



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

IF Sustainability Project  
**GREEN  
FACILITY LOANS**





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## IF SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The world faces important challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental issues, and the sport community is not immune from their impacts. 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 recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC conducted the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project throughout 2016. The IOC carried out the project with three objectives: obtaining an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identifying common topics, good practices and shared challenges; and sharing information among the IFs. As part of this project, the IOC collaborated with the IFs to compile a series of case studies reflecting how IFs are contributing towards a more sustainable world.

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. These focus areas were selected through an extensive stakeholder engagement process, taking into consideration today’s key sustainability challenges and the manner in which the IOC believes the Olympic Movement can most significantly contribute to addressing them.

The case studies are also aligned with the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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.

*“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



# THE WCF HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN SCHEME, ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO MAKE THEIR FACILITIES MORE SUSTAINABLE.



Following the success of the WCF's New Facility Loan programme, which allows member associations (National Federations; NFs) to apply for loans to build new curling rinks, the WCF decided to create a Green Facility Loan initiative. Designed in a similar manner to the New Facility Loans, Green Facility Loans provide an opportunity for members and clubs within NFs to access funding in order to improve existing facilities with new technologies and equipment that is more sustainable and may help to reduce energy costs.

Through the programme, which started in 2013, members may seek loans of up to USD 100,000, up to 50% of the costs involved, to cover the installation of new refrigeration plants and heat recovery systems, upgrades to lighting structures and other methods of modernisation that may improve energy efficiency and the environmental merits of an existing

curling facility. The standard loan term is 10 years interest-free, with no repayment required during the first three years.

**“IT IS HOPED THAT THE INITIATIVE WILL ENCOURAGE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS TO REDUCE ENERGY USAGE AND PREVENT ENERGY LOSS.”**

Interested members may apply by submitting proposals with accompanying budgets to the WCF. Each proposal is assessed by the relevant WCF sub-committee, which gives its approval if the proposal is deemed to respond to the necessary requirements.

## TIME & PERSONNEL

A small committee was created, comprising one WCF board director and three staff members.



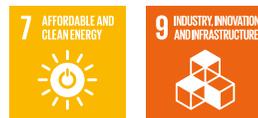
## OBJECTIVES

The World Curling Federation (WCF) recognises that many ice plant machines in use at curling venues are energy-intensive, having been built at a time when technology was not as advanced as it is today. The objective of this project has been to support members in upgrading their facilities with new equipment, infrastructure and technology, helping to make these venues more environmentally friendly and sustainable. It is hoped that the initiative will encourage member associations around the world to reduce energy usage and prevent energy loss, which will not only benefit the environment but will also reduce the venues' operating costs.

Each project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's SDGs:



#### UN SDGs



The committee worked on the development of the initiative for six months. The implementation of the project did not incur any costs to the IF.

#### COMMUNICATION

The project was communicated to federation members during the Annual World Curling Congress in 2013, and was reiterated during subsequent Annual Congresses. Information about the project was shared with targeted media outlets such as *insidethegames* and other sport websites, and has also been made available on the WCF website.

#### EVALUATION

Having approved two loans since the scheme's inception, the WCF has identified the following challenges:

- Costs are provided in USD, and the instability and uncertainty of the exchange rate in relation to

the reimbursement period may be seen as a deterrent.

- Finding the remaining 50% of the budget required for each project may be a challenge for some members.
- Some members prefer to secure loans from local sources.

