ATHLETES SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE

WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
BELGRADE 22
Recycling efforts are still in their early stages in Serbia but the country has committed to catching up, aiming to increase domestic recycling rates to 65% by 2035 to align with EU targets. Local organisers have seized upon those ambitions and hope to provide a positive example through a recycling programme that will be piloted over the course of the World Indoor Championships whose start coincides with Global Recycling Day. Collection bins have been installed throughout the arena and volunteers will be on hand to assist with a recycling educational campaign. Even the official mascots, Šljivan Iv (the Plum) and Malina Li (the Raspberry), will get in on the act.

The Stark Arena, the host venue for this weekend’s World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade 22, is one of the largest indoor arenas in Europe. It has hosted continental championships in athletics, basketball, volleyball, water polo, table tennis and judo, as well as many of the world’s greatest entertainers - including those participating in the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest. This weekend will mark another important milestone for the arena: the first time that a recycling system will be in place in the venerable entertainment complex. Recycling efforts are still in their early stages in Serbia but the country has committed to catching up, aiming to increase domestic recycling rates to 65% by 2035 to align with EU targets. Local organisers have seized upon those ambitions and hope to provide a positive example through a recycling programme that will be piloted over the course of the World Indoor Championships whose start coincides with Global Recycling Day. Collection bins have been installed throughout the arena and volunteers will be on hand to assist with a recycling educational campaign. Even the official mascots, Šljivan Iv (the Plum) and Malina Li (the Raspberry), will get in on the act.

The weekend’s campaign, along with a permanent waste management system that was put in place this year at Belgrade’s recently refurbished Athletics Hall, are key components of the legacy organisers hope to create with these championships, putting sustainability at their core.
World Athletics, Belgrade 22 LOC and Serbia Athletic Federation: Signatories to The Sports for Climate Action Framework

The United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework was launched in Katowice, Poland in 2018 with an aim to encourage sport organisations to take collective action to limit global warming to a 1.5C degrees rise, the levels agreed in Paris during the 2015 Climate Change Conference.

Why sport?

The United Nations has recognised that the global carbon reductions required to meet the targets agreed to in Paris - a net zero emission economy by 2050 - cannot be met by governments alone. Meeting the scale of the immense challenge requires action from all sectors, including sport. With a global reach that includes a fan base in the billions and a unique power to inspire, sport is well positioned to help drive global climate action.

Recognising that reach but also acknowledging the impact that its events have, World Athletics and the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade 22 Local Organising Committee signed on to the Framework in April 2021. The Serbia Athletic Federation will add its name to the framework during these World Indoor Championships.

The framework has two overarching objectives: achieving a clear trajectory for the global sports community to combat climate change through commitments and partnerships in congress with verified standards and using sports as a unifying tool to drive climate awareness and action among global citizens. Signatories must pledge to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2040.

By signing on, signatories agree to commit to the framework’s five principles:

• Undertake systemic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
• Reduce overall climate impact;
• Educate for climate action;
• Promote sustainable and responsible consumption; and
• Advocate for climate action through communication.

Sports organisations are invited to sign on regardless of the current stage of their environmental endeavours and to work collaboratively with other signatories to identify and spotlight solutions. Commitment to the framework requires a demonstration of ongoing progress, meaning organisations need to set targets, measure their carbon impact and take action to reduce as well as compensate for those remaining emissions.

World Athletics urges all of its member federations, event organisers and other stakeholders to learn more about the framework and commit to its principles. World Athletics will provide its member federations with any guidance and assistance needed to ensure that our sport is positively contributing to the framework.
World Athletics launched its Sustainability Strategy in April 2020, a ten-year road with a central goal of making the organisation and our World Athletics Series events carbon neutral by 2030. The strategy addresses global issues that pose a threat to the quality of our lives, including climate change, air pollution and inequality, using the power of sport and athletics to create a better world for communities.

Through the strategy, which was designed to deliver tangible benefits across environmental, social and economic sustainability, World Athletics committed to embracing sustainability principles and practices within its operations, its Member Federations and the organisation of future World Athletics Series events.

