



## Discharge or recharge – ship-generated waste turned into energy

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BSAG is a non-profit foundation based in Espoo, Finland. We take effective actions to save the Baltic Sea. Our goal is to restore the good ecological balance of the Baltic Sea in changing climate conditions. We protect the Baltic Sea, prevent loss of biodiversity and curb climate change through broad-ranging cooperation with researchers, companies, decision-makers, authorities, and farmers. [www.bsag.fi](http://www.bsag.fi)

**BSAG**  
Baltic Sea Action Group

## Connection to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

### Segment: Sea-based activities

#### BSAP Actions



- **S14** Carry out a study and impact assessment by 2025, assessing the possible ways for cargo ships to deliver **sewage** to port reception facilities (PRF) or take treatment measures, using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a decision by 2027 on whether to widen the scope of the Baltic Sea Special Area regulations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex IV to cover also sewage discharges from cargo ships.
- **S15** Carry out a study and impact assessment by 2027, assessing the volume and potential harmful effects of **grey water** and the possibilities for ships to deliver it to port reception facilities or take treatment measures using onboard treatment plants, before discharging it into the sea. Based on the results, take relevant action in making a decision by 2029 on whether and how to manage grey water discharges from ships.
- **S17** Study the adequacy and use of port reception facilities (PRF) for the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex V cargo residues by 2024 and, based on this information, ensure adequate PRFs in Baltic Sea ports for **cargo residues classified as non-HME substances** under MARPOL Annex V and further ensure incentives for ships to use them by 2027.
- **S18** Develop a Roadmap to minimize the discharges of **food waste** into the Baltic Sea and subsequently develop by 2025 a HELCOM Recommendation to encourage voluntary agreements on delivering all food waste from ships to port reception facilities.
- **S19** Enforce the requirements of the Baltic Sea Special Area under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention Annex IV and continuously ensure the availability of **adequate port reception facilities in passenger ports** in the Baltic Sea Area taking into account the “Technical Guidance for the handling of wastewater in Ports of the Baltic Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex IV”.

## **BSAG contribution to BSAP Sea-based actions**

**Reducing discharges of sewage, grey water and food waste into the Baltic Sea through voluntary action**

HOW? By increasing cooperation between all operators in the value chain

**Raising awareness of responsible waste management onboard and ashore**

HOW? By delivering information on No Special Fee among ships' crews, shipping companies and ports

HOW? By spreading information on special features of the Baltic Sea

**Enhancing the use of sewage, grey water and food waste as feedstock for biogas, soil amendments and district heating**

HOW? By launching Ship Waste Action converting wastewaters into energy

HOW? By building value chains from ships to ports and further to waste management and energy companies

**Collecting data on ships, sewage treatment plants, and contents of sewage and grey water**

HOW? By collecting and analysing samples of sewage and grey water

HOW? By conducting surveys on cargo ships calling at Finnish ports

HOW? By compiling statistics on port tariffs and waste management procedures in Baltic Sea ports



## **BSAG approach**

**Aim at concrete actions**

**Recognize parties which are needed to make the change**

**Focus on the whole value chain**

**Get relevant parties to committing to the change**

**Arrange financing for projects**

**Ensure the work continues after project funding ends**

**Communicate internally and externally!**

## INSPIRING OTHERS

No-one alone is responsible for the poor state of the Baltic Sea,  
and therefore, no-one alone can fix the problems of the Baltic Sea!

### **Key words for the efficient implementation of the BSAP:**

Cooperation

Communication

Awareness

Joint actions

Information sharing

Continuity

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME

### Awareness

Public sector and authorities are not aware of challenges and possibilities in the private sector

Private sector is not aware of regulations, or possibilities to act beyond regulations

Private sector is not aware of the roles of various authorities

### Cooperation

Stakeholders vs value chains

Competing vs cooperating

Neutrality

### Responsible actions

Defining responsible actions

Setting, following and reporting ESG targets

Recognizing the need for change

## **ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT**

**Change the things which you can!**

**Set ambitious goals!**

**Think outside your own box: who are the parties you need to get involved?**

**Try to reach the whole value chain!**

**Involve your counterparts in the public/private sphere!**

**Focus on improvement and positive steps, and raise good examples instead of bad ones!**

**Avoid making assumptions – communicate!**