

IIHF

SUSTAINABILITY

VISION

A NEW DECADE, A GREEN VISION



INTERNATIONAL
ICE HOCKEY
FEDERATION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

04

Our Vision
for Sustainability

08

Staying Sustainable within
the IIHF

12

IIHF Sustainability
Award – application projects
2019 and 2020

Our Vision for Sustainability

IIHF INTERNAL PROCEDURES

Keep your own house clean

The IIHF aims to follow this slogan: “Keep Your Own House Clean.” In terms of sustainability, we want to be as sustainable as possible as an organization. Our goal is to focus on getting things right in our own house to serve as a role model for others. In the IIHF office, this includes having a recycling system, using green energy, avoiding plastic bottles by using a water dispenser with refill bottles, and more. We are working to improve constantly.

IIHF MNAs AND STAKEHOLDERS

Be a role model and educate

Our vision is to act as a role model for our Member National Associations (MNAs) and inspire them. With the 2019-launched IIHF Sustainability Award, we are giving our MNAs the chance to show their contributions to sustainability. It is time to celebrate their work in this field.

We have also created several case studies with best-practice examples of how to implement sustainability within a federation or at an event. The IIHF plans to augment these case studies regularly with projects that were nominated for or won the Sustainability Award.

Our vision is for each MNA to have their own sustainability strategy, customized for their country and the size of their federation. We believe every federation has the power to do something. Even small steps are meaningful.

Keep Your Own
House Clean.
We are working to
improve constantly.

IIHF EVENTS

Supporting event organizers

In 2015, the IIHF created the IIHF Manual for Sustainable Events for all event organizers. It is designed to make sustainability an integral component of event-planning, showing how easy it can be to develop environmental, social or economical projects.

Our vision is for all IIHF events to become more sustainable. We want to give event organizers the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from one another, so that everyone can improve.

Every organizing committee is different. The number of committee members involved, available time for organization, size of the event, number of spectators, budget, and infrastructure, all vary from event to event.

Therefore, this is not about providing a one-size-fits-all sustainability formula for organizers. Instead the manual takes into considerations the different conditions in each country and gives inspiration to come up with individual solutions. Each organizer should find the support needed to organize an event as sustainable as possible.

GLOBAL SPORTS COMMUNITY

Learning from one another and working together

With the United Nations framework of “UN Sports for Climate Action”, the IIHF has joined a movement of sports federations, clubs, teams and other companies of the industry with the goal to unite the power of the global sports community to tackle climate change.

The world of sport is very unique and to understand the individual needs and challenges of the various stakeholders, the United Nations and the IOC formed this movement to discuss the role of sport in addressing the current climate crisis.

The IIHF joined the UN Sports for Climate Action framework with the vision to learn from other sports organizations, to develop solutions to tackle climate change, to raise awareness about the topic, and to use the power of sport to bring about change.

A collaboration with other International Federations was set up for other initiatives in the past as well. For example in 2018 representatives of FIFA and the IIHF met to share their experiences with event procurement. This helped the IIHF Legal Department to finalize their wording of the first time published IIHF Procurement Guidelines.

It is our objective to learn from one another, to share thoughts and experiences and to support each other. It is essential for the IIHF to stay open-minded and sometimes think outside the box. Collaborating with other sport stakeholders helps us to generate new ideas, learn about other alternatives, and change the status quo. Especially when it comes to sustainability.



WORLDWIDE IMPACT

Do good things and talk about it

It is possible to do a lot of good things and yet have no global influence. Therefore, our goal with this document is to publicize what we are doing. We want to promote sustainable behaviour and motivate others to do the same. We are proud of the work the IIHF has already done, and excited about all the projects that lie ahead.

Sustainability is important to us and it should be important to everyone else as well. We are constantly improving and with the help of our members, partners, colleagues, athletes and fans we are sure that our vision of a more sustainable future will come true.

Sustainability
is important
to us.



Staying Sustainable within the IIHF

Over the last 13 years, the IIHF has changed and enhanced its approach toward sustainability. Environmental concerns are more important than ever before, and are discussed regularly with top-level managers and the IIHF Council.

The Social & Environmental Committee was founded in 2007 and continues to work on sustainability initiatives ever since. In September 2015, the committee published the IIHF Manual for Sustainable Events. It offers valuable tips for event organizers on how to make their work more sustainable.

