

IF Sustainability Project
**WBSC HOME PLATE
SUSTAINABLE HQ**



NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of

sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan

to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.



“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”
Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IOC FOCUS AREAS



UN SDGs



WBSC MAKES A MOVE TO A SUSTAINABLE HOME PLATE



The World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) officially opened "Home Plate" on July 2020, its new headquarters in Switzerland, designed with sustainability at its heart. The move follows the merger in 2013 of the International Baseball Federation and the International Softball Federation and the acquisition in 2018 of the building which, after a complete renovation, now hosts its joint federation.

Seeking to leave a positive legacy for its community, sustainability was embedded in every step of the planning, conditioning and intended use of its new headquarters.

Twenty-four roof top photovoltaic panels, with a power output of 12 kilowatts, provide approximately 10% of the building's electricity needs with the goal of increasing the capacity to cover 100% of its needs by 2025. The underfloor heating and cooling system use hot and cold water to maintain an ideal office climate, whilst all walls have been insulated with high density stone wool allowing temperatures to be maintained for up to 20 hours after the system has been switched off. The same stone wool increases

fire resistance and acoustic comfort. All the lighting is made with LED technology and occupancy sensors to keep energy consumption levels to a minimum. The interior Saint-Gobain glass walls and doors feature fire resistant Ei-60 glass - double of the requirement by law.

The signature staircase is inspired by the form of a batter's swing. It includes a railing made from 100% recyclable Krypton, a material which is naturally antibacterial without any additives.

OBJECTIVES

The WBSC moved into Home Plate, their new headquarters, in order to:

- Create a new space that can have a positive legacy and serve as a home for the International Federation which united Baseball and Softball since their merger in 2013.
- Make its headquarters a space that operates with sustainability in its core and provides inspiration to its stakeholders to adopt best practices at every level of the game.
- Gain control over their organisational carbon footprint and take conscious decisions towards its reduction.

As for in-office consumption, a number of initiatives were inspired by staff-led ideas. To discourage the use of single-use plastics, every employee is asked to bring their own water flask to be refilled at drinking fountains in the office and coffee pods are separated and recycled. To save and protect the water, dishwashers are only used when full and cleaning products used are 100% biodegradable and locally sourced.

All electronic devices have an energy certification with a score higher than 75 and power adapters are switched off when not in use to avoid phantom load - the standby power state of electronics that has been proven can produce up to 30% of a household's consumption. With the intention of reducing avoidable travel, video conferencing facilities have been fitted inside the headquarters to help the WBSC reduce its carbon footprint. In this regard, online meetings are encouraged as part of the "new norm".

The location of the building was also selected with sustainable travel in mind. The office can be reached using public transport, with train and bus stops both within walking distance. While the WBSC vehicle fleet is hybrid, bicycle parking facilities have also been fitted to encourage employees to cycle to work. Up to 43% of the staff is currently

commuting by either public transportation, electric cars, cycling or walking, while carpooling is also encouraged among staff.

Following the opening of its new headquarters, WBSC will evaluate the feasibility of applying for a LEED certification of the building by 2022.

EVALUATION

WBSC took a valuable first step into their sustainability journey by designing their new headquarters as an efficient and sustainable building. By laying the foundations of sustainable practices within its new home, the federation is looking to inspire and positively influence its stakeholders. The challenge, and opportunity, is now to ensure that the sustainability of Home Plate is replicated throughout all the WBSC's operations and organisation, from travel and development to the staging of events and baseball-softball gatherings.

BENEFITS

- The WBSC now has a sustainable, state-of-the-art permanent headquarters to allow for further, and conscious, growth.
- The new headquarters have significantly improved the working environment and team spirit amongst the staff.
- The sustainability of the building is a source of inspiration to the staff to come up with their own ideas for making their working environment even more sustainable.



"EVERY STAGE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOME PLATE FOCUSED ON USABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY, ALL THE WAY FROM PLANNING TO EXECUTION AND NOW IN THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE HEADQUARTERS."

RICCARDO FRACCARI, WBSC PRESIDENT

