

Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

BLUE FLAG BEST PRACTICES AROUND THE WORLD

*Environmental Management - Safety and Services
Bathing Water Quality - Environmental Education Activities
2013 - 2014*

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BLUE FLAG

Blue Flag is a voluntary eco-label awarded to 4000 beaches and marinas in 49 countries across Europe, South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada and the Caribbean. The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with Water Quality, Environmental Education and Information, Environmental Management, and Safety and Other Services. The Blue Flag Programme is owned and run by the non-government, non-profit organisation, Foundation for Environmental Education.

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with member organisations in more than 70 countries around the world. FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes: Blue Flag (www.blueflag.org), Green Key (www.green-key.org), Eco-Schools (www.eco-schools.org), Learning about Forests (www.leaf-international.org), and Young Reporters for the Environment (www.youngreporters.org).

Through formal school education, training of staff, and awareness raising, FEE's programmes involve people of all ages and nationalities.

For more information, please visit www.fee-international.org.

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THIS BOOK HAS BEEN CREATED TO...

...help beach and marina managers to organise environmental education activities that fit with their goals and capacities; and to share good ideas throughout the Blue Flag network.

WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION?

Environmental Education offers a broad framework that encompasses a number of different ideas and approaches to learning in, for or about the environment, in pursuit of sustainable development. The purpose of this guide is not to debate the different definitions, but to encourage a shared acceptance of the diversity of learning approaches. This introduction, therefore, offers a brief description of environmental education approaches and offers a simple classification to help users to navigate their way through the different activities and worksheets.

One way of understanding environmental education is to see it as education that engages learners with nature, encourages them to ask questions about the environment, and engage with environmental change. This means that environmental education is not just concerned with spreading messages about the environment, but it also provides opportunities to enhance learner understanding, question environmental problems and take action for environmental change in pursuit of sustainable development.



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Blue Paths

Blue Paths is an initiative launched by ADEAC (FEE Spain) in association with municipalities with Blue Flag awarded sites. Blue Paths are routes that connect beaches and contribute positively to the sustainable use and management of the coast. They are also designed to enhance the rural and ethnological heritage of the municipalities which are being awarded the Blue Flag.

In addition, Blue Paths are excellent routes to enjoy nature. Moreover, they help to promote the local development, healthy and sustainable transportation for the whole society.

Furthermore, ADEAC has developed interactive nature guides for smartphones, tablets and computer devices, which are designed to spread awareness about our shores and to make this information more understandable for the whole society, the information provided allows the municipality to engage a direct dialogue with visitors of the Blue Paths.

Currently, 37 municipalities participate in the project and every year more and more municipalities show their interest in obtaining a room in the Blue Paths scheme.

Site: Various

Region: Various

Contact details: www.senderosazules.org,

info@senderosazules.org

National Operator: Virginia Yuste Abad,

banderaazul@adeac.es



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The red-eared terrapin: An unwanted guest at our coast



This activity is an awareness campaign about the red-eared terrapin, an exotic species of turtles that has spread due to illegal abandonment. Information boards and brochures with information about this species should educate the public about the impacts of the uncontrolled spread of this species.

Until recently it was sold as a pet in shops and at markets so that it has become a common species today. However, when buying the turtle, most of the owner do not know that they do not stay as tiny as they are when they buy them. For that reason many people abandon their pet turtles in the wild where their population grows very fast. For that reason the wet zones of Catalonia such as the mouth of the river Gaià for example have become the new habitat of these unwanted residents.



The campaign therefore aims at raising awareness about the problems of the uncontrolled release of exotic, non-native species into the environment.

Region: Tarragona

Contact details: <http://www.tarragona.cat/mediambient>

National Operator: Virginia Yuste Abad,



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Environmental activities as a part of hotel's animation programme

The hotel chain Hoteli Bernardin offers environmental activities as a part of their weekly animation programme. Among other, they offer dolphin watching, bicycle tours in the surrounding natural parks, visits to the natural park Secovlje salt field with bird watching and Nordic walking in the surrounding area of the hotels.

The activities took place at all Blue Flag beaches of the Hotel Bernardin Hotel Group: Metropol Beach, Vile Park Beach, Salinera Beach and Naravno kopališče Hotela Bernardin.

Site: Metropol Beach, Vile Park Beach, Salinera Beach, Naravno kopališče Hotela Bernardin
Region: Various

Contact details: DOVES – FEE SLOVENIA,
Cesta Solinarjev 4, p.p. 213, 6320 Portorož
M: 051-309-136

info@drustvo-doves.si

www.modrazastava.si

National Operator: Boris Šušmak,

info@drustvo-doves.si



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Flower pots for cigarette butts



On the mainly grassy and concrete beach St. Bernardin smokers are provided with flower pots for cigarette butts at the beach entrance.

Site: Naravno kopališče Hotelov Bernardin "St. Bernardin"

Region: Portorož

Contact details: DOVES – FEE SLOVENIA,
Cesta Solinarjev 4, p.p. 213, 6320 Portorož

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www.modrazastava.si

National Operator: Boris Šušmak,

info@drustvo-doves.si



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New facilities and devices for disabled people

Two of our Blue Flag beaches, the municipal beach in Polis and the beach Vrisi C in the municipality of Paralimni have installed ramps with movable chairs which enable disabled people to access the sea by simply rolling or walking down the wooden ramps.

“To my pleasure I used this in summer in Polis and it was really great and very easy to go into the sea. I have never seen something like that. It was my first possibility to swim in the Mediterranean sea! Me and my brother enjoyed it very much! It is a great supplement for disabled people.” Jan Willem and Richard Bosch from Holland.

Sites: Vrisi C, municipality beach of Polis
Region: Municipality of Paralimni,
municipality of Polis of Chrysochous

National Operator: Christos Tsangaris,
cymepa@cytanet.com.cy



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Cleaning boat



The Municipality of Limassol got the first cleaning boat in Cyprus which is used to clean the sea area next to the Blue Flag beaches Akti Olympion A and Akti Olympion B.

The whole project was mainly sponsored by the Cyprus Tourist Organisation. The boat is a specially designed Catamaran that collects floating litter from the Limassol Bay.

At the inauguration ceremony at the pier of the city the mayor said that from this day on the already well-kept Limassol Bay will be even cleaner.

Site: Akti Olympion A and Akti Olympion B
Region: Limassol

National Operator: Christos Tsangaris,
cymepa@cytanet.com.cy



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State-of-the-art recycling

The Halifax Regional Municipality installed 15 four-stream receptacles along its waterfront boardwalk. The eco-friendly receptacles collect discarded drink containers, paper, organics and garbage. The contents are compacted using solar energy, and once the bins are full a sensor emails the waste management office. This enables efficient use of staff resources and ensures that the bins are emptied when they need to be.

The eye-catching design, easy-to-understand illustrations and appropriately shaped openings make recycling and composting easier than ever. In fact, the system resulted in a 95% diversion rate for beverage containers and a paper diversion rate of 83%. It is considered one of the greenest initiatives in Canada.

The project was funded by Nestle Waters Canada, and the bins are manufactured by Big Belly Solar.

