

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

- 2022 -

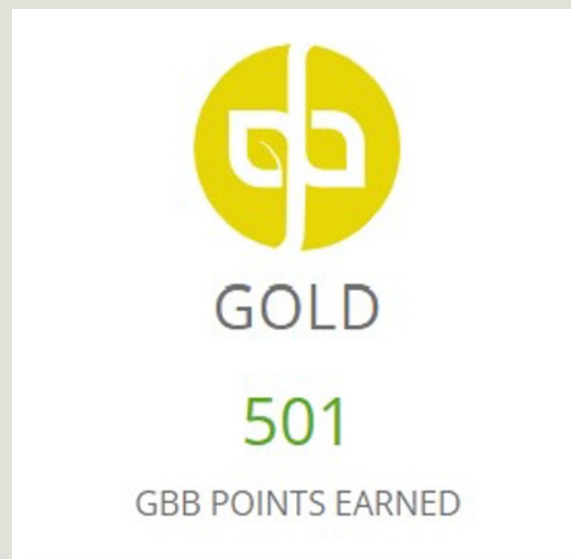


# OUR MISSION

We are committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner in all aspects of our business, and we strive to engage in sustainable practices whenever possible. In fact, the very nature of our work requires us to consistently seek to understand our impact on the environment. We are committed to improving our business practices to:

- Contribute to the knowledge and understanding of environmental impacts
- Use resources responsibly and implement programs to support energy efficiency and conservation
- Continuously drive awareness of and implement ways to reduce our carbon footprint
- Encourage our clients and suppliers to engage in sustainable practices

## Small Steps Green Business Bureau Certification



### Our Goals for 2023

- Encourage employees to practice green habits both inside and outside of work
  - Continue to encourage employee participation in volunteer environmental events in the community
  - Continue to educate employees on our sustainability program and how they can contribute to its success
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# Small Steps

## Improving Sustainability Practices Throughout the MER Companies

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**Energy Conservation**—Field offices and operating facility lights are powered by motion detectors to turn lights on and off to conserve energy when space is not in use. LED lights are used in most locations.

Energy audits are regularly conducted through our local utility suppliers across all businesses and strategies are developed to ensure the ongoing reduction of energy usage.

**Transportation**—MER's rolling stock includes over 450 vehicles that are equipped with GPS systems and are monitored by regional central logistics coordinators to ensure compliance and overall operating fuel efficiency.

MER makes substantial capital investments each year to ensure our fleet and equipment meet the most stringent air quality and noise standards and requirements.

**Reduce & Recycle**—We utilize technology to streamline many of our operations, both in the field and in the office, to reduce the amount of paper usage. We are working towards achieving our goal of being paperless in our field operations. Employee orientations, handbooks, and other administrative publications and documents are provided in digital format and as online resources.

All offices in all locations utilize paper, plastic, and cardboard recycling capabilities and purchase recycled office supply products when available. We have installed a PURE water filtration system in all Resource Centers where it is available, saving an estimated 15,000 plastic water bottles from going into landfills or oceans each year. We continue to move towards eliminating single-use plastic company-wide.

**Environmental Leadership**—Many of our employees belong to, serve on the boards of, and are active participants in, national and regional environmental organizations. Some of these organizations include the Spill Control Association of America and the Edison Electric Institute.

**In the Community**—Our employees frequently participate in local community environmental and educational initiatives in the many diverse communities where we are located. This includes organizing and participating in clean-up and environmental impact initiatives and lending our expertise by participating in youth educational programs as well as Earth Day events.

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# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## MER

in August, the Charleston ER team was hired by a local restaurant after a broken kitchen line polluted a local pond with cooking oil and grease. By working in conjunction with the Carolina Wildlife Rehab Center (CWRC), MER was able to draw attention to injured wildlife faster than the center would have been able to on their own.

In addition to alerting the CWRC whenever crews found oil-covered wildlife, they also removed the threat of oil completely in just seven days. Even though there was wildlife loss, the quick response and high quality of work performed by MER's response crew kept that loss to a minimum.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## Global

