cans, glass bottles and re-usable cup systems.

We have also been working hard to avoid all other single use plastic items such as beverage cups, cutlery, plastic lined coffee cups, condiment sachets and cable ties.



Top left: Washables system, Hong Kong.

Right: Water refill messaging.

Bottom left: Reusable bungees replace cable ties.



# Avoiding plastic bottles

238 000 single use plastic bottles avoided.

We aim to not serve or sell drinking water at any single use disposable plastic bottles. To facilitate this, water refill points are in place across the Race Village.

We estimate 238 000 single use bottles have been avoided through our water refill stations so far.



Watch a [video](#) to find out more about Bluewater and Volvo Ocean Race.



Bottom: Our official water partners and sustainability partner **Bluewater** provide mineralised and purified water, using reverse osmosis technology.

# Avoiding plastic bottles

## Re-usable bottle giveaways

All Volvo Ocean Race staff and volunteers in each stopover are given a special edition Clean Seas refillable water bottle. These are also for sale at the Musto store in the Race Village.

Most teams, suppliers, partners and sponsors likewise provide their staff and guests refillable water bottles.

Local sponsors and host cities have also arranged bottle giveaways.

*Below: Sponsor bottle giveaway activation in Hong Kong.*

*Top right: Host port in Alicante gave a water bottle every Race Village visitor on day one.*

*Bottom right: Local sponsor Consol glass in Cape Town gave away bottles to everyone that surrendered a plastic bottle.*



# Avoiding disposable plastic plates, bowls, cutlery and cups

85% of potential single use plastic service ware avoided.

The standing request for all crew, volunteer and guest catering (corporate hospitality) is to be served on re-usable food and beverage serviceware. We have been successful in most locations in achieving this.

For public catering we encourage compostable or washable serviceware. While we haven't been successful with every vendor, our estimate is 85% of potential plastic serviceware items have been transitioned off plastic to alternative materials.

In Hong Kong a washables system was implemented also for the public catering area with an estimated 45 000 single use catering items avoided.

We anticipate hundreds of thousands of single use plastic catering serviceware items will be avoided across the entire race.



Above: Alternatives to plastic used in public catering.

Top right: Reusable cup system, Itajai.

Bottom: Re-usable plates, cutlery and beer cups, Hong Kong.

# Reducing plastic in branding and overlay

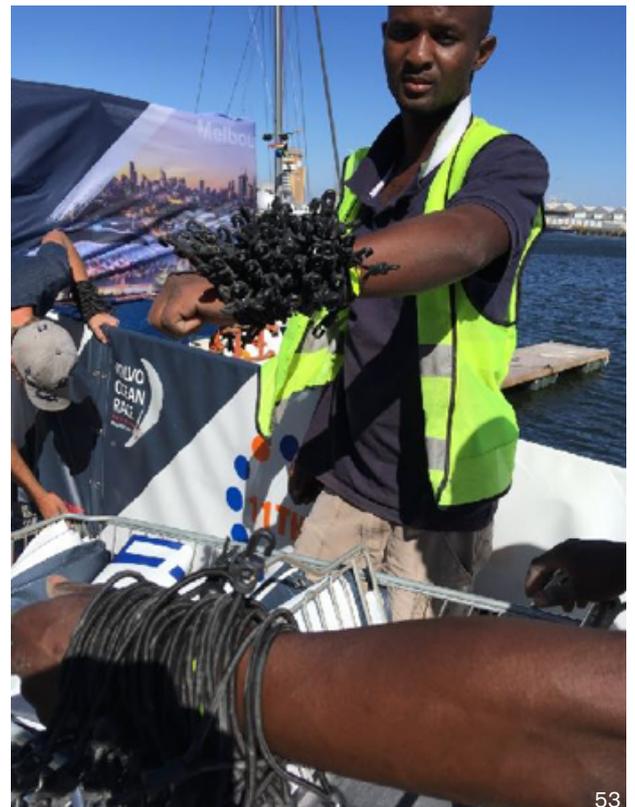
## PVC Materials Cable ties

We produce materials which travel with the Race and then each stopover, our local delivery partner also produces materials also. All branding material in our Race Villages is PVC free.

At each stopover the local branding is sent for recycling, or if a local organisation exists, we send materials for re-purposing.

At the end of the Race our travelling materials will also be send for re-purposing in a special project in co-ordination with The Hague delivery partners.

