2018 Northeast Harbor Fleet Green Policies

The policies outlined below are guidelines for members, guests, staff, and Sailing School parents and sailors. They are the results of many Green Team discussions and research into effective sustainability policies at other sailing venues, yacht clubs and regattas, and are inspired by Sailors for the Sea. We have tailored them to the Fleet’s unique history, setting and operation along with consideration for the seasonal nature of our club.

As we go through our second summer with these policies, please let us know how they are working for you. We welcome your feedback and ideas on how to improve them in order to help make the Fleet more environmentally friendly, more enjoyable, cleaner, and greener.

The Fleet endorses the sustainable principles of **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**.

- Plastic is a major cause of ocean pollution and we seek to dramatically reduce the use of plastic and packaging throughout the Fleet and the Sailing School.
- We encourage the use of reusable containers, glasses, dinnerware and utensils by all members, guests and Sailing School students and parents.
- We encourage responsible recycling and the proper disposal of all wastes, including composting for food waste.

I. Avoid single-use plastic water bottles.

The Fleet has installed water bottle filling stations, providing fresh, filtered water for refilling reusable water containers. We request that all members, guests and sailing school students use only reusable water containers, and forego single-use plastic water bottles.

Sailing School students are encouraged to bring their own personal reusable water bottles from home. Please try to avoid the use of single-use containers for other beverages – but if you must, please deposit any redeemables in our facilities and recycle any non-redeemable bottles.

II. Use reusable containers for food, lunches & snacks.

All members, guests and sailing school students should avoid the use of plastic wrappings and containers for food items whenever possible. Most food packaging is not recyclable or compostable and simply ends up in landfill, as litter or in our waters!

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Alternatives such as “Tupperware” containers are better than single-use plastic or paper wrap, and a variety of re-usable, washable wraps are available. Please – no Styrofoam or clear plastic "clam-shell" take out containers.

**III. Avoid single-use plastic bags.**

All members, guests and Sailing School students should avoid the use of single-use plastic bags – whether for shopping or transporting items to the Fleet. Plastic shopping bags are not recyclable and are a major cause of pollution on land and sea. There are many more environmentally responsible alternatives readily available.

We encourage you to at the very least create a “bag of bags” to re-use for food shopping, and to make the transition to good reusable cloth bags for all shopping and for carrying items to the Fleet, to boats and to events.

**IV. Pack it in / pack it out.**

Members, guests and sailing school students are encouraged to take all waste home and dispose of it properly. The Fleet is now providing facilities for redeemable bottles and cans, recyclables and compost, but only limited facilities for general trash.

**V. Paper goods should be from true compostable materials only.**

Compostable napkins, paper towels and toilet paper are readily available, and cardboard boxes and six-pack beverage containers can be recycled. Please recycle all non-compostable paper and cardboard properly.

**VI. Nothing goes overboard.**

No items, including food wastes, should ever be thrown overboard. If compostable, food items and scraps should be properly disposed of ashore; the Fleet is providing facilities for composting at the Fleet house. Everything should be brought ashore for proper disposal, never thrown into the water. Let’s do all we can to keep our oceans clean.

**VII. The last straw!**

Please: No plastic straws are to be used at the Fleet. We also encourage you to say NO to plastic straws when ordering drinks at your favorite watering hole!

*The Northeast Harbor Fleet Green Team thanks you!*