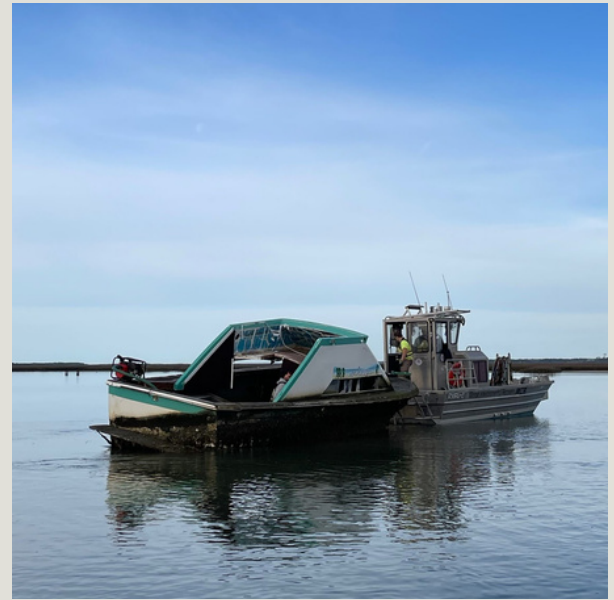
In July, Global responded to a potential pollution release of fuel from the tugboat vessel Kokua near Kingston, WA. Global's crews eliminated the threat of a spill and removed the vessel from the water in less than a week. Had Global not been so quick to respond a potential spill could have quickly turned into an active spill with significant negative impacts on the environment and marine life. Had it taken Global and partners more than 4 days to remove the vessel then that would have allowed for more time to deteriorate and pollute the waterways with debris.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## Mainstream Commercial Divers

In 2022, The Mainstream Charleston team continued their work with the non-profit organization, North Carolina Coastal Federation on their project to remove derelict vessels from the coast of North Carolina. To date, the crew has removed 89 vessels from North Carolina waterways. The goal of this project is to remove the pieces of the rotting vessels because it can disrupt or destroy marine life habitats. This project and others like it are important because abandoned vessels are an ongoing problem in the country, they pose an environmental threat and can cause navigational problems for marine industries and recreational mariners. Our efforts include the response, removal, restoration of natural habitat, and proper disposal. Mainstream and MER are proud to partner with NC Coastal Federation, NOAA and The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission as a key contractor for this initiative.



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## Water Recovery

Leachate is a wastewater generated by landfills as a result of rainwater and moisture filtering through landfill wastes. Since leachate can pick up the chemicals and other materials found in landfills it is important to find the proper way to dispose of it so that groundwater and soil do not become contaminated. In fact, a couple of years ago, WRI was informed that the local publicly owned treatment works facility (POTW) was experiencing significant challenges with the leachate they were sending them due to acids that current treatment methods could not remove. This led to the installation and activation of the leachate system in October which is showing great success as a sustainable option for treating leachate. Many other POTW's around the country are facing similar challenges and are also seeking solutions and since WRI is the only facility with this type of treatment in place, they expect this service line to continue to grow.



[Click here to watch our Leachate Installation Timelapse](#)

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## Drummac

Drummac Inc. continues to participate in battery and hazardous material-like collections and safe removal at their locations. They also purposefully recycle cardboard, paper, aluminum products, and glass. Through proper waste collection and recycling, Drummac is diverting more waste from landfills and protecting the environment from the improper disposal of hazardous materials. Not only has our team been stewards of the environment at their locations, but they have also helped clients develop more environmentally friendly business habits. For instance, Drummac was part of a large-scale project where they converted traditional fluorescent lights to low-voltage LED lighting systems which in turn required less energy from fossil fuels.





# EDUCATING AND ENGAGING EMPLOYEES

## Sustainability Blog

- January 2022  
Sustainability Trends for 2022  
Golden Ray Part:1 Gallagher's Role
- February 2022  
Golden Ray Part 2: MER's Role
- March 2022  
Earth Day Series–Newtown, CT.  
Earth Day Series–WRI Feature  
Earth Day Series–Plastic Consumption Calculator
- March 2022  
Earth Day Series–Randolph, MA.  
Earth Day Series–Environmental Literacy  
Earth Day Series–MER  
Earth Day Series–Randolph, MA. Recap
- May 2022  
Earth Day Series–Final Blog
- July 2022  
34 Years Since Piper Alpha Disaster
- August 2022  
North Carolina Coastal Federation Feature
- November 2022:  
ER–Charleston & Point Source Pollution

### Sustainability Trends for 2022

1/3/2022 by greitham

[Sustainability Trends & Stories to Follow in 2022](#)

In 2021, world leaders gathered in Glasgow, Scotland for COP 26 where a variety of environmental commitments were made. These climate change commitments will affect governments, businesses, and individual lifestyles in the upcoming year. Below is a list of sustainability trends, stories, and commitments to follow this year.

#### Increase in electric vehicle production

One of the biggest statements to come out of the COP 26 was that countries are only going to sell electric vehicles by 2040 or earlier. This will not happen overnight, but you should be able to see manufacturers making progress to producing more electric vehicles.

#### Net zero emission pledges are supported by data

Since many countries are committed to achieving net zero emissions within the next 20-30 years, the expectation is that companies will have to show that they too are making genuine efforts to become net zero.