Rather than single use cable ties, we have invested in 30 000 reusable bungees to attach our banners and flags.





# Plastic Leaks!

Despite our huge effort in engaging all those who can help us to avoid single use plastic in our food and beverage service, we still see some disposable plastic making its way onto our Race Villages.

Where we can intervene immediately we do so (such as requesting straws be removed). Where the request has not got through effectively, we sadly have to tolerate some disposable plastic items.

Some of the plastic leakage we have seen includes:

- Plastic cutlery, food containers, stirrers, ice cream spoons and straws used by some vendors.
- Plastic food containers provided by offsite caterers for our on water staff lunches.
- Plastic bottled water sold by food vendors, provided to hospitality guests or used by workforce.
- Disposable plastic items (frisbees, bags, yoyos, rulers) given away.
- Disposable plastic lined coffee cups used by some vendors and brought onsite by workforce.

# Plastic leaks!



Top right: staff meals delivered in polystyrene containers in Cape Town.

Middle right: Staff purchasing bottled water.

Top left: plastic containers and cutlery provided for staff lunches by offsite caterers.

Bottom left: Crew catering 'running out' of washable cutlery and going to plastic.

Bottom right: Local workforce buying in plastic bottled water. They weren't communicated effectively enough about our water refill points.



# Resource Recovery



# Example Race Village bins

Materials separation



While we are successfully avoiding single use hard plastic, film plastic remains a difficult item to avoid. Many of our deliveries arrive wrapped or packed in disposable plastic film or bags.

We worked with **Musto** to drastically reduce their film plastic use in uniform and merchandise. [Read more.](#)

However more needs to be done to influence the supply chain or make alternative purchasing and operational choices to avoid film plastic.

In Auckland we teamed up with **The Packaging Forum, Redcycle and Abilities** to take all of our plastic film waste for onward recycling and conversion into furniture and road devices.

# Our major disposable plastic item

## Film plastic



# Food waste is a focus

## Composting

We avoid food waste going to landfill wherever possible. Collection of food and other organic waste for composting has been successfully achieved at most stopovers. Notably in Alicante, Lisbon and Hong Kong this is not common practice at events and was successfully implemented.



# Food waste is a focus

## Donation

Volvo Pavilion and Sailors Terrace have corporate hospitality kitchens. At the end of each stopover we arrange a food donation to a relevant charity or food rescue purveyor.

Pictured below is Kiwi Harvest in Auckland and food donations also sent to Feeding Hong Kong.



# Materials recovery

## Ensuring success

Placing valuable resources such as recyclable materials in a bin and hoping for the best is not our strategy. We do all we can to optimise ensured recovery of resources such as timber, metal, plastic, cardboard and glass.

In Hong Kong we had single stream waste collection. Our co-ordinators then travelled with many of the materials to supervise their receipt by re-processors. Some merchants visited the site to collect materials such as film plastic.

In Auckland and Itajai waste was processed through an onsite 'triage' where recyclable materials were extracted. In Itajai, further processing was undertaken by the recycling cooperative COOPERFOZ. Waste audit of bins in Auckland showed that 60% of waste placed in 'general' bins could actually be recycled, and about 30% of materials placed in recycling bins was not recyclable. All this despite the brilliant bin displays \*see photos three and four pages back. This re-inforces the need for personnel on the bins to ensure the separation is done correctly.



# Science Programme





Boat Captain for Turn The Tide on Plastic, Liz Wardley is responsible for sample collection.

# Science Programme

Microplastics and oceanographic sampling  
Drifter buoys  
Meteorology

The Volvo Ocean Race Science Programme has brought together an elite scientific consortium to capture data that will contribute to a better understanding of the world's ocean and climate.

The programme is supported by Volvo Cars who are donating €100 to the programme from every V90 Cross Country Volvo Ocean Race series car sold.

Environmental and oceanographic data from onboard sampling, scientific drifter buoys and meteorological measurements will contribute a vast amount of data especially from critical data-sparse areas to improve the reliability of forecasts and predictive models.

- 19 scientific drifter buoys successfully deployed.
- Oceanographic measurements recorded at 2142 points.
- 40 microplastics samples analysed.





