



VIDEN OM AFFALD

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HOLD
DANMARK
RENT



196 Sea Bins on the coastline

EVALUATION REPORT // 2024

SEA BINS

- collection of voluntarily handpicked marine litter



EVEN MORE OF THE *GOOD ENERGY*

Shipping containers gone astray in the North Sea. Tourists in record numbers by the sea. And aweather conditions showing new sides. Yes, 2024 has certainly not been a boring year in the catchment area of Strandkassernes – Denmark's west coast.

But despite that, the concept holds up and the numbers show us once again that no matter what, it is swarming with diligent hands in the sand, which this year together has shaken almost 200 tons of marine waste free of the sand and used one of the 196 Sea Bins that are ready at the foot of the dune.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of you who again and again or for the first time bend down and help. Even if we are not out there on the beach to shake your hand, you should never doubt that your efforts are outstanding and highly appreciated. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

It is now exactly 5 years since we evaluated

the work of the Sea Bins for the first time. And even though both words and numbers have varied over the years, the number of boxes, the amount of waste collected and the results are still impressive and stable. No less than 990 tons of voluntarily collected martint waste has been generated over the last 5 years. An unbelievably large amount of plastic, rope, etc. in a large tangled unit, which has been painstakingly and professionally disposed of by the diligent colleagues in the municipalities.

And what is the driver when we continuously collect marine litter on the beach? Well, we may each have our own reasons, but to a large extent it often stems from an emotional aspect, where we are motivated by a great care for the sea and the beach and, of course, for all the creatures that live here. And this does not only apply to us here in Denmark. This is something we have in common with many other peoples around the world. A healthy working community

comming from the heart.

Let's take the good energy with us into the new season, where the beaches awaits us all and beckons with guarantees of fresh air, exercise and beautiful nature experiences, and where the Sea Bins are ready and waiting for even more marine litter.

See you all out there ☺

PS! Here is a polite service message: Remember that the Sea Bins are only for the marine litter. Filled dog bags and baby diapers, refrigerators, electrician's pipes, kitchen waste and other goodies must be in the other available waste solutions that are located in the area.

Alone we can do something – but together we can do everything ☺



990 TONNES IN 5 YEARS

LONG LIVE VOLUNTEERING!

We have said it before and now we are saying it again. The Sea Bins are the most successful voluntary collection concept when it comes to litter collection in nature. No other place in public spaces is more popular than the beaches when it comes to spontaneous volunteering for a cleaner environment.

If we look at the figures from the last 5 seasons in the 8 municipalities on the West Coast that house the Sea Bins, the trend is clear. The proportion of marine litter collected in the bins is increasing, regardless of how large the total amount of litter is that is removed from the coast.

The challenge is the ability to balance the number of Sea Bins in relation to the local conditions, both in terms of terrain, intensity of traffic and people, as well as the general

operation in the area. The goal is not to get as many Sea Bins on the coasts as possible, but to find the ideal number and the optimal location on the coastline in question.

Marine litter typically comes from far away and has been in the sea for a long time, where it has travelled with the ocean currents. Therefore, there is also significantly more litter on the coasts that are located next to the open sea and this is exactly where you will find the Sea Bins. At the end of 2024, there will be 196 Sea Bins on the Danish coastline from Børsmose Beach in Varde Municipality to Skagen in Frederikshavn Municipality.

Year	No bins	Litter in total, tonnes	Collected i Sea Bins, tonnes	%
2020	151	411,3	201,4	
2021	163	237,2	117	49%
2022	182	440,2	220,7	50%
2023	199	426,1	253	60%
2024*	182	344,7	198,1	58%

*There are a total of 196 Sea Bins on the coasts in 2024, but the 14 bins in Varde Municipality is not be used in the same way as in the other municipalities. Therefore, they are not included in this year's total.