Site: Halifax Waterfront (marina)

Region: Halifax

Contact details: Big Belly Solar,

<http://www.bigbelly.com/benefits/recycling/888-820-0300>

National Operator: Brett Tryon,

btryon@environmentaldefence.ca



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Blue Flag Beach Bonanza



In 2012 and 2013 Environmental Defence has organized the Blue Flag Beach Bonanza to promote the Blue Flag programme, educate visitors about environmental issues and celebrate our beaches.

The event is free to the public and includes lots of fun activities like stand-up paddle boarding lessons, yoga on the beach, volleyball, eco-scamper hunts, kite flying and a photo booth. We had lots of prizes and giveaways, all branded with the Blue Flag logo.



We invited the media to attend, and had the event covered on the news and in several newspapers. The event has helped promote the Blue Flag programme and sustainable practices, while encouraging people to connect with the waterfront.

Region: Toronto, Ontario

National Operator: Brett Tryon,
btryon@environmentaldefence.ca



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A game offered at all Blue Flag marinas in Spain,
education to recycling systems

This activity aims at promoting the proper handling and management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE). It consists of a game which is distributed in all Blue Flag marinas in Spain. During the game the players learn more about this kind of waste and how to handle it correctly.

Site: All Blue Flag marinas in Spain

Region: Various

Contact details: www.adeac.es

National Operator: Virginia Yuste Abad,
banderaazul@adeac.es



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Thematic blue flag distinction in environmental information and education



The Club Nautic of Altea is a marina with more than 35 years of history and great environmental awareness. The environmental education therefore constitute an important tool for the marina that allows the coexistence of nautical activities and the protection of the environment.

The marina organises environmental education workshops, seabed cleanings, activities for professionals who work in the marina and it also supports collaborations with the University of Alicante in different environmental and biological studies. Furthermore, the marina has an efficient waste management which includes the separation of different wastes and the provision of adequate waste containers in special designated areas. Moreover, the marina provides adequate and safe facilities for the maintenance of vessels.



Site: Club Náutic Altea

Region: Alicante

Contact details: Club Náutico de Altea Av. Del Puerto, 50
03590 Altea, Alicante, España

National Operator: Virginia Yuste Abad,
banderaazul@adeac.es



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Green Zones

Our beach managers took the initiative to set up “Green Zones” at the beaches, which are information points where information about the environment and the environmental activities are displayed.

In every bathing season we have a beautiful board with colorful pictures of the mentioned activities and environmental information. Some areas also combine these “Green Zones” with the recycling containers, thus creating a central point for all relevant environmental issues.



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Telephone: 1 809 707 1090
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National Operator: César Vargas, cvargas@idard.org



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Back To Nature Carbon Neutral All Natural Beach



At the Blue Flag beach New Beach in Sveti Vlas all furniture is made of wood. But why does the use of wood help the environment?

- Wood stores CO₂ in the form of carbon. 1 m³ of wood contains carbon from about 1 ton of CO₂. If we use wood for houses, bridges, furniture, paper, etc. the absorbed carbon will be kept away from the atmosphere as long as the wooden product is not burned. It is estimated that in Europe we have accumulated about 60 million tons of carbon in wooden products.
- Wood products have a long life. The average lifespan ranges from 2 months (newspapers) to 75 years (wooden furniture).
- Wooden products can usually be recycled – and the carbon continues to be stored. Finally, the wooden products can be burned and used as CO₂-neutral bio energy as only the amount of CO₂ is being released that has been previously absorbed.
- Wood can also replace other construction materials such as concrete, steel, aluminum and plastic which need more energy to be produced.



Site: Sveti Vlas Nov - New Beach
Region: Sveti Vlas, Burgas
Contact details:
National Operator: Stanimir Georgiev,
skgbg2000@yahoo.com



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The sea turtle release

In the Dominican Republic Iberostar hotels promote the release of sea turtles through a partnership with the national aquarium and the Environmental Law Institute of the Dominican Republic (IDARD) which is also supported by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. In the frame of this partnership a programme for the conservation of the biodiversity of the coastal marine area has been developed which especially focuses on the protection of sea turtles and endangered endemic freshwater turtles.

To date, more than 20 green turtles have been released since the programme started two years ago. During these events the importance of the species for the marine ecosystems, especially for coral reefs and beaches are also being outlined.

Contact details:

Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la Republica Dominicana
Fernando Manuel Castillo No. 6, Ensanche Miraflores,
Santo Domingo

Dominican Republic

Telephone: 1 809 707 1090

Fax: +809 688 6092

National Operator: César Vargas, cvargas@idard.org



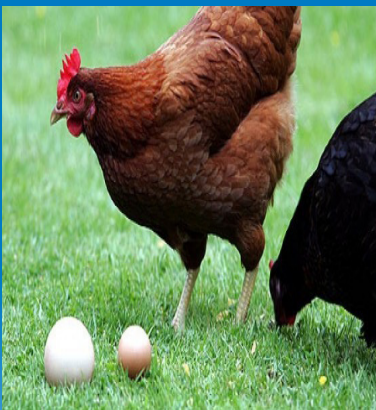
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Hens for organic waste



Blue Flag France would like to present an innovative programme launched by the municipality of La Grande Motte to reduce waste. The urban community of the Pays de l'Or (municipalities umbrella) offers composters to the inhabitants of La Grande Motte in order to convince them to install small hen rearings and to get involved into the local sustainable policy.

New projects are emerging in some French municipalities like La Grande Motte, awarded the Blue Flag for 25 years, to encourage the inhabitants to get hens in order to reduce their organic waste. In fact, a hen can eat up to 160 kilos per year of organic food waste and produces almost 200 eggs!



The Urban Community of the Pays de l'Or subsidises 10 euros per home per hen, according to the number of persons per family and within the limits of four hens per home.

Composters can also be obtained for free from the urban community to recycle home and garden organic wastes.

Region: La Grande Motte
Contact details: www.paysdelor.fr
National Operator: Pascale Crouzier,
pascale.crouzier@f3e.org



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Boating facilities for disabled people

BOATING FACILITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

BELLEGARDE - FRANCE

A new hanger arm has been installed in the marina of Bellegarde to improve the access for persons with reduced mobility. This small marina with 70 mooring places has been very involved in making marina facilities more accessible to everyone.

The aim of this hanger arm is to help disabled people (local residents and visitors alike) to use boat launch facilities. Now everybody can practice nautical and aquatic sports from the marina.

The marina officers of Bellegarde highly deserve the Blue Flag award for their efforts to make their marina accessible for everyone but also for their environmental education activities.

Site: Marina of Bellegarde

Region: Bellegarde

Contact details: Marina Office

Quai Paulin Talabot 30127 Bellegarde port@beaucaire.fr

Tél./Fax : +334 66 59 02 17

National Operator: Pascale Crouzier,
pascale.crouzier@f3e.org



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An easy way to combine tourism and the protection of the sea turtle



During the northern summer months the sea turtle *Caretta caretta* comes to the beaches in Rethymno at night to lay their eggs. To help them to find adequate nesting grounds the beach managers introduced a new storage system for sunbeds which allows the turtles to move freely on the beach. At the end of the day the sunbeds are hung up on the sunshades with special hangers which are easy to attach and which suit most of sunshade types.

Furthermore, under each umbrella the following message is posted for the beach visitors:

“The breeding time of the sea turtle «*Caretta Caretta*» takes place during the summer months. While hundreds of visitors use the beach during the day time, the beach belongs to the sea turtles during the night hours.”

