



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy

Olympic Committee of Israel

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מרכז רפואי מאיר
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אלעלאל

TERMINAL X

שיכון ובינוי

Herbalife

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Introduction

Sport, in its many and diverse forms, connects people on both local and global scales and inspires billions of people around the world. The shared values embodied in sport can also serve as a solid foundation for promoting awareness and driving changes in thinking and behavior. In this spirit, the Olympic Movement has committed to building a better world by combining sport with culture, education, and international cooperation, in accordance with the philosophy of Olympism. This philosophy is grounded in core values such as excellence, friendship, and respect.

In light of the significant social, economic, and environmental challenges currently facing humanity—including social injustice, economic inequality, and climate change—the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has, in recent years, been working to integrate the sustainability model, which incorporates environmental, social, and economic considerations into decision-making processes. The primary objective is to maximize positive impact while minimizing negative effects. As part of this commitment, in 2016 the IOC approved a strategic sustainability plan with targets set for 2030. The plan outlines three main areas of responsibility: the IOC's internal operations, the Olympic Games, and the broader Olympic Movement, all aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In recent years, the Olympic Committee of Israel has been advancing sustainability among sports federations, athletes, and fans in Israel, while engaging as many stakeholders as possible. The central approach guiding this activity is that, in order to address the mutual impacts between sporting activity and the environment—direct impacts such as greenhouse gas emissions and waste from sporting events, or the effects of heatwaves on training programs and competitions, as well as indirect impacts such as merchandise sales or fan travel to competitions—sustainability must become one of the core values of Olympism. Alongside this, the Olympic Committee of Israel seeks to promote awareness and commitment to sustainable development in Israel and to position itself as a global leader in this field, in cooperation with the IOC and with other National Olympic Committees (NOCs) worldwide.

Sustainability Strategy

The sustainability strategy of the Olympic Committee of Israel outlines the roadmap for internal organizational change and broader systemic transformation, while taking into account environmental, social, and economic considerations. The preparation of the strategic plan was completed in December 2023.

Vision

To lead the field of sustainability in Israeli sport and to promote environmental and social responsibility and commitment in the country, as well as to raise awareness and inspire sports organizations, athletes, and sports enthusiasts in order to drive changes in ways of thinking and action.

Overall Objective

Continuous improvement of the performance of the sports sector in the field of sustainability, alongside the development of sports infrastructure and the promotion of sustainable sports education.

Key Areas and Directions of Action

The activities of the Olympic Committee of Israel in the field of sustainability will focus on three main areas of influence, which complement one another, and the actions within them will be carried out simultaneously:

1. **The activities of the Olympic Committee itself, in Israel and as part of the Olympic Movement** – to set a personal example and integrate the sustainability strategy into the core operations of the Olympic Committee, from the management of the Committee and its institutions and procurement processes, through the organization of events, and up to cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Movement.
2. **The activities of the Olympic Committee vis-à-vis federations, associations, and athletes** – to inspire, lead, and support sports organizations in Israel in implementing sustainability principles, starting with knowledge sharing and providing guidelines and examples, through training and peer learning, and up to creating connections and partnerships to support the implementation of the strategy.
3. **The activities of the Olympic Committee vis-à-vis the public** – to engage the broader public in changing ways of thinking and behavior and to promote more sustainable practices through awareness and education.

The activities will be carried out in several main directions:

1. **Efficient resource management in infrastructure, events, and ongoing operations** – Sports activity involves the use of various material and energy resources and generates emissions into the environment. Therefore, it requires responsible and efficient management of resources in the ongoing operation of training and sporting events, alongside the implementation of green building principles and environmentally and socially responsible management and operation of sports organizations and facilities in areas such as water, food, energy, transportation, and more.
2. **Education and awareness** – Education and awareness are two key tools for exposing the activities of the Olympic Committee in the field of sustainability among athletes and the public, and for leading change at the national level. Such change can achieve two important goals: a positive contribution to the image of the Olympic Committee as a leading and innovative organization, alongside the promotion of sustainability among a broad audience of athletes and sports fans. Moreover, many athletes serve as role models for the public and can act as agents of change in promoting sustainability principles in sport.
3. **Visibility and transparency** – Exposure of sustainability-related activities of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Committee of Israel, as well as those of various sports organizations and athletes, to all stakeholders.
4. **Monitoring and control** – Tracking the progress of the implementation of the program, including ongoing data collection and annual evaluation of goals, targets, and indicators, and updating them as necessary.

Sports for Climate Action

Recently, the International Olympic Committee joined the United Nations in calling on all sports organizations worldwide to sign the “Sports for Climate Action Framework,” with the aim of strengthening the role of the sports sector in addressing climate change. This initiative provides sports organizations with an operational framework for ongoing and continuous action against the climate crisis, through mutual support, including peer learning, the sharing of methods and action plans, the development of new tools, and more. The initiative operates to achieve two main objectives:

1. Presenting a clear pathway for the global sports community to promote actions to mitigate the climate crisis, through commitments and collaboration and in accordance with accepted and effective standards. These include measurement, reduction actions, and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement. All of this is part of a broader effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the climate crisis and prepare for coping with climate change.
2. Using sport as a unifying tool to create solidarity among the citizens of the world and to promote actions aimed at mitigating the climate crisis.