QUANTITIES AND TYPES OFF LITTER *COLLECTED* IN THE SEA BINS 2024

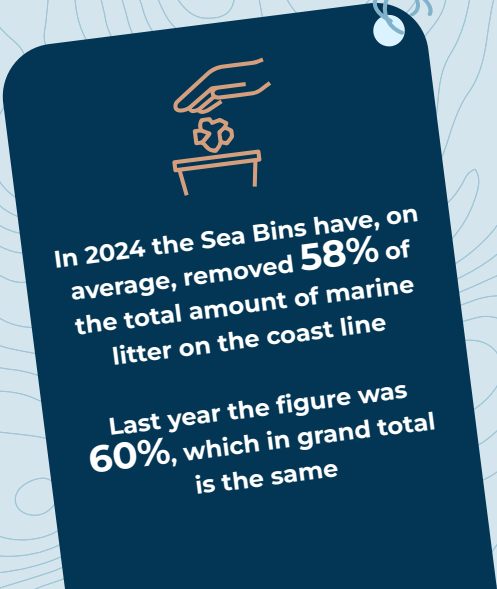
At the end of 2024, Sea Bins are registered in 8 municipalities in Denmark. They are all located along the west coast of Jutland. In the 8 municipalities, there are 196 Sea Bins in operation, most of which are located on the coasts all year round.

The 8 municipalities estimate that they have removed a total of just over 432 tonnes of marine litter from their coastal areas. Of this, almost 200 tonnes have been voluntarily collected via the Sea Bins.

As shown below, there is a big difference in how much marine litter the individual municipalities collect on their coastline. There are several reasons for this. The length of the coastline, the nature of their coastal areas, and the fact that currents and weather "throw" off different amounts of litter, depending on where on the west coast you are.

Municipality	Sea Bin	Marine litter removed in total (tons)*	Collected in Sea Bins (tons)	% collected in Sea Bins
Varde	14	87,5	15	17%
Ringkøbing Skjern	56	128	76,2	59%
Holstebro	14	20,3	18,8	93%
Frederikshavn	23	30	18	60%
Hjørring	18	16,5	6,7	41%
Lemvig	34	43	41,5	97%
Thisted	20	39,9	18,2	46%
Jammerbugt	17	67	18,7	30%
In total*	196	344,7 tons	198,3 tons	

* The average calculation does not include the figures from Varde Municipality, as they use the Sea Bins in a different way than the other municipalities and thus the figures are not directly comparable.



READ & LEARN LITTER TYPES

Virtually all the litter that the Sea Bins collect is marine litter, - i.e. waste that has washed in with the sea. This type of litter is characterized by being relatively dirty and broken, having often been in the sea for a long time and having traveled many nautical miles.

But on a closer look at the Sea Bins, it is possible to make an inventory of the types of material that the marine litter consists of. The latest sample counts in random Sea Bins along the west coast of Jutland show the following distribution of the litter in an average filled beach box – calculated in pieces and kilograms, respectively.



OTHERS

Represents 15% in terms of number and 31% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Household waste, dog bags, construction waste, textile, rubber div., paraffin, flamingo and hygiene items.



PLASTIC BOTTLES

Makes up 4% in terms of number and 3% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Soda and spring water bottles are typically provided from afar.



CANS

Represents 2% in terms of number and 2% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Beer and soda cans – both Danish and foreign.



FISHING NETS

Represents 1% in terms of number and 2% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Tangled netting of all kind



WOOD

Represents 1% in terms of number and 17% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Remains of pallets and other residual wood.



METAL

Represents 1% in terms of number and 1% by weight of the total contents of the box. Spray cans, metal capsules etc.



PAPER/CARDBOARD

Represents 1% in terms of number and 1% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Popsicle paper, napkins, magazines – all Danish.



GLASS

Represents 1% in terms of number and 4% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Alcohol bottles, fluorescent lamps, jam jars – typically foreign.



PLASTICS

Represents 53% in terms of number and 23% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Food packaging, plastic bags, butts, capsules, lids and a very large amount of unidentifiable softplastic.



ROBE

Represents 53% in terms of number and 23% by weight of the total contents of the bin. Food packaging, plastic bags, butts, capsules, lids and a very large amount of unidentifiable soft plastic.