Dr Sören Gutekunst, (left) of GEOMAR Institute for Ocean Research, funded by the Cluster of Excellence Future Ocean, analyses the preliminary microplastics data at their laboratory in Kiel, Germany. He is pictured here with Dr Stefan Raimund (SubCtech GmbH) fitting the equipment into the AkzoNobel race boat in Auckland. The same equipment has been on Turn the Tide on Plastic since Race start.

# Microplastic data collection

## Leg 1 to 4 summary

Most notable to date are the preliminary results that have confirmed microplastics to be present even in samples from remote areas in the South Indian Ocean, illustrating the potential transport of plastic pollution to areas far from the pollution source due to ocean currents.

Levels recorded & reported here cannot always be attributed entirely to local sources & further analyses of the data in combination with ocean current modelling will provide a significant insight into where microplastic pollution originates & accumulates.

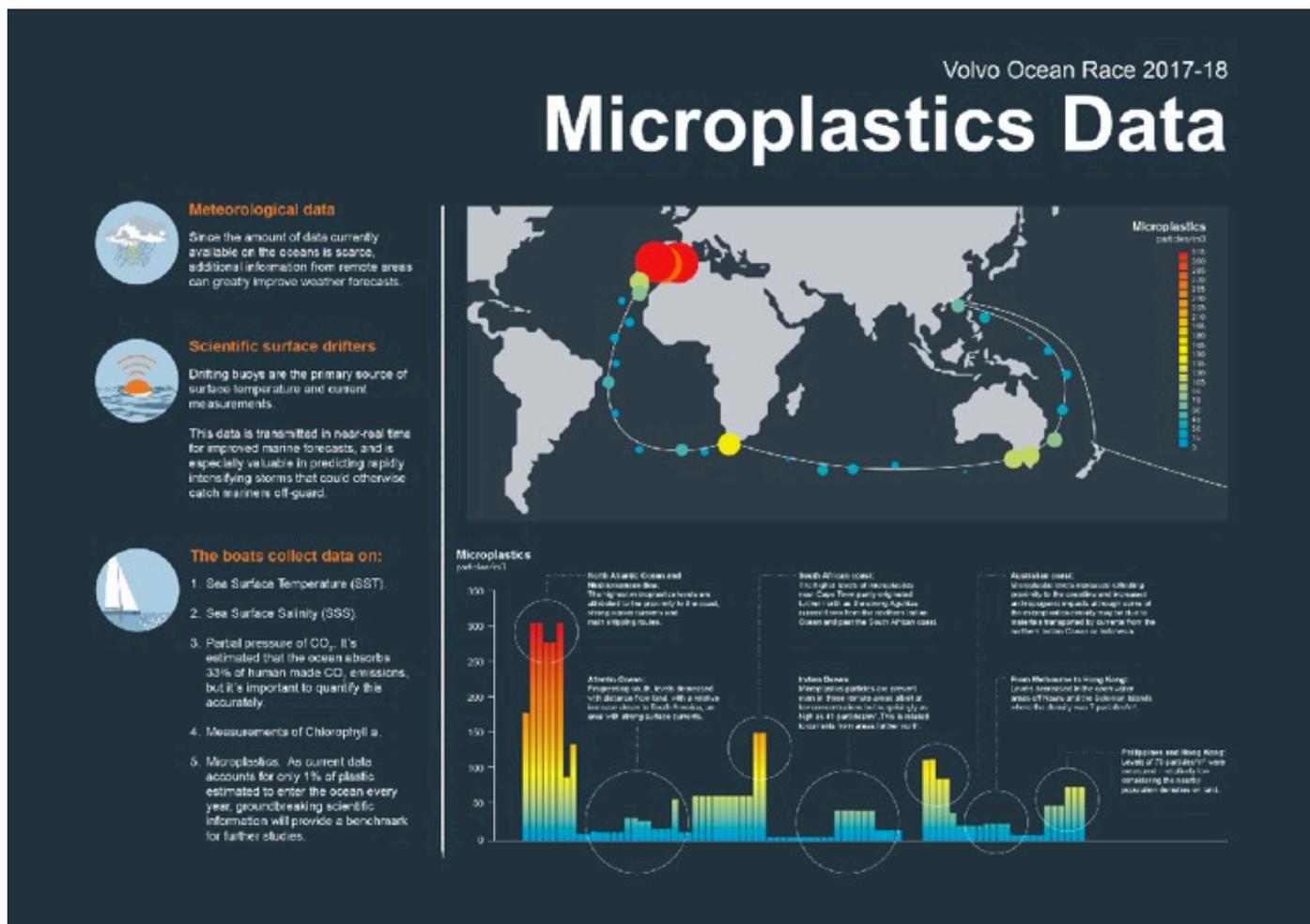
To date the data collected by race team 'Turn the Tide on Plastic' have shown levels of 75 microplastics per cubic metre in the waters off Hong Kong and up to 115 particles per cubic metre off the coast near Melbourne.

