

## Up-cycled sailboat and youth project nominated “World’s Best Electric Sailboat 2022”.

Online voting until November 7th. By Gussies Electric Boat Award and plugboat.com



The nominated 30-year-old Smaragd is up against eight new, luxury yacht development projects. The difference is the up-cycling concept, based on the fact that the already existing global fleet of sailboats needs simple solutions to shift their engines from fossil fuel to electric propulsion. Up-cycling reduces the volume of discarded materials and waste being sent to landfills, it also reduces the need for production using new or raw materials which means a reduction in air pollution, water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Smaragd was renovated in 2018 and one of the first electric pod engines on the market was installed. Charging the batteries can be done with solar cells, wind generators, hydrogeneration (using the engine as a generator when sailing), and shore power in any marina.

With the climate crisis banging on the door, it could be considered logical that the world’s best electric sailboat concept 2022 is what the Smaragd and its 45 young crew members stand up for. A vote for the Smaragd is therefore a vote for their generations, as well as for all the owners of already floating sailboats that will need encouragement to go through the shift.

The installation of the electric engine in 2018 kicked off the climate statement sailing project **100% Sun Wind Water**, and young people from around the world were invited to join the voyages. 45 young crew members representing 5 continents have helped to collect 7.660 Nautical Miles via 7 countries and stops at more than 100 marinas while promoting **6 sustainable lifestyle missions** (see below).

### Bjorn Bertoft, Skipper Smaragd

*“We ditched the fossil fuel engine and took it out of circulation. It was a no-brainer: Same boat, new smarter engine. We have by now tested electric sailing for five years and love it. We hope to inspire the boating industry to focus on solutions for the global fleet of existing sailboats. But we also salute our fellow nominees for their promising efforts to develop new yachts with electric propulsion, innovative sustainable solutions, and recycled materials.”*



## Life cycles, up-cycling, renovating, converting...landfills.

Up-cycling and converting existing sailboats to electric is an environmental win-win. Nobody knows how many millions of sailboats there are around the globe with fossil-fuel engines installed. But it is well known that the lifecycle of a sailboat is in general 2-3 times longer than its engines. Converting an existing sailboat from fossil fuel to electric is a simple process compared to doing it in a car. Boats taken out of “circulation” today are either being burned or chopped up and ending up in landfills. Some are left to sink to the seabed or dumped in nature.



**Dee Caffari MBE, Skipper, Chair World Sailing Trust, UK**

*“I have been a supporter of this project since 2020 and back their ambitious call for change. We need more of what they stand for and the Smaragd up-cycling concept is refreshing. Let’s all vote for this amazing crew and their mission this year which will also be a vote for all the new progressive, innovative, alternatives next year.”*



**Nora J Heyerdahl, Author, Member of Parliament deputy, Norway**

*“I sailed with Bjorn on his electric Smaragd from Oslo in 2018 and understood immediately that this project is on to something very important for my generation’s sake. Let’s build a future where nobody needs fossil fuels!”*



**Stephanie Gerretsen, UNEP Clean Seas, Nairobi**

*“As a Clean Seas campaign partner, 100SWW has upheld the campaign’s mission and values, highlighting why plastic pollution is an imminent environmental issue, and a component of the triple planetary crisis that is fueled by unsustainable production and consumption. 100SWW has effectively utilized its sport and sailing platform to generate a sense of urgency for both individual action and transformative change across the public and private sectors to move swiftly towards a pollution-free planet.”*



**Andreas Gyllenhammar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Sweco, Sweden**

*“I have known Bjorn for years and learned that his devotion to our climate is genuine. An electric boat is great and a necessary step for the boating transformation, but going circular with re-use is to really take it to the next level”.*



**Louise Dedichen, Admiral Royal Norwegian Navy (NATO), Norway**

*“I have followed this project since I officially sealed their electric charging cord on Aker Brygge in 2018 on World Environment Day. Back then it was a one-year project, but I am happy to see that they expanded their mission over time – despite Covid – and over even more sustainable lifestyle missions like zero-waste, toxic-free, solar food, and gender equality.*



**Kaikane Bigham, Future Generation Crew, 100% Sun Wind Water, USA**

*Youngest crew member Kaikāne at age 5, figured out the first day onboard that if all sailboats he sees would change to an electric engine, it would be much better. He then said “– We can charge with sun, wind, and water for free and there is still enough for everybody else”*

## A youth project sailing for sustainable lifestyle alternatives

Besides being a vote for up-cycling, a vote for Smaragd is a vote for sustainable lifestyle alternatives onboard a sailboat, but suitable for an everyday life anywhere. The crew sails with the Agenda 2030 and UNEPs campaign Clean Seas in mind, and have strived to fulfill the following six defined missions along their voyages:



### 100% FOSSIL FUEL FREE

No fossil-fuel onboard for propulsion, cooking, heating or light. No lighters, no charcoal or fossil-fuel fire starters, or fossil fuel-based candles.



### 100% TOXIC FREE

Non-toxic under water coating and non-toxic cleaning and hygiene products. No waste or human waste is disposed into the sea water.



### 100% ZERO WASTE

No single-use plastics onboard. A Zero-Waste Policy is implemented following the five R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. A sixth R is introduced – Return – returning found plastic waste with identifiable producer info.



### 100% SOLAR FOOD

Prepared from organic ingredients, wild food, and local seasonal products. Growing greens in the compost-garden onboard. Food preferably cooked in the solar beam reflector oven.



### 100% FEMALE RACING CREW

Challenging the male dominance within the sport of sailing, and giving young girls the opportunity to compete all by themselves.



### 100% OCEAN ARTIVISM

Allowing young artists to freely express their views and create awareness about these project's six missions and the Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



## More info and voting:

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Smaragd project website: [www.100sunwindwater.com](http://www.100sunwindwater.com)

Gussies' Electric Boat Award: <https://plugboats.com/vote-2022-gussies-electric-boat-awards/>

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