#### An end to deforestation

At the COP 26 conference the leaders of more than 100 countries agreed to end deforestation by 2030. This will be a harder commitment to check in on but since it was made by more than 100 countries, there will be government regulators as well as advocacy groups monitoring this statement closely.

Even though all the commitments listed above have deadlines 10-20 years in the future it is important to watch what actions are taken this year to help reach that goal in 10-20 years. Buzzwords such as net zero emitters will become commonplace on news broadcasts and articles. Be sure to keep in mind that having a plan to achieve the commitments are much more important than the commitment themselves. As the year continues, the list of trends and stories will grow and change regarding priority but as of January 2022 these are the ones to watch.

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Name:  (for display purposes)

Email:  (will not be shared)

Comment:

### Sustainability Stories: April 2022

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#### Earth Day Series- Randolph Recap

Monday, April 25, 2022 by greitham

Since MER is taking the entire month of April to celebrate Earth Day, I will give a full recap of all clean ups on them blog next week. However, this week I wanted to take some time to share with you my experience at the Randolph office's clean-up last Wednesday. We had more than 15 employees, grab trash bags, a pair of gloves and walk over to the river across the street to pick up some trash. While I was out there, I made sure to note the type of trash I was coming across the most frequently and what trash items I was surprised to find. In the list below you will find the most common trash items that my coworkers and I picked up, as well as some of the strangest items.


Common Trash Items:

- Cigarettes
- Disposable face masks
- Plastic bags
- Food containers
- Bottle caps

Uncommon Trash Items:

- Articles of clothing
- Deflated basketball

In addition to picking up those trash items, there was also some trash that we could not get to. Unfortunately, there was some litter in the river and in the pond which was too deep to wade into without proper boots, and equipment. Even though there we could not pick up all the trash we knew that we left that area better than we found it and that is all we can ask for. This was our third year going to this spot to remove trash and we intend to do so for the foreseeable future.



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#### 34 Years Since Piper Alpha Disaster

Wednesday, July 6, 2022 by greitham

If this is the first time you have heard the name Piper Alpha, then you are not alone because I only learned of the namesake's disaster today on its 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I was doing my daily search of LinkedIn when I came across a post that caught my attention by claiming there was an offshore accident that was disaster and more devastating than Deepwater Horizon. This particular post introduced me to the Piper Alpha disaster which occurred off the coast of Aberdeen, Scotland in 1988 claiming the lives of 167 men and inspiring the implementation of new safety policies. (<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:activity:6950337246914879488/>).

The Piper Alpha was an offshore oil rig that started out specializing in oil production and due to its success with that it added gas conversion to its operations about 8 years later (STY News 2022). Before gas conversion was introduced to the Piper Alpha the original layout placed high risk operations far from staff areas as a safety precaution. To accommodate gas conversion some physical alterations were made to the rig which meant that high risk operations ended up being closer together and as a result closer to staff areas. For example, the area where gas compression took place was located next to the control room, which proved to be very deadly (STY News 2022). However, as is the case for most disasters of this magnitude it is never just one thing that causes it but rather it is the result of a perfect storm of mislags, misinformation, and miscommunication.

Just before 10pm on July 6, 1988, there was a shift change and unfortunately it was not communicated to the personnel coming in that maintenance was being done on one of the major pipes and it was not to be used. This led to a condensate leak which triggered the first explosion, which was then followed by two subsequent explosions (Pana MacLeod Clog F/ChemE and Stephen Richardson 2018). As you can imagine the explosions created fires and flames that took days to put out before the rig eventually crumbled, sinking to the bottom of the ocean. Despite it being the deadliest offshore disaster, those who lost their lives did not do so in vain because this accident and the following investigating spurred the creation of health and safety policies in the UK. Among those policies were those addressing permits, maintenance, and complacency all of which are still in place today and have no doubt saved countless lives since.

My only request is that if you have not heard of the Piper Alpha disaster prior to today, take some time to google it and read about it. My guess is that you will pick up on some of the same themes that I did because it is impossible to ignore the role that health and safety played in this disaster. In fact, it may make you take a step back and understand the importance of all the training we do and why we need to hold so many licenses & permits to perform jobs. I linked the sources that I used to the bottom of the page if you would like to do some further reading on the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster.

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#### Links:

<https://www.thechemicalengineer.com/features/piper-alpha-the-disaster-in-detail/>

<https://news.stx.com/north/piper-alpha-34-years-since-worlds-worst-offshore-disaster>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:activity:6950337246914879488/>

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# PROGRESS OF OUR PROJECT

## Earth Day 2022

The Moran group of Companies had over 15 groups that participated in clean-up efforts in 15 different locations across the United States.

- 15 Cities
- 10 States
- 7 organizations