The “Sports for Climate Action Framework” is designed to enable sports organizations, clubs, and additional stakeholders to address climate change through a set of principles that provide a structured framework for action, based on the following areas:

1. Undertaking systematic efforts to promote sustainability.
2. Reducing the impact of the climate crisis.
3. Educating for action to address the climate crisis.
4. Promoting responsible and sustainable consumption.
5. Promoting communication and awareness for climate action through the media.

The Olympic Committee of Israel signed the United Nations “Sports for Climate Action Framework” in January 2024 and has since been actively involved in reporting and participating in the initiative’s activities. Accordingly, the Olympic Committee of Israel mapped the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations, conducted an analysis of risks and opportunities, and prepared a plan for emissions reduction.

Risk and Opportunity Analysis

Risks:

Primary Risk – Coping with Extreme Climate Events, Particularly Heatwaves

One of the central risks facing the State of Israel and its population as a result of the climate crisis is the increasing occurrence of prolonged heatwaves. Heatwaves are defined as a sequence of days with weather conditions that are hotter than the typical climate for a given location and season. They are characterized by high temperatures and hot, dry conditions during both day and night, sometimes combined with high humidity, resulting in heavy heat stress.

In Israel, heatwaves typically occur during the summer; however, in recent years, they have increasingly developed during spring and autumn as well. Heatwaves affect daily life and human well-being, particularly human health (including dehydration, heatstroke, cardiovascular diseases, and more), infrastructure systems (such as power outages, damage to cooling systems, cracking, breaking, or melting of pipelines), and essential services (including healthcare and emergency services, public transportation, and the supply of water and electricity). These impacts may be direct or indirect, local or national, and short-term or long-term.

Opportunities:

1. Development of operational approaches and protocols for administrative and operational preparedness of the Olympic Committee of Israel, federations, and teams for training activities and competitions during heatwaves.
2. Development of approaches and protocols for acclimatizing athletes to compete under heatwave conditions.
3. Raising public awareness of the various aspects of conducting safe sporting activities during heatwaves.
4. Development of appropriate technologies for adaptation to heatwave conditions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The Olympic Committee of Israel assessed and quantified the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its activities for the years 2022–2024. The results are presented in Tables 1–3. The carbon footprint calculation was conducted by the “Good Energy Initiative,” based on consumption data relating to flights, fuel, and electricity.

In the absence of precise data regarding the operation of the Olympic Committee’s offices, smaller emission sources—such as waste, refrigerant gases, and water—were calculated based on office area and accepted averages.

Table No. 1: Carbon Footprint for 2022

Emission Source	Unit	Scope *	Value	GHG tons CO ₂ eq	% of Total Emissions	Notes
Flights	Passenger	3	287	338	72.1%	Based on destinations and passenger flight data without layovers
Electricity	kWh	2	95,040	57	12.2%	Based on consumption data

Waste	Tons	3	15	36	7.7%	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Refrigerant gases (R124)	kg	2	50	30	6.3%	Based on cooling consumption per m ² and typical leakage rates
Gasoline for vehicles	Liters	1	2,503	6	1.3%	Based on consumption data
Water	m ³	2	1,000	2	0.4%	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Total				469	100%	

*Scope definitions:

Scope 1 – Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Olympic Committee of Israel.

Scope 2 – Indirect emissions from purchased electricity, cooling, water, etc.

Scope 3 – All other indirect emissions related to the Committee's activities.

Table No. 2: Carbon Footprint for 2023

Emission Source	Unit	Scope *	Value	GHG tons CO ₂ eq	% of Total Emissions	Notes
Flights	Passenger	3	292	308	70.6%	Based on destinations and passenger flight data without layovers

Electricity	kWh	2	88,297	53	12.2%	Based on consumption data
Waste	Tons	3	15	36	8.2%	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Refrigerant gases (R124)	kg	2	50	30	7%	Based on cooling consumption per m ² and typical leakage rates
Gasoline for vehicles	Liters	1	3,083	7	1.6%	Based on consumption data
Water	m ³	2	1,000	2	0.4%	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Total				436	100%	

Table No. 3: Carbon Footprint for 2024

Emission Source	Unit	Scope*	Value	GHG tons CO ₂ eq	% of Total Emissions	Notes
Flights	Passenger	3	287	221	63%	Based on destinations and passenger flight data without layovers

Electricity	kWh	2	95,440	57	16%	Based on consumption data
Waste	Tons	3	15	36	10%	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Refrigerant gases (R124)	kg	2	50	30	9%	Based on cooling consumption per m ² and typical leakage rates
Gasoline for vehicles	Liters	1	2,850	6	2%	Based on consumption data
Water	m ³	2	185	0.4	Negligible	Estimated based on office area and standard averages
Total				350	100%	

As shown in Tables 1–3, the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions of the Olympic Committee of Israel is air travel, accounting for approximately 70% of total emissions. However, it should be noted that this represents an underestimation, as it does not include layovers for some flights and is based solely on economy-class travel. Data relating to water consumption and waste are also conservative estimates, based on the size of the building and the number of employees. Similarly, a conservative approach was taken with respect to refrigerant gases, although actual emissions may be higher depending on the type of refrigerant used and the quality of cooling systems. Finally, certain sources of emissions—such as office procurement (including printing paper, trophies, and medals), construction and renovation activities, and wastewater generation—were not included in the footprint calculation.