With these measures a coexistence of tourism and nature protection is being enhanced.

Region: Adelianos Kampos

National Operator: Dareia-Nefeli Vourdoumpa,
blueflag@eepf.gr



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Krabbaklapp! (Pat a Crab!)

NAUTHOLSVIK BEACH - ICELAND

Pat a Crab was a collaboration between Nauthólsvík and the Reykjavik Zoo.

The aim of this project was to educate people about the plant and the animal life around the beach. A special tank filled with water and animal life was brought to the beach and the kids got the chance to pat the crabs and look at the marina life.

Site: Nauthólsvík

Region: Reykjavík and the south

Contact details: Ylströnd, (+354) 511 6630, ylstrond@itr.is

National Operator: Katrín Magnúsdóttir, katrin@landvernd.is



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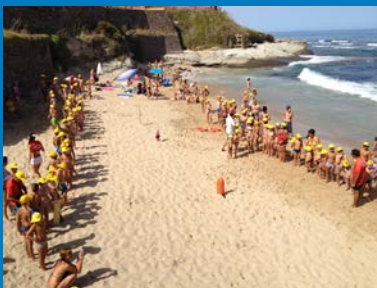
PAPA' TI SALVO IO! "DAD, I SAVE YOU!"



This new initiative of the municipality of Castelsardo (Sardinia) is an activity where at least a hundred children and parents at the beach of Ampurias participate in a training about the prevention of accidents and safety measures at the beach. The aim of this activity is to give young people an understanding of the appropriate behaviour at the beach through fun and games. They learn about the bathing rules as well as about how to respect the surrounding environment.

At the end of the event the municipality rewards all participants with a "Baby Watch" certificate and a "Little Lifeguard" kit.

This has been proven to be a good way to teach tourists both young and old about safety issues at a beach and to respect the marine environment.



Region: Castelsardo, Ampurias – Sardinia
Contact details: Castelsardo - Ampurias
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www.comune.castelsardo.ss.it
National Operator: Filippo M. Carli, carli@feeitalia.org



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Fido beach Beach also for dogs

In Italy, more and more beach resorts experience an increase in the number of tourists who would like to bring their dogs along with them on the beach. For this reason, FEE Italy promoted the establishment of dog-friendly beaches, called “Bau-Beaches”, where dog owners are allowed to bring their best friends.

An example is Fido Beach in San Mauro Mare which is equipped with 45 sunshades, sunbeds, freshwater showers, hygienic palette provider.

At the beach, the dog’s owner must have with him/her: a muzzle (not worn) as well as lead and the dog’s health card; the owner has to keep his/her pet dogs must be kept in respect of animal welfare and public safety. The dog cannot be tied to fixed points except those within the perimeter of the shade of the umbrella assigned.

These additional rules allow meeting tourist’s demands, while observing the public safety and the environment.

Site: Fido beach

Region: San Mauro Pascoli and San Mauro Mare, Emilia Romagna

Contact details: Grandi Spiagge s.r.l. Via Marina, 14 - 47030 San Mauro Mare

en.grandispiagge.it/?FidoBeach

info@fidobeach.it

National Operator: Filippo M. Carli, carli@feeitalia.org

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SMART BUOYS



The marina “Marina Punta Verde” in Lignano Sabbiadoro is a good example for an environmentally-friendly and energy efficient marina in Italy. From the beginning it was planned and built in such a way that the natural course of the river Tagliamento could be maintained.

The marina is furthermore known for its strong commitment to energy-efficient practices.

One example for that is the use of innovative buoys at the entrance channel of the marina. They are equipped with flashing LED lamps that are energised through batteries and solar panels on the buoys.

In addition, the marina uses photovoltaic systems, “electric power factor correctors” which optimise the use of electricity and solar thermal systems which heat the water in the toilet facilities at the marina.

Site: Marina Punta Verde

Region: Lignano Sabbiadoro

Contact details: Marina Punta Verde s.r.l.

Via G. Scerbanenco, 17/1 - I-33054 Lignano Sabbiadoro

Tel. +39(0)431427131 Fax. +39(0)431427290

info@marinapuntaverde.it

www.marinapuntaverde.it

National Operator: Filippo M. Carli, carli@feeitalia.org



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Lac de Conchibois: supporting junior scientists and “environmental detectives”

For several years now, the Conchibois lake management officers have developed and offered educational activities for primary schools in partnership with «Contrat Rivière Semois-Chiers asbl».

As there are many different activities offered, the pupils may put themselves in the shoes of biologists, chemists or other scientists and experience nature through their eyes. They are provided with appropriate educational materials and learn for example how to identify invertebrates or how to estimate the pollution of a water body with the use of the biotic index.

Other activities inspired by Sherlock Holmes have been offered. One of them is the investigation of fictive river pollutions. Some children can sponsor a part of their nearby river for a week or even a year and to choose their own theme (water quality, wildlife, natural or cultural heritage etc.).

National Operator: Anne Thibaut,
a.thibaut@iewonline.be



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New Waste Container Park



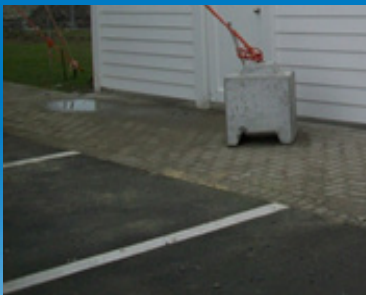
The goal of the project is to provide a clean, modern waste park in order to separate waste in an efficient way, to lower the operating costs, to minimise smell nuisance and to stop illegal waste dumping.

After careful consideration, large waste containers built half in the ground were chosen as the best solution. They have a clean look, are easy to handle (ergonomic height) and have lids which not only reduces smell nuisance in the surrounding area but also prevent pests from entering the bins.



Although the initial investing costs are higher than the costs for the traditional containers these bins are more cost-efficient as the operating costs are lower. In order to avoid illegal dumping (specially from the town inhabitants, summer tourists of camp places, but also from the clients who try to get rid of 'large sized' waste which costs normally a lot of money to get rid of) an high fence was build and the door can only be accessed by a 'keypad', which has the same code as used for the sanitary buildings and access to the quay. Furthermore, cameras will be installed to monitor what people (clients of KYCN) will bring in.

In addition, LED-lights are used to reduce power consumption.



Site: Koninklijke Yacht Club Nieuwpoort vzw
Region: Nieuwpoort (West-Vlaanderen)
Contact details: Sabine Decort
Club Manager KYCN

Koninklijke Yacht Club Nieuwpoort vzw Krommehoek – 8620 Nieuwpoort
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www.kycn.be

National Operator: Miriam van Loon, miriam.van.loon@bblv.be



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**Bimini, not just the Sport Fishing Capital of The Bahamas
but a naturalist's paradise....
Thanks to Bimini Sands Marina and Resort!!**

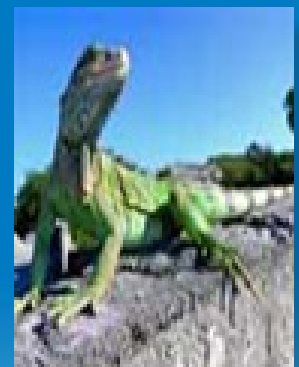
Bimini Sands Marina has taken its environmental stewardship on the island to greater heights by creating a brand new experience on the island of Bimini by preserving 25 acres of undisturbed land on their property. The marina developers pledged to set aside an area of the marina property to dedicate it to create a nature trail for its guest as an added environmental education activity for the marina.

