



**THE EUROPEAN GREEN SPORTS
CHARTER**



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE GREEN SPORTS HUB EUROPE



The Green Sports Hub Europe (GSHE) project was launched in February 2021 with an ambition to make the sport sector more sustainable and more green. The three-year project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, sets four key pillars and a clear strategy. The project aims to test the potential of the sports sector as a high-profile and news agenda-driving industry and to be a channel for the societal behavioural change needed to make the European Green Deal a reality by focusing on good governance, so that leaders have the knowledge and skills to place environmental sustainability at the heart of their strategy.

GSHE will aim to be a support system for organisations to share knowledge and best practices, so that they can learn from each other and develop. By making use of experts, listening to the needs of the sector and equipping sports organisations and their events with the necessary tools, project partners will look to translate existing standards on environmental sustainability into concrete action, while aiming for the GSHE approach and tools to become a central component of sports organisation good governance.

The project is coordinated by Surfrider Foundation Europe (France), with project partners including:

- Association of Cities and Regions for the Sustainable Management of Resources (Belgium) ;
- Sports Confederation of Portugal (Portugal) ;
- ukactive (United Kingdom) ;
- Green Cycling Norway (Norway) ;
- The Olympic Committee of Slovenia (Slovenia) ;
- European Volleyball Confederation (Luxembourg) ;
- Rugby Europe (France) ;
- European Athletics Association (Switzerland) ;
- EUSA Institute (Slovenia).



SPORT LEADING THE WAY FOR A GREENER EUROPE!

From boardroom to playing field, European sports organisations have the power to bring a decisive contribution to a sustainable world.

“The European Green Sport Charter” provides a concrete and actionable framework adapted to the needs and specificities of all sports organisations!

The recommendations in this document are suggested to support environmental sustainability in the sport sector, alignment with European guidance and best practice, including the European Commission’s Common Framework for Green Sport and successful implementation of EU Green Deal recommendations within the sport sector.

ABOUT THE CHARTER

The “European Green Sports Charter” is adapted to all organisations: from the local club to the major leaders of the sector, you will find in this document guidelines on how to reduce your environmental impact.

Built around six key pillars, expertise, guidance, and tools are integrated with the Charter in order to support your organisation to deliver the most impactful actions.

Where to start? How to walk the talk?...

Use our [tailor-made self-assessment tool](#) to understand where and how your organisation could reduce its impact.

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THE 6 KEY PILLARS SUPPORTING THE “EUROPEAN GREEN SPORTS CHARTER”

The 6 pillars of the Charter have been identified as the most effective areas for sport organisations to reduce their environmental impact.

Pillar 1, Governance

Sustainability must become a priority from the boardroom to the playing field. Strategic orientations decided at the highest level have a knock-on effect on all strands of our organisations and have the power to transform individual goodwill into long-lasting policies.

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to implement over the next cycle a change in their official structures and documentation resulting in environmental sustainability becoming a key criterion in decision making.

Examples: Sustainability included in the statutes or mission statement, appointment of a board member as responsible for environmental sustainability.

Pillar 2, Resources management

In sport, high-performance is reached when even the smallest details are carefully considered and optimised. For sport organisations, given the global scarcity of resources, minimising the use of natural resources and moving to greener alternatives is an important factor for ensuring sustainable and effective performance. Organisations should consider issues including climate, mobility, energy use, waste management, water consumption and biodiversity impact

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to review their resource use and create a plan to eliminate or minimise unsustainable practices through substitution or behaviour change within a maximum of 2 calendar years.

Examples: Minimise the quantity of resources needed for operations, office procurement, equipment and official apparel, plus implement a greener procurement strategy.

Pillar 3, Facilities

Our stadiums, offices, clubhouses, training venues... consume resources throughout their life cycle. By having a full understanding of their consumption, we can identify each venue's weaknesses and implement corrective measures. In relation to their facilities, organisations should consider environmental issues including climate, mobility, energy use, waste management, water consumption, pollution and biodiversity impact

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to select the largest or principal venue in which they regularly operate, and to design recommendations to reduce its impact. Every effort shall then be made to implement the corrective measures within 3 years.

Examples: Understand and reduce the quantity of resources needed for facility management, heating, lighting, waste management, pitch care and catering.

