



2018 Sustainability Report

Overview

ORGANIZATION MISSION

Open Robotics works with industry, academia, and government to create and support open software and hardware for use in robotics, from research and education to product development. The unifying theme of the team and the work is openness. They use and build open systems.

To the greatest extent possible, they freely distribute their work product, whether software, hardware, or documentation, under an open source license.

CONFERENCE DESCRIPTION

ROSCon 2018 was a chance for ROS developers of all levels to spend an extraordinary two days learning from and networking with the ROS community.

ROSCon is a developers conference, in the model of PyCon and BoostCon. Similar to previous years, the two-day program was comprised of technical talks and tutorials that introduced participants to new tools and libraries, as well as taught attendees more about the ones they already know.

Vitals



ATTENDEE PROFILE

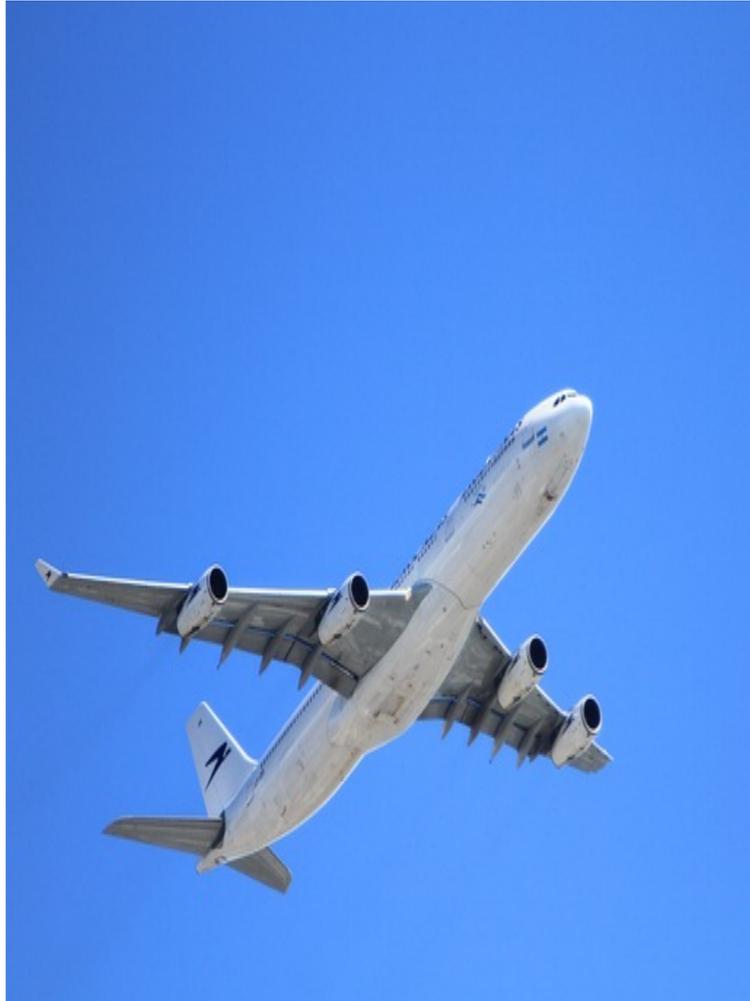
ROSCon has sold out the last three years and attracts a variety of attendees, from open source programmers, to industry professionals, and representatives and exhibitors from large technology companies. The common thread that ties them together is passion for progress and a love of technology.

Date	September 29 – 30, 2018
Location	Madrid, Spain
Venue	NH Collection Madrid Eurobuilding
# Attendees	520 – preregistered 507 – onsite
# Sponsors	47
Event Features	Single track format with 41 sessions, including 2 lightning talk sessions which had 14 short 3-minute presentations; a Diversity Scholarship program and reception, an exhibit hall and Saturday evening reception



Sustainability Achievements

There are many areas that contribute to an event's overall sustainability, ranging from venue, accommodations, and food & beverage, to signage, collateral, and even marketing & communications. Greening an event involves a concerted effort across vendors and supply chains to help transform an industry. We are proud of our team's work to advance the following sustainability initiatives.