Located just steps away from the dock area, marina guest can step into a nature preserve where they can observe the Bimini Boa (an endemic species) on the island along with a number of other flora and fauna.

Photo: Katie Grudeki, Blue Flag Marina Operator, holds the Bimini Boa on the Bimini Nature Trail.

NB: Photos courtesy of the Bimini Sands Marina

Site: Bimini Sands Marina and Resort
Region: Bimini Island (Northern Bahamas)
Contact details: www.biminisands.com
Ms. Grudeki , katie@bminisands.com
National Operator: Casuarina McKinney-Lambert,
casuarina@breef.org



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Mangrove Plantation for supporting nursery habitats for fisheries

The Atlantis Resort and Marina donated thousands of mangrove seedlings to various wetland restoration projects throughout the Islands of the Bahamas to promote the local fishing industry by creating new nursery habitats. As fish is an important resource to the Bahamas, the Blue Project team members from Atlantis collected mangrove seedlings from mature trees around its property. These seedlings were grown in a mangrove nursery until they were large enough to be planted out.



The project was part of the environmental activities required by the Blue Flag programme. Photo by courtesy of the Atlantis Resort.

Site: Atlantis Marina

Region: New Providence

Contact details: Mr. Herbert Bain, Blue Flag Marina Operator Herbert.bain@atlantisparadise.com

Mrs. Michelle Lui Tel.: (242) 363-3000.

National Operator: Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, casuarina@breef.org



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Capture and reuse of rainwater in Costa Bella Marina, Angra dos Reis

The capture and storage of rainwater may reduce the consumption of drinking water, allowing better use of natural resources and also reduces costs. The collected rainwater can be used for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes, such as toilet water, watering gardens, cleaning of patios and walkways and even for human consumption if it is treated properly.

With this project, the Costabella marina captures and uses approximately 700,000 gallons of rainwater. This practice allows the marina to reduce its use of drinking water, previously treated and to replace it by the rainwater for the marina's daily activities. This water consumption reduces the cost of the water treatment within the marina by approximately 70 to 80%. This investment allows the average cost of a financial return in about two years, and considerably reduces the exploitation of groundwater in the region.

Pictures by Leana Bernardi (National Blue Flag Coordinator)

Site: Marina Costabella
Region: Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro
Contact details: <http://www.marinacostabella.com.br/>
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Phone: +55 (24) 3377-3094
National Operator: Leana Bernardi,
coordenacao@bandeiraazul.org.br



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Carioca's sand



The municipality of Rio de Janeiro has created a tool to monitor and to manage the quality and the evolution of its sandy beaches in order to get an efficient management of the municipal waterfront.

The tool permits to create sandy beaches qualitative assessments in order to ensure a qualitative experience to the beachgoers. It also serves to assess the National Coastal Management Plan, which especially aims to organise a rational use of the coastline resources as to highlight the objective of conservation and protection of beaches. The municipality aims to offer a global qualitative experience to everyone as the waterfront is a common good shared by everyone.

Pictures by Leana Bernardi (Blue Flag National Coordinator)

Site: Prainha

Region: Rio de Janeiro - Rio de Janeiro

Contact details: Email: abiliobhf@hotmail.com

Phone: +55 (21) 2976-2793

National Operator: Leana Bernardi,
coordenacao@bandeiraazul.org.br



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Ideas for opening Blue Flag Season

In 2009 The Netherlands reached the number of 100 Blue Flag sites. For that reason, it was the idea to have 100 flags on the beach. A national politician was invited to raise the first flag, and after that more than 100 beach and marina managers raised the remaining flags at the same time!

For 2010 Blue Flag commissioned the flag producer Shipmate Flags in Rotterdam to sew the biggest Blue Flag in the world! The flag is 12 x 15 meter and must be raised with a crane.

For the raising of the flag we invited a national “VIP” to sit in the crane. It was a great event with a lot of press coverage.

If you want to use the biggest Blue Flag in the world, you can hire it at Shipmate Flags. The condition is, however, to have a suitable crane and wind speeds of at least 4Bft.

National Operator: Erik van Dijk, erik@kmvk.nl



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Tips for boat owners

The harbour master of “Yacht Club KMJC” publishes advices to boat owners of the Yacht Club concerning environmental issues in the magazine of the club.

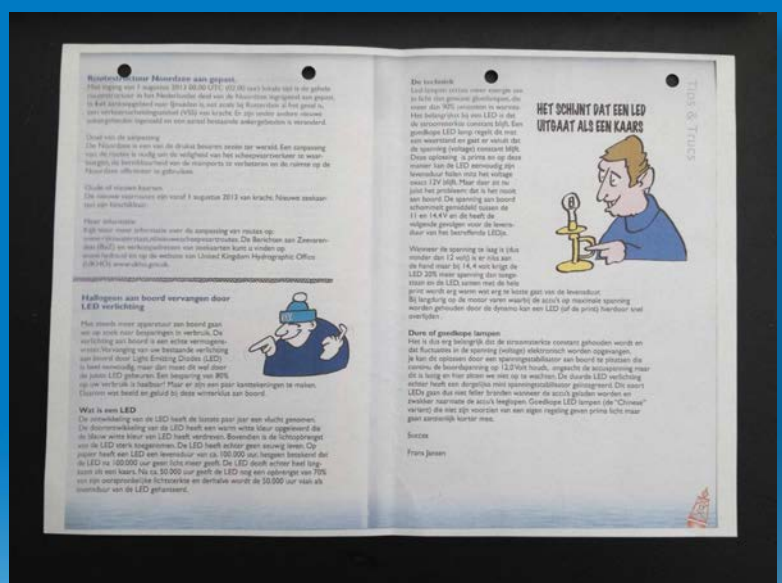
These issues include for example how to deal with toilet water on board, how to deal with anti-frost liquid in spring (by first starting the motor of the yacht) or information about LED lighting on board.

Site: Yacht Club KMJC

Region: Den Helder

Contact details: Harbour master: J. Spoelstra, cominfra@kmjc.eu

National Operator: Erik van Dijk, erik@kmvkn.nl



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Spring clean-up – Start the spring as nature does: fresh & clean

Each year by the end of March members of the marina Willemdok and their family are invited to join the spring-clean-up activity. Furthermore, the sea-scouts, scouts and local youth organisations are invited to help cleaning the surroundings of the marina. Among other things, the water scaffoldings and pontoons are cleaned with biological soap which is provided at the marina and all waste which can be found in the water and in the surroundings of the marina is collected. Each year this results in about one large container of collected waste.

The purpose of the activity is less the actual cleaning of the marina as this is done weekly by the responsible authorities but the environmental education behind it. The participants learn to think about our 'throw away' culture and the wrong attitude of many people to drop their waste wherever they are instead of using provided litter bins.

During the activity participants are provided with food and drinks and in return for their help the sea-scouts get new materials for their own activities.