MARINE LITTER ON THE BEACH – AS SMALL MICRO PLASTICS!

Since the beginning in 2017, the Sea Bins have raised awareness of marine litter and inspired tens of thousands of beachgoers to volunteer to lend a hand with the collection. Fish boxes, cans, ropes, ropes and much more have been dragged together, but what about the very small pieces of litter? The so-called microplastics. Is there anyone who has the courage to help remove it?

In connection with the annual workshop in HDR Coastal Team in February, it was therefore decided to test whether beachgoers could also be inspired to collect small litter pieces and plastic pellets on the coasts.

The test was carried out in a collaboration between Ringkøbing-Skjern Municipality, the company Omhu and HDR. It took place on a well-visited beach section in Hvide Sande, where a special waste container was set up. The container had a small slit in the lid to avoid people throwing too large pieces of waste into it. The waste container was marked with large visible instructions, - both on the sides and on the lid. At the container, special "beach rakes" with a fine-mesh net were also set up, so that you could tear through the sand and filter out the microplastics.



The idea was to let the equipment speak for itself - just like the Sea Bins does. Simply leave it available as an open invitation to join. However, in parallel with the test, weekly beach clean-ups were held, where the participants were motivated to collect pellets and use the microplastic container.

Results of the test:

The results of the test show that it is not immediately possible to expand the Sea Bin concept to also include a special Microplastic container, as only about a handful of pellets were collected during the test period. The container, on the other hand, was used extensively as a regular trash can for everything from empty candy and chip bags to sanitary napkins, diapers, and filled dog poop bags, although the slot at the top of the container required effort to squeeze this type of waste down.

And the beach rakes were so popular that they were unfortunately stolen within a fairly short time, and we can only guess whether they were used for the purpose they were intended for.

The weekly "guided" collections, on the other hand, were a great success, where a total of 2.7 kg of microplastics were collected by hand.

The HDR Coastal Team must therefore return to the "thinking box" to continue working on another solution, which may include a slightly smaller and "transparent" container, even more signage and GPS tracker in the rivers.

Because we need to get the shovel (and hands) under the small pieces of microplastics on the coasts! They are at least as harmful to the marine environment as all the large pieces we can see with the naked eye.





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VOLUNTEERING ON THE BEACH IS A SUCCESS

In the municipalities, and especially on the coast line, we see an increasing tendency for more citizens to actively engage in waste collection, both as individuals and in groups.

Initiatives around the Sea Bins are some of the strongest we see in this country. At no other location type is there a commitment and a desire to help experienced so great. The reason is largely tied to the emotional aspect, where motivation is strengthened by the care of marine animals and the maritime environment.

Thus, an increasing number of local citizens are making waste collection a part of their community. This means that they are increasingly taking responsibility for keeping their neighborhoods clean and at the same time helping to clear areas that are often more difficult to access, such as beaches, coasts, forests, smaller paths, and other impassable places.

This type of volunteer work requires both patience and perseverance, as it can be time-consuming to clear areas where the litter has accumulated over a long period of time. Nevertheless, these initiatives demonstrate a strong community and an increased commitment to protecting the environment.

Gradually, the voluntary litter collection initiatives have a noticeable impact on the annual litter monitoring that HDR conducts in the municipalities. The amounts of litter collected by volunteers are largely recorded and thus affect the municipalities' waste management and strategies. In this way, volunteers contribute to creating a greater awareness of the litter problem and the necessity of sustainable litter management throughout society.

No example is better than the Sea Bins, which in several ways provide inspiration for other concepts both in this country and across borders.





RUDDA FØROYAR – A PART OF THE *NORDIC* *COMMUNITY* ON THE COAST

Hold Danmark Rent is an active part of the Nordic Coastal Cleanup community, which includes organisations and groups from all over the Nordic Region. The purpose of the network is to create further awareness of marine litter in the Nordic waters, but a derived benefit has proven to be a very concrete and useful exchange of experience between the organisations. Nothing is more relevant than making new friends and in 2024 we had the pleasure of getting to know our colleagues in the Faroe Islands better.