Pillar 4, Criteria for events' host selection

Events are the shop window for Sport organisations. They should be the embodiment of our environmental strategy, and a platform to convince our audiences to reduce their own personal impact.

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to add environmental sustainability criteria for the selection of the host city or venue for all of their events within a year. They should consider a host venue's location, design, and operational policies and practices.

Example: Add criteria to bidding documents, including mobility, energy use, waste management, water consumption, pollution and biodiversity impact.

Pillar 5, Event Management

Organising events is part of sports organisations' DNA. But in doing so athletes must travel, food and drink are consumed, waste is generated and energy is used. By reducing or optimising the resources needed to deliver our events, we can dramatically reduce their environmental impact. Events are also a unique opportunity to inspire our audiences and convince them to take action at home.

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to implement measures aiming to significantly reduce the impact of at least one of their top events per calendar year.

Examples: Reduce energy use, waste generation, water consumption, pollution and biodiversity impact in relation to spectator and participant travel, temporary facilities, heating, lighting, waste management, merchandise and catering.

Pillar 6, Overall impact on natural environment

All sport organisations have an environmental footprint, but for most, it is neither considered nor understood. It is time for us to change our ways of working and to start reducing our overall impact on the natural environment by considering environmental issues as they develop their assessments, plans and reporting processes

- ▶ By selecting this pillar, signatories commit to assess their environmental impact, create an environmental sustainability action plan and report yearly on progress towards reducing their impact.

Example: A yearly report encompassing mobility, energy use, waste management, water consumption, pollution and biodiversity impact...



ADOPTING THE CHARTER

Become a member of the network

All sports organisations are invited to use the charter as a tool to reduce their impact.

Two levels of membership are available:

1. Contributor status

Your organisation has recently embarked on a journey to become greener. No operational constraints will apply to “contributors”, but they shall send to secretariat@greensportshub.eu an official letter:

- Highlighting their current situation in terms of environmental impact;
- Giving a quick description of a list of actions that you plan to take;
- And mentioning the following pledge *“I declare that my organisation is willing to lower its overall impact on the environment. To do so, we intend to collaborate with the Green Sports Hub Network and to abide by the principles set in the various tools produced by the consortium”.*

2. Signatory status

Within the framework of the European Green Sports Charter, your organisation takes the pledge to deliver concrete and ambitious actions aiming to reduce its impact. The “signatory” status serves as an independent label for organisations that are actively reducing their impact. It positions your organisation as a change-maker but also as a leader and ambassador for a greener sports industry.

Future signatories shall:

- Use the Application form available hereafter and send it to secretariat@greensportshub.eu. The GSHE Sustainability Committee will assess the applications and award or not the status of signatory to the applicants.
- On a yearly basis, signatories shall focus on at least 1 pillar of the charter and deliver concrete actions.
- Signatories shall submit a detailed yearly report on the results achieved.



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APPLICATION FORM – WRITTEN VERSION

TO GET THE STATUS OF SIGNATORY OF THE GREEN SPORTS HUB EUROPE CHARTER

BASIC INFO ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION	
Name of the organisation:	Annual budget <i>(if not confidential)</i>
Location: <i>(city & country)</i>	
Purpose and mission of the organisation	
Key figures about the activities of the organisation <i>(nb of employees, nb of volunteers, nb of members)</i>	
Current situation regarding green initiatives: summary of initiatives that have already been implemented within your organisation. ▶ (include here) ▶ (include here) ▶ (include here)	
YOUR ACTION PLAN	
Date of the application	
Internal task force <i>(Please let us know who will be in charge – including contact details)</i>	▶ Task force leader: ▶ Contributors:
For organisations applying to the contributor status	
In a couple of lines, explain why you want to join the network	
For organisations applying to the Signatory status	
Selected pillar(s) <i>(Please tick all that apply),</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 1: Governance <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 2: Resources management <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 3: Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 4: Criteria for events' host selection <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 5: Event Management <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar 4: Overall impact on natural environment
Please tell us why you selected these specific pillars	
Summary of your yearly actions plan for the period	

Dates and place of the events <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Estimated measurable impact (and/or KPIs).	
Signing the GSHE pledge	
I understand that by submitting this application, <u>my organisation is joining the GSHE Pledge for a greener sport.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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