



IF Sustainability Case Study  
**GREEN OFFICE  
CERTIFICATION**



## 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 recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020 (“Include sustainability within the Olympic Movement’s daily operations”), the IOC

conducted the International Federations (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016. This allowed the IOC to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives; identify

common topics, good practices and mutual challenges; and share information. One of the Project’s outcomes 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 IF sustainability case studies should be continued. These case studies form part of the enhanced support system provided 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. The studies are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’

(UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement since 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 UN’s 17 SDGs provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. The IF case studies attest to the fact that the Olympic Movement contributes to the achievement of many of these.



*“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 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



INFRASTRUCTURE & NATURAL SITES



SOURCING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### UN SDGs



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

## THE FEI IS WORKING TOWARDS OBTAINING GREEN OFFICE CERTIFICATION AT ITS HEADQUARTERS

In line with its efforts to respect the environment, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) decided to renovate its headquarters in accordance with the Swiss Minergie construction standard for energy efficiency. On average, Minergie-compliant buildings consume 25 per cent less energy than conventional buildings.

After moving into its headquarters, the FEI chose to go further by aligning its office operations with the sustainable character of its building. In 2017, the FEI started working with recycling specialist Interseroh to receive its Green Office certification, which recognises sustainable office practice in four areas:

1. Ensuring training for and commitment from employees.
2. Executing an optimised bin concept with visual enhancements.
3. Controlling waste processes, and defining responsibilities for bin clearance.
4. Communicating major alterations to the organisation's waste disposal partner or internal contact.

According to Interseroh, 80 per cent of typical office waste is disposed of incorrectly and ends up in landfill even though many items could be recycled. Separating recyclable materials such as paper, PET, glass, aluminium, organic waste and coffee capsules optimises their use and also helps lower office costs.

Interseroh helped the FEI analyse its current operations and develop a programme that would allow the FEI to reach the Green Office standard by 2018. The FEI-Interseroh

### OBJECTIVES

The FEI is working towards making its office environment more sustainable and achieving Green Office certification. It aims to:

- Improve sustainability in its daily operations.
- Educate staff about waste management and energy efficiency.
- Reduce its costs.

collaboration has included everything from advice on the optimum style and location of waste bins to a programme of staff training and the provision of educational and support material.

Once the FEI has received its Green Office certification, it will continue to work with Interseroh on waste prevention, building on its established recyclable materials management system.

**“WE STRIVE TO ALIGN THE OPERATIONS OF THE FEI HEADQUARTERS WITH OUR VISION TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS CONSERVING THE SOUND ENVIRONMENT NECESSARY FOR THE PRACTICE AND CONTINUITY OF THE EQUESTRIAN SPORT.”**

**DR HARALD MÜLLER, FEI DIRECTOR EDUCATION & STANDARDS**





INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE



### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

During its analysis of the FEI headquarters, Interseroh identified a number of potential economic benefits that could be achieved by improving sustainability procedures. For example, the volume of waste produced in the building could be reduced by 1,740 litres by replacing paper and plastic cups with glasses, which would in turn reduce waste disposal and cleaning costs by approximately CHF 4,500 per year.



#### Implementation separation concept

- Preparation of an in-depth waste separation concept by Interseroh
- Concept consultations with FEI
- Concept implementation on site



#### Employee training

- Preparation of training concept by Interseroh
- Training concept consultation with FEI
- Execution of employee training in several groups



#### Certification Waste separation

- Concept implementation examination by ALBA/Interseroh partner
- Issue of Green-Office certificate



#### Optional: Waste reduction concept

- FEI could benefit from the additional service of a waste reduction concept
- Additionally, waste reduction training could be executed

### LESSONS LEARNED

- It is important to work with a partner with experience in delivering reputable and effective sustainability certification.
- Make sure staff are informed and supportive by communicating your objectives internally and enlisting management support.
- It may be necessary to provide staff training to execute new policies.
- Your approach may depend on the size and specific needs of your IF.