Site: Willemdok

Region: City of Antwerpen

Contact details: Tony (Havenmeester Willemdok), Patrick Van den Bulck (director) Jachthaven Antwerpen Willemdok Godefriduskaai 99 2000 Antwerpen
www.jachthaven-antwerpen.be

National Operator: Miriam van Loon, miriam.van.loon@bblv.be



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

The best beach for disabled people in Croatia

The beach Kostanj in Croatia is one of the best-equipped beaches for disabled people in the Mediterranean area. It is therefore mainly used by people with disabilities and their families. Its facilities and special design enables disabled persons to fully enjoy the beach area as they can move around safely and access the water without problems.

The beach was partly built in terraces with ramps with gentle inclinations of 7%. The terraces invite beach users to sunbathing, seating and resting. Furthermore, only non-slip floor covering was used to prevent slipping. In addition, the beach is equipped with a lift, toilet facilities, beach showers, handrails and shark nets. There is also a special car park in the vicinity of the beach. For many years now Kostanj beach keeps attracting tourists from neighboring regions and countries.

Site: beach Kostanj

Region: City of Rijeka, Primorsko-goranska

Contact details: <http://www.rijeka.hr/ProjektLjetoNa>

Phone: +385 51 209-443

National Operator: Josip Gregac,
udrugalijepanasa@gmail.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Signs on the beach and information boards

This litter preventing campaign was run by a partnership between Blue Flag Denmark, Keep Denmark Tidy, the Northcoast Coastal Life Guard and Team Bade.

Life guards set up signs at the beach which carried messages to dispose of any litter in the provided litterbins. Furthermore, they handed out foldable beach ashtrays and pocket litter bags to the beach users.

In addition, all bins at the beaches and the surroundings were marked with stickers in neon green to attract attention.

Site: Hornbæk and 23 other beaches

Region: Nordsjælland

Contact details: John Mogensen, jhmog@gribskov.dk

National Operator: Bjarke L. Frandsen, bf@friluftsradet.dk



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Litter prevention in Denmark



The litter preventing campaign is run by the municipality and aims at reducing litter at the beaches. Beach visitors are encouraged to take free trash bags which are hanging on the site of the litter bins so that they can easily keep their litter by themselves and leave it in the provided litter bins at the beach after their stay.

Region: Nordjylland

Contact details: Steen
Heftholm: STHE@frederikshavn.dk

National Operator: Bjarke L. Frandsen,
bf@friluftsradet.dk



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Dog Free Zone

Benone Beach is one of Northern Ireland's prime examples for their dog control on Blue Flag beaches. There are sail flags at either end of the Blue Flag zone clearly indicating that dogs are not permitted on that stretch of beach.

A 'dog path' through the back of the dunes is provided for dog walkers. Even though international Blue Flag criterion allows dog walkers through the zone as long as they are under control, Northern Ireland Blue Flag criterion has pushed this standard to create a family friendly, healthy and safe beach. Feedback has been very positive from beach users, including dog owners.

Site: Benone beach

Region: Magillian

Contact details:

National Operator: Marlene Gattineau,

marlene.gattineau@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Beach & Water Safety Education



On Portstewart beach on Northern Ireland's beautiful North Coast, the RNLI lifeguards offer education to children of all ages on water and beach safety using a story board with movable characters.

This environmental educational activity was welcomed by children of various ages using the beach.

Their parents also appreciated this environmental education as they felt that their children would be safer on the beach and also in the water.

Site: Portstewart beach
Region: Coleraine Borough Council

National Operator: Marlene Gattineau, marlene.gattineau@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Secchi Disk Project

Marine phytoplankton accounts for approximately 50% of all photosynthesis on Earth and, through the plankton food web that they support, they both underpin the marine food chain and play a central role in the global carbon cycle strongly influencing the Earth's climate. However, living at the surface of the sea the phytoplankton is particularly sensitive to changes in sea surface temperature.

A recent study of global phytoplankton abundance over the last century concluded that global phytoplankton concentrations have declined due to rising sea surface temperatures as a consequence of current climate change

As a Blue Flag Marina YachtportSA has made a Secchi disk to measure Phytoplankton density in Saldanha Bay Small Craft Harbour. This disk is lowered into the water every Wednesday at the end of the jetty and all the data is then entered into a little app called "Secchi Disk" which is available for all smart phones. The data is then sent to Dr. Richard Kirby at the Plymouth University where it is entered on the data base.

Site: Yachtport Saldanha Marina Western Cape, Saldanha Bay Small Craft Harbour

Region: Saldanha

Contact details: Natania van Dyk; Small Craft Harbour, Saldanha

Tel: 022 7144064; Fax: 022 7144525; Cell: 084 7841474;

Email: tania@yachtportsa.co.za; Website: www.yachtport.co.za

National Operator: Sheivine Datadin, blueflag@wessa.co.za



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Windows on the Coast



“Windows on our World (WOW): Catchments to Coast” is a toolkit for Namibia and South Africa which consist of different learning materials that are both paper-based and digital. The paper-based materials include for example a collection of pictures with corresponding texts while the electronic version of the materials allows the users to browse through a database of pictures which are linked to fact sheets, news, articles, photographs, useful websites and relevant legislation.

This toolkit has been developed for people who work within the marine and coastal sector and whose work involves the protection, use, development, conservation, control and management of marine and coastal areas.

The WOW: Catchments to Coast toolkit may be used in learning programmes for learners of all ages – whether adults or children – and the teaching methods can be adapted to accommodate a wide range of interests, experience and literacy levels.

Site: Various

Region: Nationally – utilised by Municipalities, Eco-Schools & schools in general and communities.

Contact details: WESSA Share-net, Clare Peddie,
PO Box 394, Howick, 3290

Tel: 033 3303931 ext 2144; Fax: 033 3304576; Email:
sharenet@wessa.co.za

National Operator: Sheivine Datadin,
blueflag@wessa.co.za



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

urBINisation

The creative workshop called “UrBINisation” was held at the water sports centre at Ada Ciganlija. By participating in this workshop, the visitors had the chance to show their own creativity and opinion about the significance of a healthy environment.

The goal of this workshop was to redesign the litter bins at the site to attract more attention and also to help people to recycle their waste correctly. The newly designed bins are also supposed to raise awareness about the environment.

The final products of this workshop, the redesigned bins, are placed in Ada Ciganlija’s area so that the creator’s final pieces of work can still be admired.

<http://www.adaciganlija.rs> Country: Serbia

Site: Ada Ciganlija beach
Region: City of Belgrade

National Operator: Aleksandra Mladenovic,
aleksandra.mladenovic@feeserbia.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Sea track !



This summer the municipality of Marathon made a great effort in making their beaches more enjoyable for disabled people by installing the innovative device "Seatrack". This supporting device is a wheelchair on rails which helps disabled people to get into the water so that they no longer have to rely on the help of others if they want to enjoy the sea.

As this project experienced great approval by the public the municipality decided to use this device every summer.

Site: Brexiza Beach
Region: Marathon

National Operator: Dareia-Nefeli Vourdoumpa,
blueflag@eepf.gr



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Sunlight during the night

The inland marina Luebbecke in the western part of Germany has been actively using and producing renewable energy for a long time.

In Germany, for safety reasons the emergency lights have to be illuminated all night. Therefore, special precautions in case of grid failure (emergency batteries etc.) have to be taken.

