

# The Blue Review

Study and Advancement of Clean Waterfront Technologies

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The Blue Review is a publication produced by the TECHBlue Center, Jacksonville, Florida. Brief notes are presented on applied technology for Clean Marinas, Sustainable Product Manufacturing and Clean Waterfront Development. As an email, the Blue Review is distributed to interested waterfront professionals in PDF format. As a printed copy, the Blue Review is sent to a select customer base for subscribing manufacturers. **Voluntary – Independent – Inter-disciplinary**

## Look For The Anchor



- Case Study Reviews
- Marinas | Products
- Technologies | Monitoring

The TECHBlue Center has initiated an independent, third party review process for environmental planning professionals and clean waterfront industries.

“Review Anchors” indicate that data and study information is available on products and technologies with a date and zip code location stamp.

Data is reviewed and monitored by inter-disciplinary study teams and indexed in an open source, searchable library.

Case studies and benchmark data are used to educate business leaders and local communities on ways to help protect and preserve the waterfront.

[Link to Case Study Index](#)

## Clean Marina Reviews

A review of U.S. clean marina practices is being conducted by TECHBlue from May through July, 2010. Clean Marina sites will be surveyed for their clean waterfront protection policies.

Technologies which improve waterways and recreational boating will be highlighted.

[Link to Clean Marina Index](#)

## Marina Day Events



- Palm Cove Marina, Jacksonville, FL
- Harbour Towne Marina, Dania Beach, FL

Marina Day is June 12th.

Marina Day provides a platform to promote waterfront businesses and their civic leadership. Marina Day KIDS events in Florida. [Link to Marina Day KIDS](#)

## Testing Note

TECHBlue Center studies are prioritized by those products and activities which have the most impact on protecting and preserving our waterways.

[Link to Policies & Practices](#)

## Sustainable Product Reviews

Quality Control Practices and Warranty Verification are indicating factors for sound manufacturing BMPs.

Companies producing products with extended life-cycles are usually industry leaders.

Companies which adopt management practices emphasizing strict quality control and warranty procedures consistently show an increase in market share. [Link to Product Review](#)

## Upland Structure Notes

Historically, points of interest for upland waterfront structures include:

**Windload** and the inter-relationship of protecting buildings from surge and flood.

**Water capture** and retention play pivotal roles with waterfront site planning.

Marina structures are good learning laboratories for **solar and other energy-use alternatives**.

## Waterfront Glossary Selection

**BAT** Best Applied Technology - specific methods and techniques used to improve waterway construction. Use of products or a group of products to develop a more efficient, sustainable system. May also mean Best Available Technology.

[Link to Glossary](#)

## The Bottom Line - Money Note

Positioning your company to be ready for funding and grant opportunities takes planning. Implementing management practices which are verified with historical monitoring is a necessary first step.

[Link to How-To-Use](#)

**TECHBlue Center**

Waterfront Solutions

# Industry Leadership Required For Sustainable Waterfronts

By Robert Federer

If SUSTAINABLE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT is not currently part of a marina's vocabulary, perhaps it should be. Sooner rather than later, marinas will need to work with interested stakeholders to preserve water quality, reduce harmful environmental impacts, and most importantly, mitigate waterfront structural damages the next time a big storm occurs.

Across the country, there are many professional groups, trade organizations and regulators eager to establish waterfront development standards. In addition, these same groups are working to identify and create incentives that make it easier for all parties to adopt sustainable practices. The lack of adequate planning data has given regulators an opening to issue moratoriums and use administrative decisions to cripple private sector businesses. The problem is that when waterfront development is allowed, there are few unifying standards for either the property owner or the conservationist to address.

Without input from all interest groups, including marina owners, marine contractors, and policy makers, there is no consistent way to ensure that the nation's waterways stay clean and its waterfront structures are built to last and withstand storms.

## A possible solution

To solve this problem, groups and stakeholders concerned for waterfront development are putting together Sustainable Comprehensive Plans. These comprehensive plans establish clean waterfront goals, and use established best management practices.

At the heart of a Waterfront Sustainability Plan are communities making the commitment to an Environmental Management System (EMS). This means actually putting together a strategy for setting benchmarks and standards to protect and maximize the most highly sought after land in the nation—the waterfront.

Benchmarks will provide planning and zoning staff, regulators, and elected representatives with the tools needed to measure the significance and sustainability of coastal development. Performance driven standards can ensure water quality, waterbed stability, and marine habitats are recognized and protected. The key is finding the best ways to incentivize behavior and provide a reasonable cost/benefit.

Because of the inter-disciplinary aspects and environmental conditions inherent in marina developments, they have the potential to be industry demonstration sites. They present natural learning laboratories for construction best practices,

sustainable materials procurement policies, marine science centers, and the best example of how to develop a hazard mitigation plan.

## The practical elements

The following steps are the basics of a sustainability plan that may help set trends toward healthier coastal ecosystems and fish populations, mitigate storm damage, reduce negative impacts associated with waterfront development, and help resolve disputes that local governments regularly face between developers and environmentalists during permit reviews.

**Step 1. Commit.** Protecting and preserving clean water is our issue, as an industry. Position your efforts and company expertise accordingly.

**Step 2. Establish sustainable goals.** For example, state that waterfront components have working life cycles over 30 years. Or, stating that there is a plan for oil spills and derelict vessel recovery to preserve water quality.

**Step 3. Invite governments, regulators, and industry professionals to outline policies and practices for building on the waterfront.** The most critical area of concern is one of creating a proper balance between what is required and what is voluntary. These entities need to work with marinas to identify and package resources, planning expertise and financial opportunities. Consider a sustainable procurement policy that supports Step 1.

**Step 4. Outline what those applying for waterfront permits need to know and how to comply.** A Letter of Environmental Commitment. This form letter is a statement and recognition of environmental best management practices (BMPs) put forth by the city, county, or state. By signing it, the applicant states that the project is in accord sustainable purchasing policies.

**Step 5. Review is the most critical for the plan's success.** Develop a monitoring system to verify sustainable policies are working to protect waterway quality and confirm project working life cycles.

When property owners and their contractors, suppliers, and government all have a stake in environmental sustainable policies, and economic incentives.

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