

Ski sport and sustainability

It is a commonly agreed upon fact that the ski sport is bad for the environment. However, this is only partly true as one must distinguish between skiing and the infrastructure built around it. While skiing itself might not harm the environment as much, the built infrastructure defiantly has negative impact on the environment. In particular, the built infrastructure, such as snow cannons or ski resorts, concerns the following areas: *infrastructure and event construction, energy and water, catering, waste and recycling, social responsibility, green office, green awareness, and transportation.*

The united states environmental protection agency has published a guide to **more sustainable events**, including the following steps:

1. Gain managerial support
2. Set your environmental priorities
3. Translate your priorities into actions
4. Evaluate and celebrate success

The city of Vancouver, the city of Cape Town as well as the UN have published checklists for sustainable events and green meeting guidelines that can be checked in detail from the links below:

https://vancouverconvention.cdn.prismic.io/vancouverconvention%2F24a07a6e-8672-49c8-af66-0e23a7b11659_vancouver+convention+centre_sustainable_events_final.pdf

https://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Procedures,%20guidelines%20and%20regulations/CCT_Smart_Events_Handbook.pdf

https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/assets.unenvironment.org/s3fs-public/2020-10/A_summary_green_meeting_guide.pdf?null=

Key take-aways:

- What is a green meeting? - It minimizes negative environmental impact and leaves positive legacy for host community
- Success factors: Procurement, communication, measurement, influence on decision makers, raising awareness, access to sustainable products and services
- Action checklist: Selecting the venue, accommodation, energy and water, waste and procurement, cleaning services, catering, local transport, and exhibition (concrete action points to be found from the links)

Considering the large number of annually 400 million skiers worldwide, the behavioural impact of skiers must be taken into consideration as well. Therefore, many websites have published guides on how to **become a more sustainable skier**:

- Support sustainable brands
- Maximise gear life
- Choose chemical-free wax

- Offset your flight
- Go for green resorts
- Quick wins: take fewer but longer trips, rideshare, pick up your trash, turn off the light, add a layer when cold, bring own bottle, bring reusable cup, take shorter showers, take travel cutlery, make a pledge.

This shows consumers' willingness to become more sustainable, and also highlights the importance that the DSV supports people in performing this change.

Resources:

<https://www.nonstopsnow.com/journal/how-to-be-a-more-sustainable-skier>

https://assets.fisiski.com/image/upload/v1537433712/fisprod/assets/FIS_Green_Event_Manual_EN.pdf

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