TRAVEL

ROSCon opted to co-locate the conference prior to IROS, another conference that attracts a number of overlapping attendees, to reduce the impact of travel for attendees and exhibitors.



MEALS

The ROSCon team diligently works with the food provider to ensure responsible sourcing of food and purchases local and organic when possible. ROSCon also ensures a donation stream for the remaining prepared food is in place to reduce waste.



SIGNAGE

ROSCon committed financial resources to provide a number of digital monitors around the hotel venue to reduce printed materials. Printed signage was on recycled cardboard.



SUMMARY

ROSCon continues to set the bar for a conference that focuses on the experience of the attendees, while advancing social, environmental, and sustainability initiatives.

The conference has a code of conduct, anti-harassment policies, and ensures that the conference is a safe space for all people. The ROSCon team has a Diversity Committee that selects and funds scholarship participants from underrepresented groups in tech, providing the opportunity for them to attend and grow their careers and skill set.

ROSCon sources venues that have sustainability features integral in their company culture as the greatest success occurs when venue policies align with the conference goals. The following page outlines some of the MeetGreen policies to help advance sustainability.



- Sustainability goals were discussed with venue and vendors prior to contracting.
- MeetGreen Sustainable Practices Survey was sent to key vendors.
- Requested venue recycle glass, paper, plastic, and cardboard.
- Sourced sustainable food options where possible: local, seasonal, organic, fairly-traded, sustainably harvested, or ethically produced.

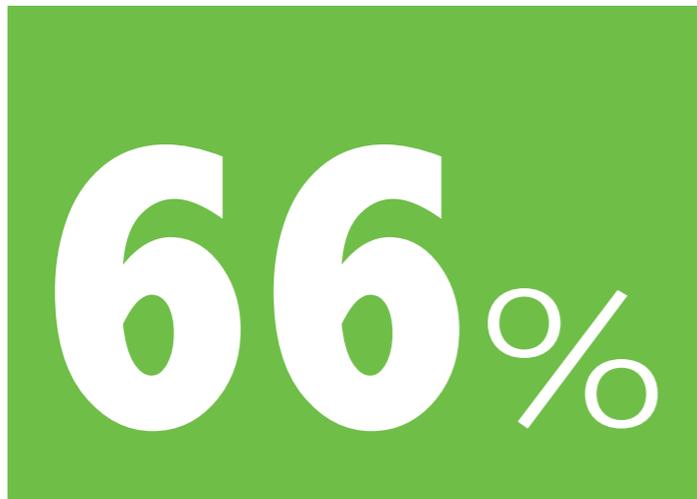
- Encouraged attendees to take public transportation to and from the airport to the hotel.
- All meal functions were served on reusable dishes, cutlery, and linen napkins.
- All water service was provided in reusable glass water bottles with glass cup.
- Exhibitors were provided with green exhibit guidelines to ensure a reduction in waste generation.
- Handouts were eliminated from conference registration.
- Sustainability initiatives were communicated to attendees in the pre-conference all-attendee email and on the electronic onsite signage.
- The promotional items ordered for the conference are the annual attendee gifts and are quality items that attendees keep for years.

From Local to Global

In 2015 the United Nations defined a collection of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) designed to achieve the following targeted goals by 2030: ending poverty, promoting prosperity, well-being for all, and protecting the planet. One very powerful visual is seeing how the sustainability actions taken at ROSCon 2018 link closely to the global initiatives outlined by the UN SDGs.