In the last two years, sustainability has been integrated into the IIHF Statutes & Bylaws, the IIHF Championship Regulations, and other guidelines. That reflects the increasing importance of this subject. The new IIHF Procurement Guidelines were published in 2018, and the IIHF just recently disclosed their IIHF Social & Environmental Policies. Further steps to guarantee reasonable sustainable procedures within the organization.

It is very important for us to start with our own house and act as a role model. The IIHF uses the 17 UN Sustainability Development Goals to measure our own activities and to target a global goal.

With our IIHF Sustainability Vision, we want to focus on our current achievements and sustainability projects of our Member National Associations. We intend to update this document regularly with new implementations and accomplishments. The IIHF is just starting its journey and there is a lot more to do. But we are motivated and inspired, and our team is working unitedly toward the same goals.

Here are 21 best practice examples of the IIHF. The pictures below the project summary refer to the respective UN Sustainable Development Goals.





IIHF EQUIPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

This program is a collaboration between the IIHF, the IIHF supplier pool members, and the Member National Associations. The contractual lump sum of the IIHF suppliers is split into a cash fee and a value-in-kind fee. The value-in-kind fee is “compensated” in equipment sent to MNAs that are in need of such equipment to build up their national development programs.



PAPERLESS CONGRESS

In 2018, the IIHF transitioned to the “paperless Congress”. Delegates now download the necessary documents online instead of getting physical folders with papers. This way, the IIHF saves more than 750 kg of paper every year.



SWISS PASS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

To promote public transport and reduce the number of staff travelling by car to the IIHF office, all IIHF staff are offered a SwissPass. The pass enables its holder to travel with public transportation within Switzerland for reduced prices.



WATER DISPENSER AND REFILLABLE BOTTLES AT IIHF OFFICE

To reduce plastic waste within the IIHF office, a water dispenser was installed in 2018. All IIHF staff members received a refillable bottle. Since then, the IIHF has saved more than 170 kg of plastic each year.



170 
KG OF PLASTIC



6200
PLASTIC BOTTLES



162
LITRE OF MINERAL OIL

UPDATING OF STATUTES & BYLAWS

In recent years, the IIHF has regularly updated its Statutes & Bylaws to include more and more stipulations about sustainability. For example, the designated event hotels now have to be as close to the venues as possible.



GREEN ENERGY FOR IIHF OFFICE

All energy for the IIHF is purchased from a 100 percent green energy source (ewz.wassertop). Such energy is produced by hydroelectric power stations that are naturemade star-certified. It is the highest environmental standard you can receive from this Swiss energy company.



SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

In 2020, the IIHF implemented its first Social & Environmental Guidelines. Included in the IIHF Procurement Guidelines, these will offer guidance and policies on sustainable behaviour to ensure all IIHF stakeholders adhere to the IIHF's principles.

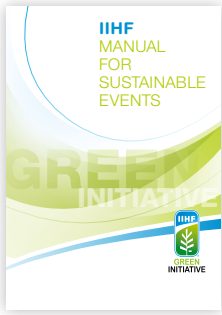


IIHF SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Launched in 2019, the IIHF Sustainability Award honours the best sustainability projects of all IIHF event organizers across a season.

All hosts of an IIHF tournament are eligible to apply for the award, and the Social & Environmental Committee votes on the winner.





IIHF MANUAL FOR SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

In 2015, the IIHF published the IIHF Manual for Sustainable Events, which offers guidance for all event hosts to make their organizations more sustainable.



IIHF SUSTAINABLE EVENT PROFILE

Since 2018, each IIHF event organizer has been asked to fill out an IIHF Sustainable Event Profile. These documents contain questions about all event-related subjects such as transport, infrastructure, food, and so on. It helps the IIHF understand the challenges the event organizers face with implementing sustainability, and it reveals the differences between the various countries.



CASE STUDIES ON IIHF.COM

A few years ago, the IIHF began assembling case studies on best-practice projects in terms of organizing sustainable events. These case studies are published on IIHF.com for the benefit of event organizers. From now on, the IIHF will publish the Sustainability Award winner's project as well. We plan to continue building these case studies into an in-depth, valuable resource.



DIGITAL FLIPCHARTS FOR MEETING ROOMS

In the IIHF meeting rooms, you can find digital flipcharts, which enable the IIHF to avoid wasting paper with old-fashioned flipcharts.