The highest levels of microplastics recorded along the race route so far have been in inshore European waters of the North Atlantic where levels were up to 307 particles per cubic metre.

[Email us to request the science report.](#)



A sample filter from the microplastic collection device.



# Microplastic sample summary

The Volvo Ocean Race microplastic data analysed to date gives a unique synoptic picture of the distribution of microplastics in the oceans.

It represents a remarkable dataset given the extensive coverage of previously un-sampled ocean and the fact that the data from different areas are comparable, having been measured in a consistent way using a single sampling unit.

A dataset like this is unprecedented.

[Read news article.](#)

South Indian Ocean SE of Africa	4 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Tropical West Pacific	7 - 23 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
South Atlantic	9 - 63 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Offshore North Atlantic	11 - 136 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Southernmost samples from Indian Ocean	0 - 42 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Philippine Sea	48 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
South China Sea	75 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
East coast Australia	39 - 87 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Approach to south coast of Australia	115 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Indian Ocean SE of Cape Town	152 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Western Mediterranean Sea	280 particles/m <sup>3</sup>
Inshore North Atlantic off Spain and Portugal	180 - 307 particles/m <sup>3</sup>

\*Results are preliminary and this table is a reference for the accompanying map. All preliminary data provided by Dr Sören Gutekunst and Dr Toste Tanhua, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel.

# Science Programme media



### Drifter Buoy Deployment

Volvo Ocean Race meets ocean science with drifter buoy deployment (1:25 min, 16/11/17)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilcvmCH8X8c>



### New Zealand Herald

29/01 Microplastic scourge reaches pristine Antarctica

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11983980](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11983980)

#### Microplastic scourge reaches pristine Antarctica

Microplastic particles polluting Earth's oceans now found in Antarctica's pristine waters.  
NZHERALD.CO.NZ



### The Guardian

12/02 Microplastics pollute most remote and uncharted areas of the ocean

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/feb/12/microplastics-pollute-most-remote-and-uncharted-areas-of-the-ocean>

#### Microplastics pollute most remote and uncharted areas of the ocean

First data ever gathered from extremely remote area of the South Indian Ocean has a surprisingly high volume of plastic particles, say scientists  
THEGUARDIAN.COM



### South China Morning Post

1/02 Microplastics might already be inside us all: Volvo Ocean Race warns of 'chemical burden' coming from waste littering the seas

<http://www.scmp.com/sport/hong-kong/article/2131539/microplastics-might-already-be-inside-us-all-volvo-ocean-race-warns>

#### Volvo Ocean Race warns of 'chemical burden' of microplastics

People might be moved by images of endangered animals but there's a 'stronger message' that danger is coming to harm us  
SCMP.COM

