

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



We're Maximizing the Reach of Your Seagrass Grow Carbon Offset

When you decided to offset your carbon footprint with The Ocean Foundation's Seagrass Grow program, you invested in reinvigorating ecosystems that fight climate change and help coastal communities become more resilient against harsh natural forces.

The Ocean Foundation is undertaking a thorough process to maximize the reach of the program and the longevity of any planting site's future conservation. In addition to restoring needed seagrass beds and mangrove forests, this process engages the local community and implements a comprehensive conservation plan. We are proud for what we are able to do for Puerto Rico and we are excited to replicate this process for other communities in the future.

Thank you for choosing Seagrass Grow!

Jobs Bay, Puerto Rico, USA



The Jobs Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (JBNERR) is a federally protected estuary located in the municipalities of Salinas and Guayama in Puerto Rico. The 2,817 acre reserve is an intertidal tropical ecosystem dominated by seagrass beds, coral reefs, and mangroves. The reserve contains five distinct habitat types and provides sanctuary to endangered species, including the brown pelican, peregrine falcon, hawksbill sea turtle, green sea turtle, several species of shark, and the West Indian manatee.

In 2017, JBNERR's seagrass and mangrove forests were heavily disturbed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Through human intervention and targeted restoration activities, the rate of recovery in damaged seagrass beds, salt marsh estuaries, and mangrove forests can be dramatically increased. Restoration and conservation is necessary for all of the marine organisms depending on these critical habitats to survive, and will restore the local communities' natural defense against future hurricanes.

Working With the Local Community



In addition to our partnership with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to perform the restoration work for SeaGrass Grow, The Ocean Foundation has prioritized its engagement with local organizations. In April, workshops were hosted for a variety of Puerto Rico-based stakeholders, including academics, NGOs, resource managers, and government agency representatives. The workshops covered the ecologies of seagrass and mangroves, state-of-art planting and monitoring techniques, and their advantages in storm resilience.

Up Next: Plant Seagrass!



Pending the approval of our restoration permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, The Ocean Foundation intends to commence seagrass and mangrove planting activities and protective buoy installation and signage at our pilot seagrass restoration sites towards the end of 2019. We will enlist a cadre of volunteers and local fishers working under the supervision of our key partners and the staff at the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

We will initially focus on re-grading scars and blowholes followed by some transplantation of pioneer seagrass species to accelerate natural recovery of large areas. In addition, we will begin our mangrove restoration efforts by establishing holding areas for propagules and saplings. Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond, we are currently raising support to finance a significant expansion of our efforts in Jobos Bay, including developing a plan to restore large tracts of degraded mangrove forests in the eastern part of Jobos Bay.

Ben Scheelk, Senior Program Manager



Even though our work in Jobos Bay is only beginning, we are confident that the overall impact of our efforts will be far greater than what we could ever achieve at this one location. That is because by training others in coastal restoration techniques and providing ongoing assistance, we hope to equip our partners with the tools and expertise they need to pursue their own coastal resilience projects throughout Puerto Rico. Collectively, we can rapidly enhance the island's natural infrastructure and make communities more resilient in the face of increasingly severe storms and flooding. With your support, we are forging a path towards greater sustainability by focusing on restoring and expanding the many services that coastal ecosystems provide for society.

We could not be more thankful for our partners in advancing our seagrass and mangrove restoration and conservation work in Jobos Bay. Together, we are demonstrating how a passionate coalition of nonprofit organizations working with local participants and a

government agency can effectively carry-out large-scale restoration projects and educational workshops.

Why Plant Seagrass?

[Visit our website to read more about seagrass and blue carbon.](#)



Safety Benefits

Seagrass meadows reduce flooding from storm surges and hurricanes by soaking up seawater and dissipating wave energy.



Food & Habitat

A single acre of seagrass may support as many as 40,000 fish, and 50 million small invertebrates like crabs, oysters, and mussels.



Economic Benefits

For every \$1 invest in coastal restoration projects, \$15 in net economic benefits is created.



Carbon Sequestration

Seagrass habitats are up to 35x more effective than Amazonian rainforests in their carbon uptake and storage abilities.

Offset Your Carbon & Plant More Seagrass

Thanks to Our Partners

The Ocean Foundation is grateful to these partners who make work like this possible through their support, collaboration, and confidence in our ability to make such an important difference.

jetBlue



11TH HOUR RACING



peak design



Ocean Conservancy



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