RECYCLING SYSTEM IN IIHF OFFICE

The IIHF tries to recycle its waste as much as possible by using the Swiss recycling system. New ways of recycling are frequently discussed and implemented.



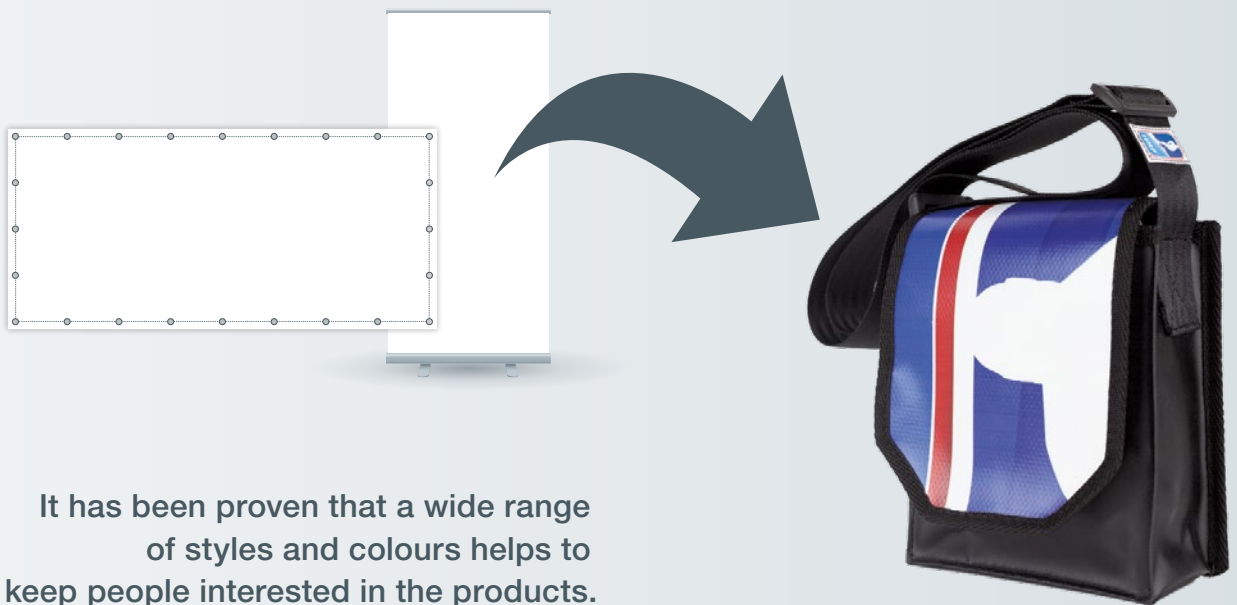
REUSABLE BACKDROPS AND ROLL-UPS

Instead of producing a backdrop for each IIHF Congress, the IIHF is using a reusable and adaptable backdrop system. This system allows the IIHF to set it up in each meeting room and adjust the measurements accordingly. Reusable roll-up systems for various events are designed as well so that the rollup can be used for various functions.



RECYCLING BAGS MADE FROM OLD EVENT MATERIALS

Over the past years, the IIHF tried to upcycle as many old event materials as possible. Broken rollups and backdrops which had no use anymore, were turned into bags and other give-away items.



It has been proven that a wide range of styles and colours helps to keep people interested in the products.



Product range: grocery trolleys, shopping bags, small handbags, backpacks and travel bags

To date, more than 300 products have been made using roll-ups and banners from IIHF events.

REDUCTION OF SHIPMENTS

In recent years, the IIHF has been able to reduce its tournament shipments to a minimum. Each IIHF World Championship receives marketing materials, Game Officials equipment and other important items from the IIHF office, which ensures that only the essentials are shipped.



REDUCTION OF DEDICATED CARS AT EVENTS

At the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship, Skoda had planned to provide electric cars and the IIHF was ready to launch a new transportation app to promote the use of public transportation. Unfortunately the 2020 WM was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the IIHF is continuously working on innovative solutions for its future tournaments.



UN SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In 2019, the IIHF joined UN Sports for Climate Action. This collaboration across the international sports world aims to find practical solutions for the sports industry to tackle climate change. The IIHF works together with federations, clubs, teams, agencies and other sports companies to discuss various options to reduce the carbon emissions at sports events and other ideas for fighting climate change.



