

INVITATION – PRESS EVENT ON JUNE 5TH, 2018:

Fossil out – electric in. He will sail 2000 Nautical Miles on 100% sun, wind and water.

Starting in Oslo on June 5th he will not use one drop of fossil fuel or one minute of shore power before arriving in Stockholm three months later. He and invited young people will cross three bodies of water and sail by seven countries to promote clean oceans and sustainable lifestyles at sea.



Skipper Bjorn Bertoft is “Doing a Tesla on water” in a mission to create awareness about electric sailing and smarter lifestyles along the route: Oslo-Fredrikstad-Gothenburg-Aarhus-Kiel-Rostock-Copenhagen-Christainsø-Åhus-Karlskrona-Kalmar-Borgholm-Visby-Riga-Tallinn-Helsinki-Turku-Mariehamn and Stockholm.

Louise Dedichen, Rear Admiral in the Royal Norwegian Navy, Commander Norwegian Defence University College, will officially seal the boat’s shore power charger at a Sail-Off Ceremony on Aker Brygge in Oslo, June 5th at 14.00-15.00.

Bjorn ripped out the fossil fuel engine and installed an electric pod drive. The propeller will charge his batteries while sailing and solar panels will do the rest. Along the journey Bjorn and his young crew will trawl for microplastic, study the surface water condition, study their non-toxic hull coating and collect data from their own energy production and consumption. The results, experiences and insights will be shared online as they go. The data will be collected under scientific guidance by Professor Martin Hassellöv, Department of Marine Sciences at University of Gothenburg.



Louise Dedichen, Rear Admiral in the Royal Norwegian Navy, Commander Norwegian Defence University College:

“This is the kind of initiative we need to see more of – action taken instead of waiting for others to fix things. As a naval officer I learn about the devastating development on our oceans every day. The careless burning of fossil fuels and dumping plastic debris has to stop and Bjorn’s initiative to invite young crew members and reach out to people to shed light on these issues deserves all the support it can get.”



Bjorn Bertoft, Skipper:

"I want to inspire the boating world to go electric by proving that it is possible. For the oceans and upcoming generation's sake. Tesla have kicked around in the car industry quite a bit, forcing the fossil fuel car industry to admit that they not only can – but suddenly also want to – produce durable electrical vehicles with long ranges. I am happy to help create a similar tumbling development on water. Every installed electric drive in a boat is a victory for all of us – it is smart, sustainable and nice."



Martin Hassellöv, Professor Marine Science, University of Gothenburg:

"I see this as an interesting Citizen Science opportunity. Bjorn and his crew are planning for a unique journey, passing through sensitive bodies of water and thousands of nautical miles in a "clean" boat with no fossil fuel, no exhaust and biocide-free coating. This gives us an unique opportunity to collect valuable data and observations – trawl for micro plastics, sampling of water pollution as well as collecting data and experiences from renewable energy sources."

The young crew members

Bjorn is dedicating this project to the upcoming generation. Young friends from different parts of the world are invited to sail with him as his crew. They will meet with people in the marinas to learn more – local entrepreneurs, scientists, new "green-ups" and young sustainability evangelists. They will make interviews on new climate-smart solutions, share thoughts about the future and groundbreaking scientific results. The stories will be shared on social media by the crew and invited influencers and also be part of a documentary film and an educational online program.

The new electric drive

The electric pod drive has been developed by German manufacturer Torqeedo, who for several years produced electric power outboard engines. Now they are targeting the more or less completely dominant fossil fuel-based inboard market.

By instating an electric pod drive, Bjorn got rid of the heavy engine, the tank, the hoses, tubes and holes through the hull and deck. With them, the noise, the smell, the emission, the risk of leakage and the cost of fuel. The electric Cruise Pod 4.0 has been installed under the hull and only a cable is sticking up inside the boat, connected to the engine's control unit, throttle and the Lithium batteries.

The sailboat Smaragd

The Smaragd is a sleek, classical racer/cruiser sailboat of 34 foot and 3.3 ton. Designed in Sweden in the 1970-ies and produced up until 1990-ies. Bjorn bought her in 1991 when his children were born. Now, 27 years later, he is giving it a total make-over, preparing her for a fossil free future.



The Smaragd leaving the shipyard for launch some days ago. The electric engine in the pod drive is simply placed under the hull and the folding propeller will be used to charge the batteries while sailing.

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More info and images

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Images for downloading: www.100sunwindwater.com/press