CONFERENCE SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Donation of leftover food.	SDG 2: Zero hunger
Condiments and beverages served in bulk.	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
Water glasses not pre-filled.	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
China and linens for meals, no disposables.	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
Utilizing electronic signage in the meeting venue.	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
No bottled water served at event.	SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production
Reduce printed material.	SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production
Incorporation of local / sustainable food on the menu.	SDG 3: Good Health & Well Being

Event Scoring



66%

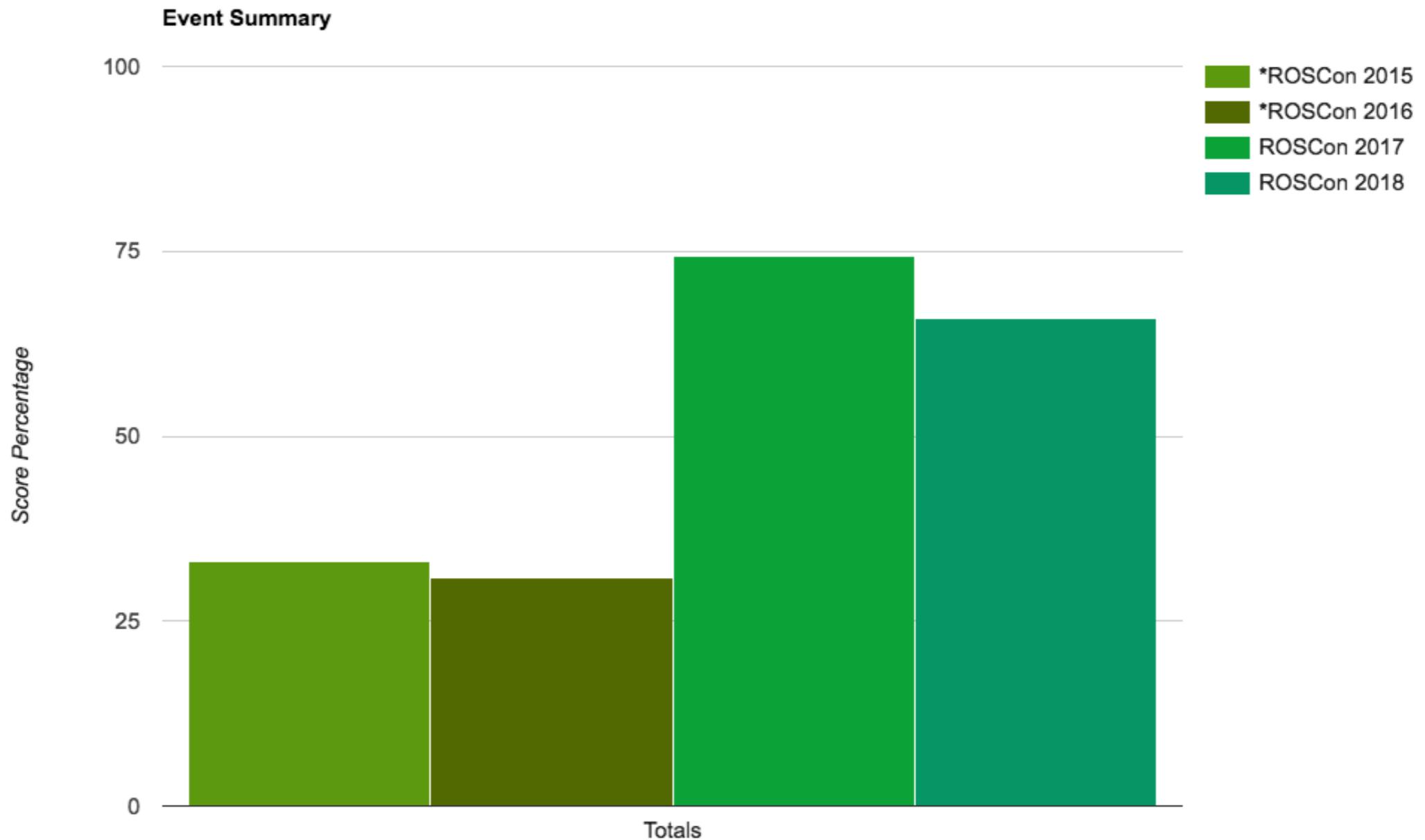
2018 SCORE

*Compared to an average
calculator score of 42%*

The MeetGreen® Calculator 2.0 is a comprehensive tool available for benchmarking the sustainable elements of events. Using the Calculator allows ROSCon to capture valuable information throughout the event planning process in order to make it easy to see where successes lay and where improvements can be made.