The idea to provide an independent and separated system of energy production (photovoltaic modules), energy storage (battery system) and lighting systems has led to the lights integrated into the handrails of the marina. Unused energy is not wasted but given into the grid.

Now from a technical point of view the marina is able to go into a “zero-energy-consumption” state during the night.

Site: Motor Yacht Club Luebbecke (marina)
Region Luebbecke, Nordrhein-Westfalen
Contact details: Vorstand@myc-luebbecke.de,
www.myc-luebbecke.de

National Operator: Robert Lorenz, rolorenz@gmx.net



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Experience nature

The inland beach of Kallinchen/Zossen is located close to the urban area of Berlin and is frequented by a lot of short-term tourists from the city.

The idea to let children who live in the city experience nature has led to many projects at the inland beach, among them a special trail for experiencing different materials when walking barefoot.

The areas dedicated to children are in direct vicinity of the beach making it possible to maintain visual contact between parents and children. Other projects for children involve a special map of the surrounding area with logos (e.g. birds) that lead through different trails. The ratio of children at this beach has increased significantly because of these opportunities.



Site: Kallinchen / Zossen (inland beach)
Region: Berlin, Neubrandenburg
Contact details: Info@Kallinchen.de ,
www.kallinchen.de
National Operator: Robert Lorenz,
rolorenz@gmx.net



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Orienteering tracks and orienteering sport parks

In 2010 the municipality of Neringa and the Curonian Spit National park administration have started to implement the orienteering tracks project in the holiday resort Nida (Neringa municipality, Lithuania). These orienteering tracks were awarded the best tourism infrastructure project in Lithuania in 2010. Due to its great success, the project expanded to Pervalka in 2011 and to Juodkrante and Preila in 2012.

In the summer of 2013, tracks “Orienteering Sport ABC” were equipped with paths for beginners, families with children, disabled people.

Furthermore, special controlling poles which were set up in various parts of the Curonian Spit area help visitors to find places of interest. Visitors can get a map with all the places of interest in the visitor centres in the Curonian Spit National Park (Nagliu str. 8, Nida and Smiltynės str. 11, Kaipeda).

The whole project was supported by SKODA.

Site: Various

Region: Neringa

Contact details: Curonian Spit National Park administration
Nagliu str. 8, Neringa, LITHUANIA

Phone/Fax: +370 469 51224, e-mail: info@nerija.lt

National Operator: Renaldas Rimavicius, blueflag@zalieji.lt



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Seminar about access for disabled persons to Blue Flag beaches



The association of paraplegics of Montenegro organised a seminar about access for disabled people to Blue flag beaches. The aim of this seminar was to present the results of control visits of Blue flag beaches during the summer season of 2013 and especially to discuss the accessibility for disabled persons to these beaches. It was discussed how to improve access not only to the beaches but also to the water.

In this framework the coastal management agency also presented a prototype of a ramp and a sunbathing platform which will be installed during the next season at least one beach in each of the six coastal municipalities.

Site: Various

Region: Various

Contact details: www.plava-zastavica.org.me,
www.ecom.org.me

National Operator: Sasha Karajovic,
sasha.karajovic@gmail.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Promotion of Young reporters for the Environment

In the last five years ECOM (Blue Flag and YRE national operator in Montenegro) used the great presence of the numerous guests and national media at the annual Blue Flag Award ceremony for also promoting YRE and the “Litter Less” campaign. During the ceremony the best “Ecoreporters” from Montenegro received their award.

Site: Almara beach (host of Blue Flag Award ceremony)

Region: Tivat

Contact details: www.plava-zastavica.org.me,

www.ecom.org.me

National Operator: Sasha Karajovic,

sasha.karajovic@gmail.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Promotion of recycling



During the summer season of 2013, RECOMONT, the national producer responsibility programme promoted the recycling of cans and bottles at Montenegrin beaches by setting up press machines for cans on five beaches in two coastal municipalities including two Blue flag beaches (Kalardovo and Plavi horizont) and one Blue flag pilot beach (Pirates).

During the 45 days of the project, over 6.000 tourists were involved in recycling activities and more than 20.000 cans, 10.000 PET bottles and 300 kg of papers have been collected.

Sites: two Blue flag beaches (Kalardovo and Plavi horizont) and one Blue flag pilot beach (Pirates)

Region: Various

Contact details: www.ecom.org.me

National Operator: Sasha Karajovic,
sasha.karajovic@gmail.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

EcoDiving

The EcoDiving activity was started in 2009 in the marina Gdynia. Every year, about 150 volunteer divers help to clean the bottom of the marina. The number of participants grows steadily, which shows the high interest in the event. The collected amount of waste can be as heavy as two tons.

Site: Marina Gdynia

Region: woj. pomorskie

Contact details: Marina Gdynia, Aleja Jana Pawła II 13A,
81-345 Gdynia

Tel. +48 58 661 94 29

www.marinagdynia.pl/

National Operator: Jaroslaw Szczygiel,
sekretariat@blekitnaflaga.org.pl



Sophie Bachet Granados
International Blue Flag Director

Tel: +45 6124 8081
Mail: sophie@feeinternational.org

Foundation for Environmental Education

Scandiagade 13
2450 Copenhagen SV
Denmark



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

International Cleaning of the Baltic Sea



The aim of this event is to educate tourists and local communities about environmental problems at the Baltic Sea coast and to encourage them to protect it.

The event starts in Malmö, Sweden from where it moves to other Baltic Sea neighboring countries. It lasts three months and involves in total nine countries. As a result, more than 3500 km of beaches are cleaned during the event.

The event is organised by Our Earth Foundation www.naszaziemia.pl

Site: Various

Region: Woj. pomorskie and zachodniopomorskie

Contact details: www.naszaziemia.pl

National Operator: Jaroslaw Szczygiel,
sekretariat@blekitnaflaga.org.pl



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Denmark



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Beach without cigarettes

The objective of the activity was to raise awareness about the impacts of smoking on the beach. Both health and environmental risks have been covered during the activity which has been conducted by volunteers from local associations. They promoted a non-smoking beach by inviting smokers to talk about the dangers of smoking and by distributing beach ashtrays.

In cooperation with the sponsor the municipality created a pilot-space of 300 m² for non-smokers, families and people with special needs. This space was limited and equipped with free sunshades.

National Operator: Hassan Taleb, h.taleb@fm6e.org



مؤسسة محمد السادس لحماية البيئة
FONDATION MOHAMMED VI
POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

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2450 Copenhagen SV
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Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Traffic awareness activity “mini Circuit”



The objective of the activity is to educate children about the traffic rules. The target group of this activity are children from summer camps and children who are visiting the beach. Volunteers from the Moroccan Red Cross who ran through a special training for the activity educate the participating children about traffic rules before doing practical exercises with them.



The children are for example invited to ride a bike at the beach to proof their knowledge about the traffic rules. The participants also receive symbolic driver's licenses and guides.



National Operator: Hassan Taleb,
h.taleb@fm6e.org



مؤسسة محمد السادس لحماية البيئة
FONDATION MOHAMMED VI
POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Trolley picking point

In Vilamoura Marina, in the southern region of Portugal the lacking initiative of boat owners to recycle their waste led to the idea of a litter bin trolley that can be moved close to the boats on the pontoons. It turned out to be a very practical and comfortable solution for boat owners as they do not have to carry their recyclable waste to the bins anymore.