# Seabin



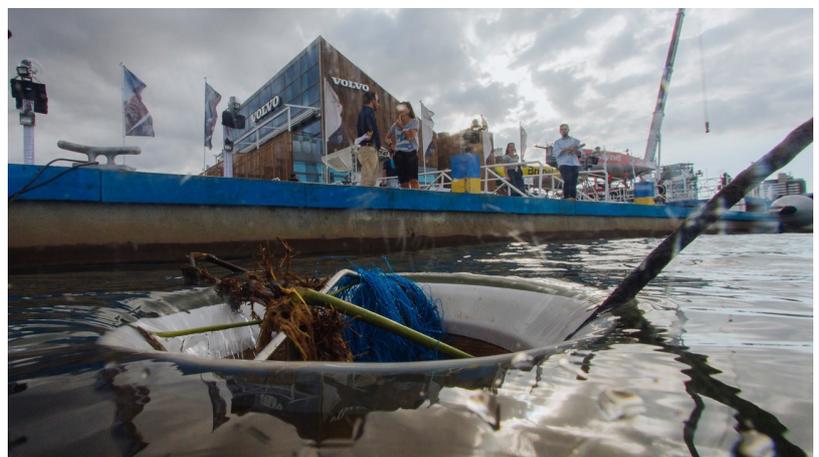
# SeaBin

## Collecting marine litter

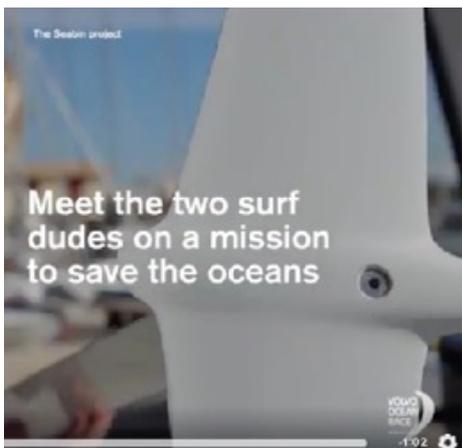
At each stopover we install a SeaBin, which sits in the water, attached to the pontoon, and collects surface litter. We empty the contents and send an audit of items found back to SeaBin for their ongoing survey data.

View the SeaBin in action on their website [seabinproject.com](http://seabinproject.com)

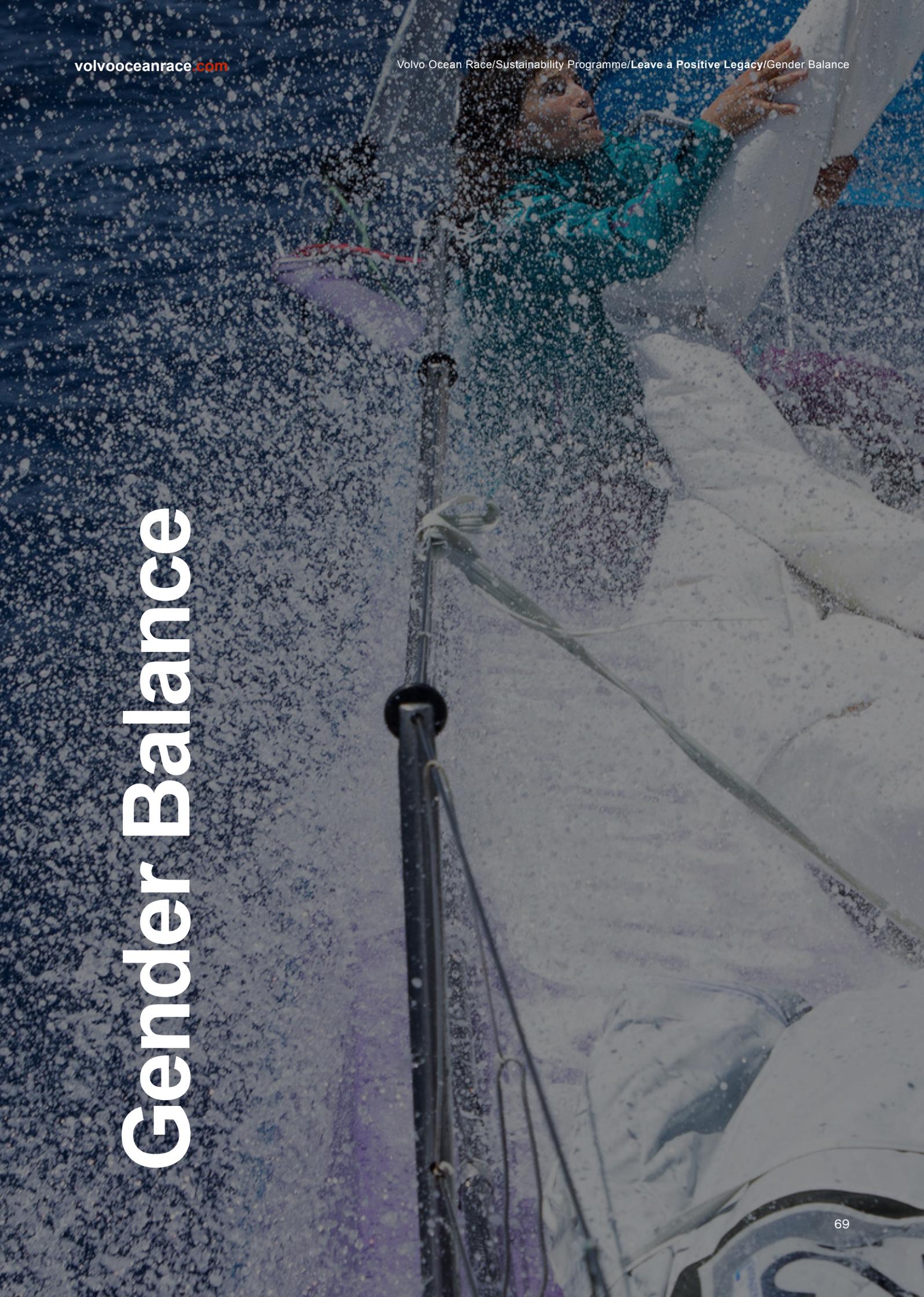
[Read our Auckland SeasBin report](#)