UN CLEAN SEAS

In 2017, the IIHF joined the UN Clean Seas campaign. With this campaign, the IIHF and other global participants are aiming to avoid plastic waste and save the oceans. The campaign started in-house for the IIHF with our switch to an office water dispenser, and we are working hard on solutions to avoid plastic at our events. Discussions with our suppliers are ongoing, and we continue to cut down on plastic packaging in our daily affairs.



GYM AT IIHF OFFICE

To help keep the IIHF staff healthy, sports-minded, and less reliant on transport that creates carbon emissions, a gym with a variety of workout equipment has been set up in the basement of the IIHF offices. Showers and dressing rooms are available as well.



TRAVEL CARBON OFFSET

In 2019 the IIHF won a prize for its engagement to fight climate change. To honour our initiative in reducing our carbon emissions, the IOC and its official carbon partner Dow offset all emissions resulting from our travel in 2018–2019. The IIHF is looking into options for a carbon offset in the future.



IHF Sustainability Award – application projects

2019

The projects presented in this chapter are summarized based on the information given from the event organizer. The IIHF only controlled the execution of a limited number of applicants. As far as we know, all of the projects were implemented at the specified IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

AUSTRIA – WW18IA

Using local food to support farmers and companies of the community; choosing hotels close to the arena to avoid long distance transportation for teams and officials; and a collaborated school project to help avoid plastic and separating waste in the arena were the key elements of the organizers of the 2019 WW18IA.



BULGARIA – WMIII AND WM18III

Visitors of the WMIII and WM18III were able to donate their bottle caps into containers installed within the ice rink. The organizer collected these caps and handed them out to the “Caps for Future Foundation”, which donates one baby incubator to a Bulgarian hospital when a total of 20 000 kg of plastic caps were collected.



CROATIA – WM20IIB

The main goal of the organizer was to encourage young players to think about responsible behaviour in sports. A combination of social and ethical projects like anti doping and integrity as well as programs relating to sustainable responsibility for the environment were implemented.



FINLAND – WW

Acquiring approvals from local authorities, the IIHF medical committee, participating teams and other officials and event staff, the organizer implemented the use of tap water instead of plastic bottles at the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey Women’s World Championship. Refill bottles were handed out to all players, officials and staff on site to save water and avoid plastic waste.



GERMANY – WM20IA

Environmental, social and economical activities were implemented around the organization and logistics of the tournament to combine a comprehensive sustainable strategy. For example, the team hotels were located in walking distance to the ice rink, a return system for bottles was used by all teams and staff, energy and water saving systems were in place and local schools as well as handicapped people were invited to watch the games of the 2019 WM20IA.



GREAT BRITAIN – WWIIA

Breaking the barriers for kids and especially girls to start playing ice hockey was the main intention for the sustainability project during the 2019 WWIIA. Coaches and athletes offered “learn to play” sessions to children, educational material about ice hockey were handed out to teachers for their lessons and female national team players participated in an image campaign to serve as a role model for young girls.



HUNGARY – WWIA

A comprehensive strategy with a focus on all areas of event organization like transportation, waste management, energy and infrastructure, procurement, as well as ethical and social aspects were implemented through the Hungarian federation over many years. Some of the extraordinary highlights during the 2019 WWIA were a nursery room, donation tickets, an anti-doping information tent and biodegradable and recycled bags for trash cans.



JAPAN – WW18

The organizers of the 2019 IIHF Ice Hockey U18 Women’s World Championship put a lot of effort into the merchandise collection and cooperated with a sponsor who produced 100% organic towels for the event. On top of that the income generated from the overall merchandise sales was used to offset the carbon emissions of the ice rinks during the event.



ROMANIA – WWIIB

The focus during the tournament was put on environmental protection. Therefore, water dispensers were installed in the arena to refill bottles, a recycling system was used to separate waste, game statistics were copied on USB sticks to avoid print-outs on paper and Eco laundries were used to wash the team equipment.



SLOVAKIA – WM

A comprehensive system to recycle waste in and around the arenas was developed to deal with the garbage of thousands of ice hockey fans. Bins and containers had to be installed by the organizer and a contract with a garbage collection company was set up to guarantee the correct disposal.



SOUTH AFRICA – WWIIBQ

Water saving is a key mission of the organizer, so besides installing water dispensers and handing out refill bottles for all staff on site, they also used so-called water marshalls to look after leaking sinks or showers and educate all teams on water-saving measurements. The biggest innovation and the main reason for the victory of the 2019 IIHF Sustainability Award was the water recycling system installed to store, recycle and reuse the water needed for the Zamboni to produce the ice surface. An innovative and smart idea to deal with the water shortage of the country and an inspiration for other federations.