The data presented in Tables 1–3 also indicate that emissions from the Olympic Committee's activities have remained relatively consistent over the years. The main variation between years is associated with air travel emissions and is primarily influenced by travel destinations and competition schedules, as flights to shorter destinations (e.g., within Europe) have a lower carbon footprint.

Emissions Reduction Plan

Targets

In accordance with the commitment to the “Sports for Climate Action Framework,” and based on ambitious global targets to limit the average global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century, the Olympic Committee of Israel commits to the following emissions reduction targets:

1. A 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 2022 levels).
2. Achieving net zero emissions (Net Zero) by 2040.

Carbon Offsetting

As noted, the carbon footprint data over the years indicate that emissions from the Olympic Committee of Israel are divided between emissions resulting from flights of sports delegations, committee members, and management (approximately 70% – **Scope 3**), and emissions from the operation of the Committee’s offices (approximately 30% – **Scope 2**). Since it is not possible to reach international competitions from Israel via land transportation, and flights to competitions are essential, emissions from these journeys cannot be significantly reduced. Therefore, it was decided to offset these emissions through additional, monitored, and verified projects such as tree planting and/or the installation of solar panels.

The emissions from flights of the Olympic delegation to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games were offset through the planting of a “climate forest” to strengthen urban resilience in the city of Sderot, as a sign of solidarity and partnership with the communities affected by the events of October 7, 2023, and in memory of the victims among civilians, soldiers, and security forces. The emissions from the delegation’s flights to Paris amounted to approximately 220 tons CO_{2eq} and were offset by planting 250 trees, 185 of which were planted in the forest in Sderot and the remainder throughout the surrounding region. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Municipality of Sderot, the Ashkelon Regional Environmental Association, and the Good Energy Initiative, with the participation of Olympic athletes and local residents.

Carbon offsetting is a process of compensating for unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions from one activity by reducing or sequestering emissions in another. Such offsetting must be additional—meaning beyond reductions expected under a “business as usual” scenario—and of high quality, in accordance with accepted standards and professional criteria. High-quality offsetting also incorporates social benefits and local relevance. One of the most common methods for offsetting carbon dioxide emissions resulting from fuel combustion is tree planting. Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide through the process of photosynthesis while releasing oxygen. Beyond carbon storage, trees provide a wide range of additional benefits: they are a key component of natural environments and terrestrial ecosystems; they serve as habitats for a wide variety of animals and as a source of food for both animals and humans; they moderate temperature and heat; they improve air quality and reduce noise; and they help prevent soil erosion while enhancing water retention in the soil.

Management and Operations

Alongside the carbon offsetting efforts, the Olympic Committee of Israel will promote a range of measures to reduce emissions from transportation within Israel, from the operation of its offices, and from its overall activities. The various measures are presented in Table No. 4.

Table No. 4: Key Measures for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Objective	Process	Priority	Participants	Budget	Timeline
Buildings					
Transition to a new Olympic headquarters	Relocation to a new building designed to operate more efficiently and sustainably	High	Senior management, Olympic House Establishment Committee	Olympic Committee of Israel	2029
Water conservation	Installation of water-saving devices on all faucets and dual-flush toilet systems	High	Management / Operations	Olympic Committee of Israel	2027
Electricity savings (lighting)	Installation of energy-efficient lighting	High	Management	Olympic Committee of Israel	2027
Electricity savings (air conditioning)	Awareness campaign on turning off air conditioning when leaving offices	Medium	All employees	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026

Electricity savings (lighting behavior)	Awareness campaign on turning off lights when leaving offices	Medium	All employees	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026
Waste reduction	Awareness campaign on reducing food waste	Medium	All employees	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026
Mobility and Transportation					
Increase use of public and shared transportation	Awareness and encouragement among employees	Medium	All employees	Olympic Committee of Israel	2027
Encourage bicycle use	Awareness and encouragement among employees	Medium	All employees	Olympic Committee of Israel	2027
Events					
Emissions reduction from events	Promotion of sustainable food practices	Medium	Management, department heads	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026
Emissions reduction from events	Transition to digital materials instead of printed materials	High	Management, department heads	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026

Olympic Delegations					
Reduce emissions from travel	Selection of direct flights, economy class travel, and use of public transportation where possible	Medium	Management, federations, athletes, delegation members	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026–2030
Emissions reduction	Reduction in the size of administrative and operational staff in delegations	Medium	Management	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026–2030
Emissions offsetting	Tree planting and/or installation of photovoltaic systems in additional projects	High	Management	Olympic Committee of Israel	2026–2027