[Watch video](#)



# Gender Balance



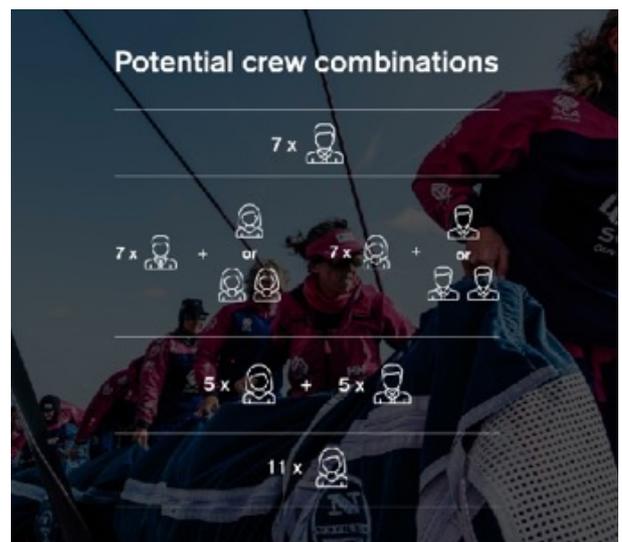
# Women in Volvo Ocean Race

To allow further opportunity to elite female sailors, in this edition Volvo Ocean Race rules limit all male teams to just seven crew members.

All teams have chosen to include women in their crew and potential crew combinations are as follows:

7 all-male; 7 men + 1 or 2 women; 5 men + 5 women; 7 women + 1 or 2 men; 11 all-female.

Women in Volvo Ocean Race were celebrated on International Women’s Day while in Auckland in association with the Magenta Project. This programme was created after the last Volvo Ocean Race, through the all-female team SCA. The project work on providing a pathway for professional female athletes to compete at the highest level of sport.



*View Behind-the-scenes of the Volvo Ocean Race celebrating women event*



# Stakeholder Engagement



# Inspiring interest and action

Engaging stakeholders in our sustainability mission is the key to our success. We have focussed on inspiring and enabling positive action by staff, teams, sponsors, partners, host city delivery partners, suppliers, their workforces and our volunteers.

Our efforts have centred on disposable plastic reduction, correct resource segregation and recovery, smart purchasing choices, changing personal habits, spreading the message, and having positive support and attitudes by our staff and stakeholders towards our sustainability goals.

Engagement events for internal staff and stakeholders to inspire interest and action have so far included:

- Team sustainability training day (Lisbon)
- Chasing Coral screening (Cape Town)
- Pub Quiz with sustainability theme (Auckland and Alicante)
- Posts and articles on Jostle (VOR) and RaceNet (wider stakeholders).
- Posters and messaging in meal rooms.
- Mentions in scheduled meetings.



Top: Sailors sustainability training, Lisbon  
 Middle: Chasing Coral screening, Cape Town  
 Bottom: Re-usable coffee cups, Hong Kong

Previous page: Musto staff are diligent recyclers, of unavoidable soft plastics, cardboard, and they donate their silicon gel moisture sachets to Scallywag's shipping container to help de-humidify it each trip!

# Enabling good practice

Techniques to enable good practice and provide solutions have included:

- VOR Green Team meetings and plastic reduction workshops.
- Departmental, teams, supplier, partners and host city meetings.
- Creation of guides, tools and other resources for various stakeholders.
- Sharing of best practice and photographic examples.
- End of the phone support.
- Informal catch ups and meetings.
- Giveaways of water bottles, coffee cups and laundry bags.