Vilamoura Marina which is awarded the Blue Flag for 13 years now is located in a very urban and touristic area so that it has to deal with a lot of challenges concerning sustainability, quality of services and environment protection. For this reason, information are posted and distributed in the marina for both boat owners and marina users. An example is the information board on the picture which provides information about environmental practices and the waste management in the marina.

Site: Vilamoura Marina
Region: Algarve
Contact details: www.abae.pt
National Operator: Catarina Concalves,
bandeira.azul@abae.pt



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

HUMAN TIDE

Rising awareness to coastal areas and their threats



Alerta Vermelho
Em Maio, a costa portuguesa vai viver um fenómeno inédito.

Prevista vaga de dimensões extraordinárias, que será visível do céu.

Recomenda-se a deslocação à praia com familiares, amigos e alguns bens mínimos indispensáveis.

Powered by
Buondi coffee

Eco-Escolas

The Buondi (Coffee brand) and Blue Flag created the Human Tide action, the largest of its kind in the world aiming to raise awareness and to draw attention to a number of threats to coastal areas and the need to change behaviours. It took place on May 12th at 20 beaches in 20 municipalities in mainland Portugal and Portuguese islands.

Human Tide involved municipalities, children, Eco-Schools students, scouts, Blue Flag Surveillance coordinators and surfers, as well as all the beach users who participated in a series of environmental education activities aiming to awareness. The themes were: biodiversity, waste, water quality, sustainable fisheries and solar radiation. These themes have been chosen in order to inform and involve the local community living within this area. The purpose of the Human Tide is to explain the need of behavior change.

Site: Various

Region: Various

Contact details: <http://www.abae.pt/marehumana/index.php?p=enquadramento>

National Operator: Catarina Concalves, bandeira.azul@abae.pt



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Scientific Tent and fish Museum

During the Blue Flag season at the beach of Chebba, the environmental association “Association of fans of Chebba” which supervises the Blue Flag programme at this site installed a scientific tent at the beach which hosted a library as well as an exhibition about local fish species.

In this tent people can browse through different scientific documentations about local sensitive areas and marine species. As the beach of Chebba is a nesting site for sea turtles, the tent also helps to raise awareness about this special species which frequents the beach. Furthermore, visitors can learn about 30 species of fish in the tent. They are labelled both in Arabic and Latin.

The aim of this project is to raise awareness about environmental issues and the negative impacts humans have on the marine ecosystems.

Site: Essir Beach,
Region: Mahdia
Contact details: Phone: +216 52 309 390
Email: rnzaiem@yahoo.fr
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/association-des-fans-de-la-chebba/100916670016297>
National Operator: Walid Belgacem, pb.fee@atpne.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Are you missing out?

Penarth Marina in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales offer the possibility of a year's introductory membership with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute with their berthing fees. This is to encourage safety awareness and help fund this voluntary service.

Site: Penarth Marina
Region: Vale of Glamorgan

National Operator: Zoe Abbott,
zoe.abbott@keepwalestidy.org



Are you missing out?

Did you know that being a berth holder here could entitle you to one year's introductory RNLI Membership?

If you are an existing member, you could pass this offer on to a friend or family member. Ask staff for details today.

Registered in England and Wales (2048162) and Scotland (SC207146). Charity Number 112 917 916 (England, NI & Wales)



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Reef Fest

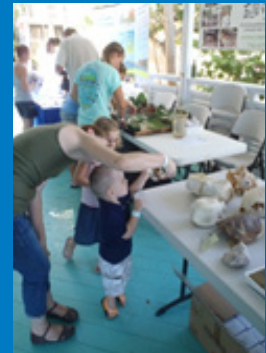
Reef Fest is a festival to celebrate the reef. More than that, it is about empowering the local community to protect coral reefs. A day dedicated to learning about the bond between humans and the coral reef, and about what each person can do to cultivate that relationship in a positive way.

Reef Fest invites the community to enjoy the amazing recreational value of reefs and learn how activities on land can affect the health of the marine environment and, in turn, the economy, culture, and heritage.

By providing experiential outdoor (both land and sea) learning opportunities for entire families, Reef Fest is an inspiring way to develop appreciation and encourage positive conservation practice at the grass roots level.

Site: St Thomas & St John Blue Flag sites help organize and participate
Region: St. Thomas

National Operator: Valerie Peters,
valerie.peters@valevents.com



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Feeding machines for free-roaming cats and dogs



Each summer the beach located in Altinkum, Didim, the southwestern beach resort of Turkey, is frequented by big crowds of people, which also attracts a lot of free-roaming cats and dogs which are looking for food. Many people find their presence disturbing while they are enjoying the beach. For that reason, the municipality of Didim introduced automatic feeding machines which provide food and water for the animals offside the beaches. Furthermore, the municipality also established cat and dog shelters in the town and in the parks.

Project Owner: Didim municipality

Project Coordinator: Aslı KIRAY (Blue Flag local responsible of Didim)

Photographs: Doğan Karataş & Aslı Kıray

Region: Altinkum, Didim

National Operator: Almila Kindan Cebbari,
mavibayrak@turcev.org.tr



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Coastcare

Coastcare is all about engaging communities in protecting their beaches, seas and marine life. There are currently 360 Coastcare groups in Ireland and all have adopted stretches of coastline.

Nearly all of Ireland's Blue Flag beaches have a Coastcare group and they are our eyes and ears on the ground during the bathing season. Over 700 coastal clean ups took place in 2013 and it is estimated that almost a half a million pieces of litter were removed from the Irish coastline.

These groups operate throughout the year and not just during the bathing season.

Site: Various

Region: Various

Contact details: An Taisce – Clean Coasts

www.cleancoasts.org

Tel.: 014002210

National Operator: Annabel FitzGerald,
blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Blue Flag Certificate For Schools



The Blue Flag Certificate for Schools is aimed at both secondary and primary schools who would like to learn more about Ireland's Blue Flag beaches through a research project about a Blue Flag beach or by participating in a Blue Flag beach environmental education event.

This initiative is promoted by the local authorities to schools and also via the Blue Flag notice board. In some instances the local authorities have provided funding for us to visit the schools and speak about the Blue Flag programme.

Site: Various

Region: Various

Contact details: An Taisce – Clean Coasts

www.cleancoasts.org

Tel.: 014002210

National Operator: Annabel FitzGerald,

blueflag@eeu.antisce.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Love Your Coast

The Love Your Coast photography competition is all about encouraging beach users to capture the beauty of their coastline. There are various categories within the competition; Nature and wildlife, seascapes, people and the coast as well as heritage and the coast.

The winning images form part of a travelling exhibition which educates people about the beauty of our coast and highlights why we must protect this wonderful natural resource. This competition puts the spotlight on our coast and inspires more people to get involved in its protection.

Site: Various

Region: Various

An Taisce – Clean Coasts
Ireland

www.cleancoasts.org

Tel.: 014002210

National Operator:

Annabel FitzGerald,

blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org



Declan Forrest,
Puffin at the Skelligs



Fintan O'Meara;
Catch the Breeze

Sophie Bachet Granados
International Blue Flag Director

Tel: +45 6124 8081
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Foundation for Environmental Education

Scandiagade 13
2450 Copenhagen SV
Denmark



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Invasive Species

IFI ALERT - Invasive Species!

asian clam

(Corbicula fluminea)

What is it?
The world's most notorious freshwater invasive species that is now present in the Rivers Barrow, Nore and Upper Shannon.