The Faroe Islands are an archipelago in the North Atlantic, known for fishing and rugged nature. The country consists of 18 larger and smaller islands, which are connected by tunnels and ferries. The landscape is characterized by steep cliffs, grassy ridges and a little forest. The Faroe Islands have a strong culture and a unique history dating back to the Viking Age. The islands are located just two hours of flight time from mainland Europe.

Nothing is more important to the Faroese than nature and the sea that surrounds them, and it is precisely a heartfelt desire to cherish these magnificences that motivated Elin Lindenskov and Sigrún Mohr to establish Rudda Føroyar back in 2018.

Today, Rudda Føroyar is a well-functioning group that works for a cleaner and healthier waste-free soil. The board consists of five members who meet every month, but are actually in dialogue all the time. Most of the work in the organization is voluntary, but in 2024, an employee has been hired on a part-time basis. The income comes from sponsors who support one year at a time, which means that new applications are constantly on the to-do list.

The local support for Rudda Føroyar is great. Not only the volunteers, but also the media follow the many activities closely. They would like to bring news from the larger clean-up operations. How did the day go? How many attended? Where in the country did people participate? How much did you make and what did you find the most of? The questions are many and the five women are happy to provide comprehensive answers, because they know that it is important that people know who they are and what they stand for.

The organization does not point the finger at anyone, but constantly wants to use the dialogue as a lever for the good solution. In this way, they meet and are met positively themselves, so that citizens, schools, associations and companies are inspired to support the good cause. The goal is to constantly inspire everyone in the Faroe Islands to stop polluting, and they are not quite the-



re yet. Therefore, they are itching to keep going and are happy that more people are joining the movement.

And 2024 has truly been an exciting year for Rudda Føroyar. It has resulted in a long series of exciting initiatives and so far the organization's most successful year. In addition to even more clean-up operations, they have established three brand new reference beaches, where repeated measurements are made.

They have had a new logo and a new graphic identity made as well as produced five reels for their SOME. An intern from Ireland was visiting for 6 weeks, where he helped with the practical work and a special event was organized in connection with Earth Day.

But most importantly was the theme evening in the Nordic House that the board set in motion. The theme of the evening was about changing habits, recycling more and throwing away less. More than 140 engaging participants took part in the debate, including several local politicians and international guests from Norway. The evening was a great success and gave a well-deserved honor and attention to Rudda Føroyar.

As for the future, there are many good wishes and thoughts. Most of all, they want to expand their work. Crucial in this context is to be able to hire one person full-time, or two on a part-time basis. They would also like to establish their own office and then they would like to repeat the success

of holding some more theme days and conferences on exciting and current topics.

It is also a great wish to be able to help those who live on the smaller islands, where it requires more effort to arrange clean-ups. The plans for 2025 are to go out to one or more islands and arrange clean-ups. It requires either a boat or helicopter or both.

Facts on the Nordic Coastal Cleanup group:

- Established in 2017.
- Management: Hold Norge Rent
- Steering committee consisting of managers from members i Norge, Finland og Danmark.
- Financed by among others Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Participants: Hold Norge Rent, Hold Sverige Rent, Hall Skærgården Ren (Åland – Finland), Rudda Føroyar, CSR Greenland, World Wide Friends (Island), Hold Danmark Rent.

Læs mere på:

***Nordic Coastal Cleanup /
Håll Sverige Rent***



FACTS ON THE SEA BIN



Since the beginning in 2017, the Sea Bins on the Danish coasts have been a great success and are filled with tons of marine litter daily! The reason is to be found in the fact that the boxes are the solution to an immediate need that arises spontaneously in the beachgoer, who intuitively follows an impulse to pick up litter and subsequently dispose of it. The most important thing in this context is that Sea Bins is visible and accessible.