Resources produced to guide or enable good practice include:

- Sustainability Strategy, to inform and guide our overall approach
- Development of Sustainability Objectives and Targets.
- Sustainable catering guide, including a focus on sustainable seafood.
- Sustainable service-ware guide, to include options for avoiding single use plastic
- Waste and catering checklist to undertake a disposable plastic health check.
- Guide to plastic free living

There are endless examples of our efforts having an impact from the smallest such as a particular staff member swapping to a reusable coffee cup, to the largest of changes such as merchandise companies changing packaging, or introducing new event waste management procedures.



Top left: Cloth laundry bags for travelling staff  
 Top right: All staff and vols have re-usable bottles  
 Bottom left: Messaging at the media coffee station  
 Bottom right: Collection of re-usable coffee cups in the events team



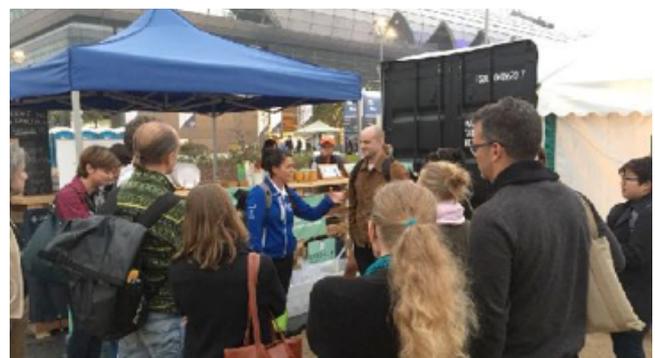
# Sustainable event workshop

During the Hong Kong stopover we hosted a Sustainable Event Workshop. This followed on from a similar workshop conducted by The Purpose Business and The Hong Kong Jockey Club in June 2017.

The focus of the workshop was reducing single use plastic at events in Hong Kong. Discussed was the recent ban on exporting recyclable waste to China, the upcoming introduction of a landfill tax in Hong Kong, the trouble with using compostable service-ware when no composting facilities exist, the Drink Without Waste initiative to reduce single use disposable beverage containers, and the controversy of chain of custody of recyclable materials collected in Hong Kong, actually making it to recycling facilities.

The event was attended by 80 Hong Kong based event industry participants. The panellists included local event organisers, suppliers and materials specialists. Event solutions and cross-sector solutions were discussed.

After the workshop, a tour around the Race Village to showcase Volvo Ocean Race’s initiatives was conducted.



Meegan Jones, Sustainability Programme Manager conducts a sustainable operations Race Village tour.

# Thank you.

The Volvo Ocean Race Sustainability Programme is only possible because of the vision, commitment, support and involvement of our sustainability partners.

Each partner has an important part to play in activating and engaging with us and our programme elements.

We thank them wholeheartedly for their continued support in making these achievements possible.

## Founding Principal Partner

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## Principal Partner

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## Main Partners

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## We Support

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# Sustainability Team

- Anne-Cecile Turner:** Sustainability Programme Leader
- Meegan Jones:** Sustainability Programme Manager
- Lucy Hunt:** Sustainability Education Programme Manager
- Emilie Llorens:** Sustainability Event Manager (Ocean Summits)
- Robin Clegg:** Sustainability Communications
- Mairéad O'Donovan:** Science Co-ordinator
- Stefi Sichel:** Onsite Co-ordinator
- Anaïs Boulon:** Sustainability Intern
- Toste Tanhua:** Scientist.
- Sören Gutekunst:** Scientist

Contact us:  
sustainability@volvooceanrace.com

## The extended sustainability team:

Reineke Boot, Genevieve Bow, Isabel Cirilo, Rosie Geyman, António F. Meireles, Julia Moura Campos, Ulrika Persson, Andrea Tagliamacco, Jonno Turner, Laura Urrutia, Susie Walker, Bex Worthington.

## Host Cities Sustainability:

- Lisbon:** Andreia Barbosa, Lindsey Wuisien and Circular Economy Portugal
- Cape Town:** Simon Borchert, Janneke Brasecke, and Du Toit Malherbe
- Hong Kong:** Melvin Byrnes, Darren Catterall, Nicola Evans, Oliver Lang, Vicky Lee, Nick Maloney, Helen Norton, Merrin Pearse, and Gaelle Tong
- Guangzhou:** Natty and Li Li
- Auckland:** Sarah Bilkey, Hannah Lyle and Nick Carter
- Itajai:** Adriene Carlotto, Darlan Haussen-Martins, Joao Malavolta