Find out more: worldathletics.org/athletics-better-world/sustainability

The strategy is divided into six pillars, each of which contain actions and targets for the organisation to pursue:

- Leadership in sustainability;
- Sustainable production and consumption;
- Climate change and carbon;
- Local environment and air quality;
- Global equality; and
- Diversity, accessibility and wellbeing.
LATEST IPCC REPORT: ‘A DIRE WARNING ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION’

Human-induced climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions around the world, and it is accelerating rapidly, hitting hardest the people and ecosystems least able to cope with the impacts. That’s the dire warning in the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released on 28 February.

The international body, composed of scientists tasked with reviewing scientific information on climate change, warned that the impacts of climate change are dangerously outpacing the world’s ability to adapt to those impacts.

Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, said the report is a dire warning about the consequences of inaction. “It shows that climate change is a grave and mounting threat to our wellbeing and a healthy planet. Our actions today will shape how people adapt and nature responds to increasing climate risks. Half measures are no longer an option.”

The report ends with two sobering sentences:

“The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Climate change impacts have affected 3.5 billion people and have already caused some irreversible damage;
- Marginalised people are more impacted due to socio-economic factors, land use and inequality;
- Societies will be hit by more extreme weather events including heat waves, droughts, fires and floods;
- A temperatures rise beyond 1.5C degree would dramatically increase climate-related risks: if temperature rise by 1.7 or more, half of the world population could be exposed to periods of life-threatening climate conditions.
- The next few years are critical for humanity’s future: it’s not too late but the window is narrowing rapidly.
OUR SPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ATHLETES HAVE THEIR SAY

DID YOU KNOW?

80.4% of the athletes who competed at the World Race Walking Team Championships in Oman earlier this month are either extremely concerned or very concerned about climate change;

76.1% said that climate change has impacted them directly;

80.4% said that climate change has impacted our sport;

82.6% have already made lifestyle changes to reduce their impact on the environment;

93.5% believe that the sport of athletics should do more to help build a sustainable future.

Those numbers are similar to what a sport-wide survey found in October 2021 when 77.4% of athletes surveyed said they are either extremely concerned or very concerned about climate change.

TAKE OUR SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY – AND WIN A BEAUTIFUL KEEPSAKE

Help World Athletics create a healthier planet by participating in a short survey. It only takes a few minutes - and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of five beautiful keepsakes to remember your visit to Serbia.

Survey link: https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/Belgrade22

ATHLETES SOUND THE CLIMATE CHANGE ALARM IN NEW VIDEO, ‘WE CAN FIX THIS’

More than a dozen athletes from four continents, including reigning Olympic champions Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya and Neeraj Chopra of India contributed to ‘We can still fix this: Athlete Messages for COP26’, a powerful four-minute video released on 1 November to coincide with the start of the COP26 United Nations Climate Summit in Glasgow.

Watch it now.
BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

1. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
   - Walk
   - Use public transport
   - Ride a bike
   - Carpool

2. AT HOME OR IN A HOTEL
   - Switch lights off when you leave the room and unplug electronic devices when you are not using them
   - Replace light bulbs by LEDs
   - Use renewable energy

3. CHANGE YOUR FOOD HABITS
   - Substitute meat and dairy with organic and local food in season
   - Buy in bulk

4. AVOID AIR TRAVEL WHEN POSSIBLE
   - For short travel, consider alternatives such as trains
   - Fly in economy instead of business class
   - Offset your CO2 emissions on the airline website

5. REDUCE YOUR WASTE
   - Bring your own reusable bag when shopping
   - Avoid buying single use plastic
   - Buy used or recycled items
   - Go digital and eliminate paper
   - Compost your food when possible
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN WORLD ATHLETICS' SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS?

Let us know! Athletes are our sport's greatest Ambassadors - we want to help amplify your voices on the issues you are passionate about.

If you’re interested in participating in a World Athletics campaign around sustainability or serving as a Sustainability Ambassador for an upcoming event – or simply want to share some sustainability-related feedback, get in touch: sustainability@worldathletics.org