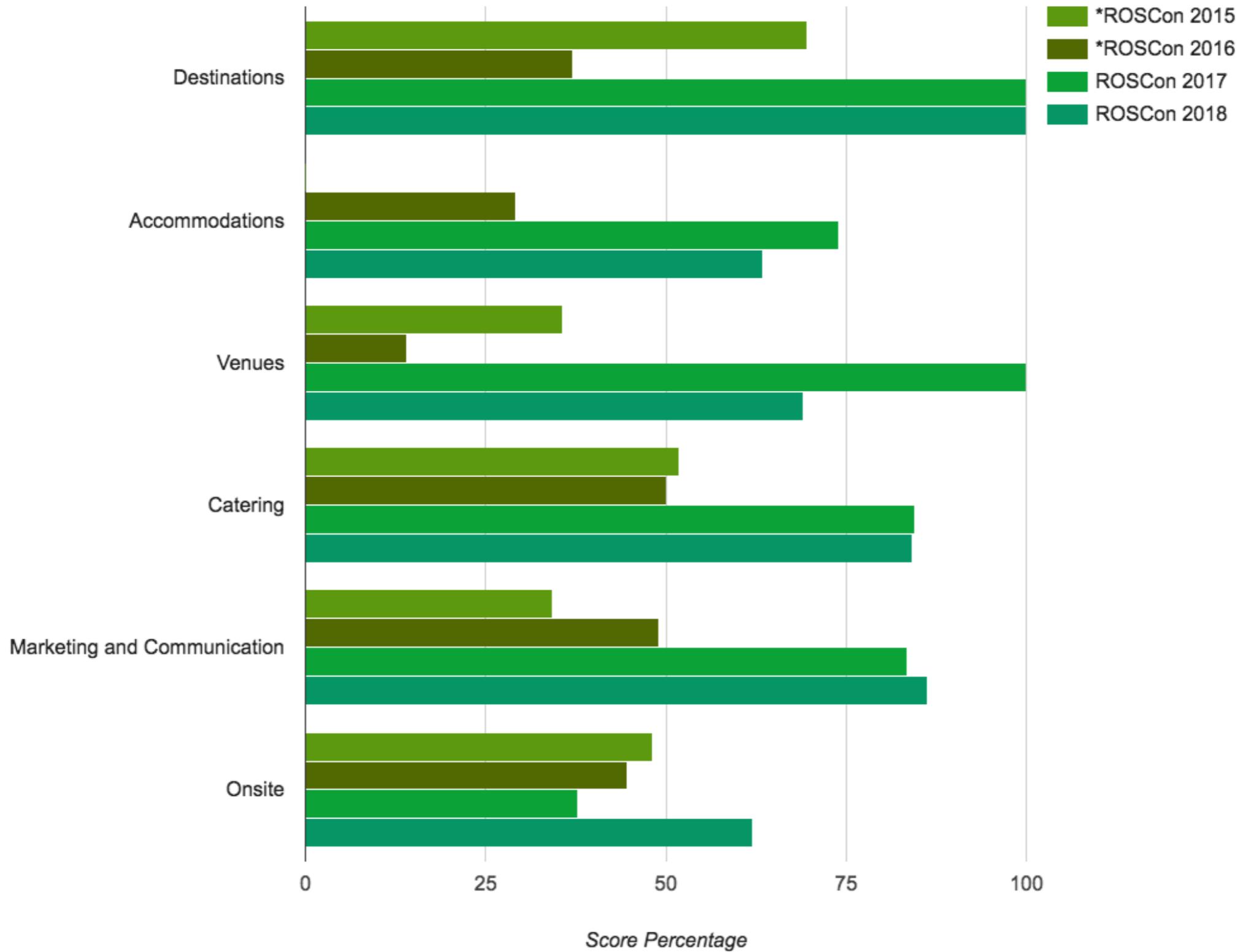
Those events that score highly are run by organizers who not only request sustainable practices, but also ensure that these requests are implemented through systemic processes, that procedures are tracked and that a high level of performance is achieved.