How do you identify it?

- Yellow-green to brown clam that commonly flakes, leaving white patches
- Concentric thick ridges
- Usually < 25 mm but can grow to 50 mm in length

Why are we concerned?
This clam can quickly establish and exclude all other life from the beds of infested rivers and lakes. Carpets of clam can clog the gravel beds in rivers and render them unavailable to spawning salmon, brown trout and sea lamprey. They will also displace native invertebrates, including the protected freshwater pearl mussel. Dense infestations of clam (10,000 per m² in the River Barrow) can lead to river shallowing, thus creating flood and navigation hazards.

How do we stop the spread of this species?

- Inspect and disinfect all angling tackle and protective clothing before and after use
- Inspect and clean boats, trailers, engines and other equipment before and after use

Please report sighting to Inland Fisheries Ireland at info@fisheriesireland.ie

IFI Inland Fisheries Ireland | caisie | NATURA 2000 | EUROPEAN UNION

STOP! The spread of invasive species

We distribute educational posters about invasive species to the marina managers.

These posters highlight to boat owners the importance of maintaining their equipment correctly and washing to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Site: Various
Region: Various

An Taisce – Clean Coasts - Ireland
www.cleancoasts.org
Tel.: 014002210

National Operator: Annabel FitzGerald,
blueflag@eeu.antaisce.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Environmental education activity about the effect of oil spillages on marine ecosystems

In line with the World Water Day 2013, Complejo Barceló, the local operator of the beach Bavaro in the east of the Dominican Republic realised an educational environmental activity about the effect of oil spillages on marine ecosystems.

The activity consisted of a role play in which beach users and stakeholders could participate. One person represented the toxic oil slick and the other participants took the role of marine animals. By shaking hands with the person representing the oil slick the “marine animals” received a black plastic bag, representing the contamination with oil. Furthermore, the other animals could be also infected by shaking hands with contaminated animals. The role play showed how little by little all marine animals die of the contamination with oil slick.

At the end of the role play the participants were also further educated about the impact of human actions on the environment.

Site: Bavaro Complejo Barcelo

Region: East

Contact details: Rosmery Capellan, Quality Manager, Barceló Bávaro Palace Deluxe
Carretera Bávaro Km. 1, Bávaro Punta Cana Higuey

Dominican Republic

T+1 809 686 5797 Ext. 1806

F+1 809 688 7506 M+1 809 796 1227

www.barcelo.com

National Operator: César Vargas,
cvargas@idard.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Blue Flag control visit from a disabled person's point of view



In 2013 the Iberostar Bavaro complex, local operator of Arena Gorda Beach Iberostar, invited the National Blue Flag jury to a special kind of tour around the beach during their control visit. They equipped them with wheelchairs so that they could experience the beach from the point of view of a person with disabilities. In this way they could check the access for disabled persons for all areas: access to the beach itself through ramps, bathrooms, amphibious seats and other facilities. The national jury was pleased with the high standard of equipment and services provided for disabled people which they found during their extraordinary control visit.



Site: Arena Gorda Beach

Region: Punta Cana

Contact details: William Rodríguez, Complejo Iberostar Bavaro.

Carretera Bávaro, Bávaro Punta Cana Higuey | República Dominicana

T+1 809 221 6500 Ext. 1695

www.iberostar.com

National Operator: César Vargas,
cvargas@idard.org



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

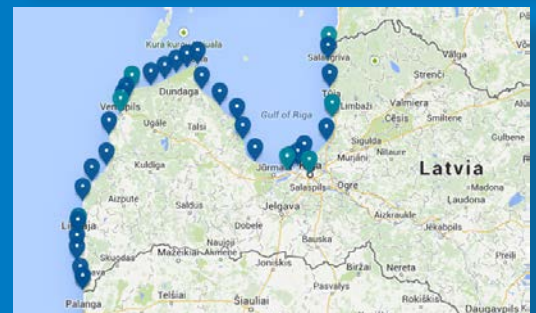
National Blue Flag public and educational campaign: My Baltic Sea

The Campaign My Baltic Sea was initiated by FEE Latvia in 2012 as a Blue Flag national environmental campaign which brings all the municipalities and stakeholders involved in Blue Flag campaigns together. The Campaign focuses on the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea and on the promotion of the uniqueness and the heritage of the Latvian coastline.

The Campaign includes a wide range of activities. The core of the campaign is the “Green Expedition” all along the Latvian Coastline (534km in total) with different environmental monitorings and surveys taking place along the coastline.

The campaign also includes additional activities such as daily workshops about the local environment, a concert series called „Sounds of My Sea” which takes place in lighthouses and heritage places, public meetings and debates and the election of the best beach in Latvia via internet for the “Coast Award”.

National Operator: Janis Ulme,
janis.ulme@zemesdraugi.lv



www.manajura.lv

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0e8HoRtvU4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nhTZ20wPvo>

Zane Rugena Bojare zane@dadzis.lv



Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

Recycling programme

This recycling programme is one alternative to promote the reuse of waste and minimise the use of forest resources at the beach Chahué.

The programme includes a Blue Flag booth which is made out of a conglomerate 30% plastic and 60% recycled wood. The mailbox for complaints and suggestions and the answers forms were made of PET plates while the ornamental plant decorations were made of plastic bottle caps. In addition, the tables and chairs were made of wood pallets from supermarkets.

The pallets were also used for building containers, signs and wooden mats for wheelchair access to the beach. There are now two separate containers for PET and glass bottles of this type. Furthermore, no plastic bags are used for the containers but “costalillas”, a special kind of bag which is usually used to transport sugar to the supermarkets.

The waste that is recycled at the beach (PET and glass bottles) are used for bi-monthly workshops held on the beach Chahué.

Site: Chahué beach

Region: Huatulco

Contact details: gerenciaplayaslimpias@hotmail.com, gerenciaplayaslimpias@yahoo.com.mx

National Operator: Joaquin Diaz Rios, jdiaz@pronatura.org.mx



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Inspiring Blue Flag Best Practices

BLUE FLAG

Blue Flag is a voluntary eco-label awarded to more than 4000 beaches and marinas in 49 countries across Europe, South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, New Zealand, Brazil, Canada and the Caribbean. The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with Water Quality, Environmental Education and Information, Environmental Management, and Safety and Other Services. The Blue Flag Programme is owned and run by the non-government, non-profit organisation, Foundation for Environmental Education.

FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) is an international organisation that has been promoting environmental education for sustainable development since 1981. FEE is an umbrella organisation with member organisations in more than 60 countries around the world.

FEE is active in environmental education mainly through five programmes: Blue Flag (www.blueflag.org), Green Key (www.green-key.org), Eco-Schools (www.eco-schools.org), Learning about Forests (www.leaf-international.org), and Young Reporters for the Environment (www.youngreporters.org).

Through formal school education, training of staff, and awareness raising, FEE's programmes involve people of all ages and nationalities. For more information, please visit www.fee-international.org.

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Blue Flag International programme thanks
all the Blue Flag National Operators worldwide
for sharing these best practices.

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