Dimensions and materials

The Sea Bins are produced from wood, which is impregnated and has good durability and resistance to wind and weather.

The dimensions of the bin are: H 90 x L 120 x W 100 cm., and it has a double bottom of two pallets, which makes it easier to lift it out of the sand with a pallet truck when it needs to be emptied.

Signage

On the side of the Sea Bin, there is a sign that communicates in three languages "Strandingsaffald". There are also pictures showing marine litter. The sign is made of weatherproof material that takes into account water, wind, sun and sand. The signs also include the municipality's and HDR's logo, as well as a QR code that leads to an online information that tells more about the concept.

Operation and maintenance

The Sea Bins are owned and operated by the individual municipality, which is thus responsible for ensuring that the bins are in good condition at all times and most of all are emptied of litter. Most of the bins are located on the coasts throughout the year. However, a few have moved to the other side of the dunes, where they are sheltered from the winter storms, which would otherwise take them out to sea. The Sea Bins are inspected on a weekly basis, and in the high season it is not unusual for an emptying to take place several times a week. Some bins are emptied by hand, while others are emptied by tractor and pallet truck onto the bed of a wagon.

Exemption from the Danish Coastal Authority

The coastal areas in Denmark are protected under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act on beach protection and dune protection. The purpose of the protection is to preserve the open coasts and the landscape, natural and recreational values associated with the coasts. With this legislation in mind, it is necessary to obtain a permit for the erection of the Sea Bins, as the vast majority of them are located within the conservation line. On behalf of the municipalities, HDR coordinates the application work and is responsible for the contact with the Danish Coastal Authority. By the end of 2024, several additional applications are underway, so that all 196 boxes are legally correctly located on the coasts.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SEA BIN CONTRIBUTORS



In the Sea Bin concept, there is a top score on all parameters, both in terms of the amount of litter collected, the number of active volunteers involved and the extent of the supportive partnership between the municipality, sponsor and organization. The local municipality ensures that the bins are available on the coasts and that they are maintained and emptied as needed. HDR facilitates the HDR Coastal Team and collects data for the annual evaluation report. And finally, contributions from the other partners help to ensure communication and campaigns related to the Sea Bins work

WESTWIND



Westwind donates the plastic bag sale to the Sea Bins - THANKS

Over the past five seasons, the store chain Westwind has supported the Sea Bins with the income from their bag sales in the almost 30 stores. Their financial support is invaluable and has contributed to the joint communication efforts that are continuously implemented in the concept.

Likewise, Westwind also supports the volunteer concept Ren Natur, where voluntary associations can earn money by collecting litter on the coasts, among other places. Here, the Sea Bins are used as drop points for the waste.



The Nordic Council of Ministers supports work along the Danish coast line- THANKS

Since 2017, HDR has represented Denmark in the joint Nordic project Nordic Coastal Cleanup (NCC), which aims to create a greater awareness of litter in our Nordic seas through a mobilization of volunteers.

In 2024, NCC has been supported by Nordic Council of Ministers. The support must contribute in particular to the maintenance and further development of the network, so that there are even more local activities that mobilize voluntary clean-up on the beaches, and finally, we must create greater knowledge about the sources and causes of marine litter in the Nordic seas. In Denmark, we contribute to the Nordic community with the Sea Bin concept. No other country in the Nordic region has this concept, and we are pleased to be able to inspire with the fine results that the concept creates year after year.



HOLD DANMARK RENT

Hold Danmark Rent (HDR) is a non-profit company that works to reduce the amount of litter on all types of locations in Denmark.

HDR is a practically oriented knowledge center and a network organization that works innovatively and developmentally together with municipalities, volunteers and companies for a cleaner Denmark without litter in nature. With a special focus on opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration and citizen involvement, we always strive for the best solution for everyone through a good and constructive personal relationship.

HDR don't believe in raised index fingers. Only with a positive approach can we make the problem of littering our joint responsibility and achieve much better results.

This report was prepared by the analysis team at HDR.

Find us and read more on our website

www.holddanmarkrent.dk



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