MEETGREEN CALCULATOR SCORE YEAR BY YEAR

This report shows the total Calculator score for the ROSCon Conference for the last four years. 2018 scored 66% as compared to 74% in 2017. This was based on the venue initiatives, however, 2018 still exceeds the average of most events.



MEETGREEN CALCULATOR EVENT CATEGORY COMPARISON

This report shows the Calculator score across each category for ROSCon over a history of years.



Sustainability Opportunities

Event sustainability is inherently a long-term process. As such, it is an opportunity to innovate, and evolve at a pace that is congruent with your organization's resources and road map. The following pages offer a combination of practical next steps as well as some ambitious targets to help frame future event sustainability planning.

CREATE

Consider migrating the conference to a **circular economy model** for assets such as signage. With the advent of recent challenges to waste diversion streams, make a concerted effort to minimize waste rather than recycle materials.

Commit to greater attendee engagement by communicating your efforts. Add a **green tagline** at bottom of any eblasts.

Consider a **waste management sponsorship working towards a zero waste conference**.

At the outset of the 2019 conference, **identify 3 goals and desired outcomes** that relate to sustainability.



ADVANCE

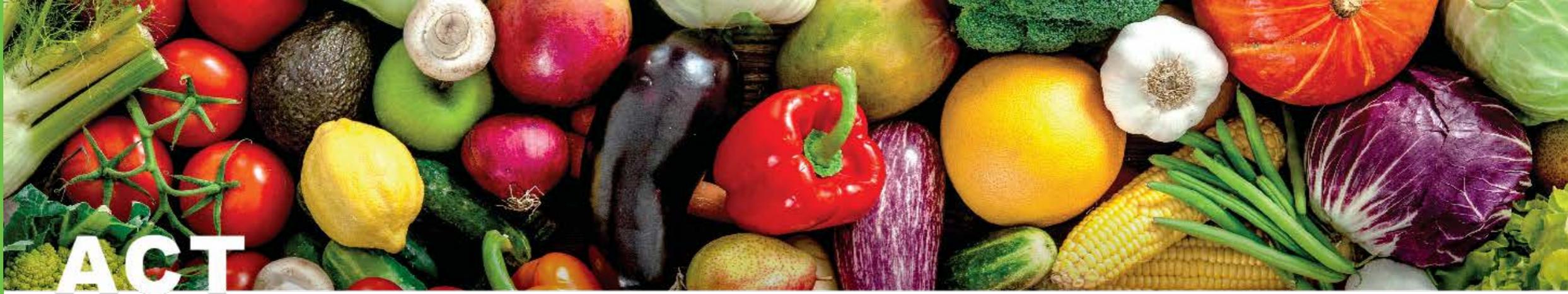
Draft an event sustainability policy to ensure that green practices are incorporated into all meetings. This process should be finalized and communicated to all stakeholders.

Confirm event-specific priorities and measurement targets. This could be a first action-step for the sustainable event team.

Establish **areas of responsibility** including staff and vendors and determine how to communicate this information to all stakeholders.

Communicate opportunities and impacts. Include a strategy for pre, during and post-event outreach to attendees and other stakeholders.





Increase sustainability

Communicate with sponsors and exhibitors to ensure samples and promotional items utilize minimum packaging. Advance the greening initiatives for exhibitors.

Set a waste diversion from landfill goal with venue.

Request availability of kitchen and food waste composting onsite.

Provide a conduit for attendees to **participate in a carbon-offset program** and advocate for inclusion of **local, seasonal, and sustainable items on the menu.**





Congratulations

**on a successful event using
the Earth's resources wisely!**

Special Thanks

Open Robotics

NH Collection Madrid Eurobuilding

Sonorizarte Eventos

DECEMBER 2018 | PREPARED BY MEETGREEN

© 2018