2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the listed IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships were canceled. Nevertheless, the event organizers put a lot of effort in their sustainability projects and worked on them until the end. Therefore, the IIHF decided to present all ideas and give other organizers the chance to gain new inspiration for future concepts.

BELARUS – WM20IA

A cooperated initiative with HC Dinamo Minsk and UNICEF was launched with the goal to involve kids and youth with different abilities in ice hockey. Besides the invitation to watch live games during the tournament, there were side activities to promote the sport and motivate the children and parents to try ice hockey themselves.



BULGARIA – WM20III

A representative of each team as well as officials of the IIHF and the organizer were provided with a bird house in the team colours. This was hung up in the parc close to the arena and should serve the local community as a memory of the World Championship as well as help the birds to survive cold winters.



CROATIA – WMIIA

With the slogan “play fair, live fair” the organizers would like to expand their initiative from the past year and involve the fans and players in fair play activities such as anti-doping education, integrity instructions and environmental friendly behaviour.



FRANCE – WWIA

Through a partnership with Terres des Hommes – a non-profit organization which supports children, women and families – a seminar about the accessibility of sports for women and girls was planned. Also “learn to play” sessions especially for girls and women of all ages were arranged and children from families with low income, which were invited to watch the games.



GERMANY – WW18IA

Female national team players acting as role models by inviting young girls of the region to ice hockey practices with them. Also the tournament mascot Urmel was accompanying these girls to promote a family friendly sport and increase the attention of women’s hockey in Germany.



ICELAND – WMIIB AND WWIIB

A green transportation approach was the goal of the organizers and therefore all hotels were in walking distance to the ice rink and the city centre. Above that each athlete and official would receive a reusable drinking bottle to use tap water, which is of high quality in Iceland.



ITALY – WW18IB

The key ideas of the organizers were a social media fan engagement on sustainable topics, a cooperation with a foundation to cover carbon emissions of the event by planting trees in Kenia and creating educational material for distribution on site. Also the organizers chose a sustainable arena which produces its own energy by solar panels installed on the roof.



SWITZERLAND – WM

A comprehensive sustainability strategy was set up by the organizers of the World Championship covering all areas of event organization such as transportation, energy, infrastructure, logistics and procurement, waste management, food, sport, and many others. A transfer of knowledge with the IIHF and other Swiss sport event organizers was also developed to optimize the process structure.



KOREA – WM20IIB

To promote ice hockey in the region, the organizer set up a children's program with local schools. The kids were invited to watch games, to participate in ceremonies, attending dressing room tours and ice sessions with participating teams. On top of that each school selected one national team of the tournament and they were able to prepare signs and cheer for "their" team on-site.



SOUTH AFRICA – WMIIB

To advance the water saving strategy from the past year, the organizer implemented a water measurement tool to keep track of their consumption. A software was installed to measure the consumption in different areas of the ice rink such as Zamboni ice surface production, kitchen and bar, restrooms and air conditioning.



LUXEMBOURG – WMIIA AND WM18IIB

The approach of the organizers was focused on a digital solution for tournament procedures to avoid paper waste. Copies of passports, player entry forms, game sheets and other documents, which usually get signed on paper, would have been transferred into digital formats.



SPAIN – WWIIA

Through a cooperation with a sponsor of the tournament, the organizer would have been able to calculate the carbon footprint of the World Championship. All areas of the event like flights, rink energy consumption, ground transportation, hotel nights and generated waste would have been offset afterwards.



SLOVAKIA – WW18

With great administrative effort, the organizer provided various certificates to the participating teams confirming the good quality of tap water with the goal to avoid bottled water during the tournament. They also worked on an implementation of a recycling system and reducing the amount of waste.



TURKEY – WW18IIIA

Local companies and waste products would have been used by the organizers to create the tournament awards. A zero-waste approach was the goal and the social component of bringing back business to the local community was a key aspect in the sustainability strategy of the organizer.



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The background of the page features a series of overlapping, curved bands. The top band is a dark grey, followed by a medium grey band, and then a light grey band. Below these is a wide band of light green, which transitions into a darker green band at the bottom. The bands are separated by thin white lines and curve from the left side towards the right, creating a sense of motion and depth.