

Green project for blue oceans

At Christmas-time, Arjen van Eijk and Florian Dirkse will set off on a round-the-world, environmentally sustainable, sailing trip. Codename: The Green Miles. During their travels, both 'climate reporters' aim to stimulate interest in the future of our oceans. At the same time they will gather information on the oceans themselves: a subject which should interest all of us.

The Green Miles-duo will sail around the world in just under two years, on a limited budget yet environmentally sustainable. During their journey Green Miles wish to create awareness amongst the wider public about the importance of our oceans and their current (bad) state. The Green Miles would like to inspire people to interact with the oceans and the world in a green way. The stress will be on Pollution, the Fishing Industry, and Tourism. At the same time, attention will be drawn to the use of sustainable energy. Has travel fever hit the duo yet? Florian Dirkse: "Absolutely. I'm walking around the HISWA (a major international boat show) at this moment to gain extra support for our project, which has just achieved charitable status. We will also make a 6-hour international documentary during our journey.



Florian Dirkse (1978)

Green sailing

The Green Miles' sustainable use of windpower to sail the world means there will be minimal use of fossil fuels and almost zero emissions. The yacht has also been adapted in several key areas. There are quite a few solar panels on board.

A wind turbine provides additional energy. A waste disposal system means no harmful refuse needs to be thrown overboard. Green waste will be pulped so that sea creatures are able to feed on it. The boat has been fitted with a saltwater pump to prevent waste of drinking water, and energy-saving LED-lighting has been installed. The motor will only be used sparingly. Both reporters are keen to find even more ways to lower their emissions as much as possible.

Participants

- Arjen van Eijk, 1982
- Florian Dirkse, 1978

Duration

- Dec. 2008 to Sept. 2010

Travel details

- Min. 20 months, 25,000 nautical miles (46,300 kilometres/ 28,700 miles) across 3 oceans and 7 seas.

Oceans and climate

- Oceans cover about three-quarters of the earth's surface
- Oceans produce 70% of the earth's oxygen
- Oceans absorb over half of all CO2 emissions
- Oceans harbour the highest levels of biodiversity on our planet
- Through pollution, over-fishing and tourism the human race threatens the ecological balance of oceans and of the entire climate.



Arjen van Eijk (1982)

Their world-yacht is a Gibsea 126 (44 ft) which is currently being made 'green'. Victron Energy backs the Green Miles' aims and is sponsoring the project by providing an on-board sustainable energy supply. Green products by Victron Energy are regularly used in remote places around the world

to guarantee an independent energy supply. The energy provided on board the Green Miles will therefore be sustainable as well as... comfortable!

Oceans

The world's oceans cover almost three quarters of the earth's surface. Yet below this 'blue blanket' lies the highest mountain range on earth! The greatest levels of biodiversity on our planet lie underwater, where new species are still discovered every year.

There is a direct link between the world's oceans and our climate. The circulation of ocean waters is responsible for the distribution of heat on earth. Oceanic currents drive our climate. But there is more: the oceans absorb more than half our carbon monoxide (CO2) emissions. Phytoplankton produces over 70% of our oxygen. Healthy oceans are therefore important to us all.

Our oceans are immensely beautiful, but in many areas its natural balance is threatened by human activity. In order to call a halt to this process, The Green Miles is collaborating with various charitable organisations involved in climate change and protection of the oceans.