



NF Award for Excellence in Sustainability 2024 – Shortlist

Winner: Deutscher Skiverband (GER)

GERMAN NATIONAL FEDERATION – Climate friendly heating solutions – innovative Biomass systems for temporary infrastructures

NF Germany replaced fossil-fuel heating systems for temporary hospitality, kitchen and staff facilities at the World Cups in Oberhof and Ruhpolding with wood pellet heating systems.

Regional Resources: The pellets were sourced regionally, using by-products from the timber industry and damaged wood stocks. Improved heating infrastructure also reduced the overall energy demand.

Innovative Solutions: The customized system in Ruhpolding additionally integrated heat recovery, achieving around 30% savings in energy costs on top of the environmental benefits.

Impact: The measures reduced CO₂ emissions by approximately 210 tonnes in Ruhpolding. In Oberhof, around 1,200 litres of diesel could be saved per competition day, significantly reducing direct and indirect emissions.



NORWEGIAN NATIONAL FEDERATION – Project Snow Crystals – Emission Reduction

The Norwegian Biathlon Association launched the Snow Crystal Project in 2022 to reduce the sport's climate impact, initially focusing on transportation and the travel emissions of elite athletes.

Lower-Emission Travel: The elite team replaced flights with bus travel where possible. Travelling by bus from Oslo to Östersund instead of flying via Stockholm saved 2.1 tonnes of CO₂ during the first World Cup alone.

Measurable Impact: The team's travel emissions across three World Cup events decreased from 37.5 tonnes of CO₂ in 2022/23 to 20.3 tonnes in 2023/24, a reduction of approximately 46%.

Broader Engagement: The initiative also encouraged the wider Norwegian biathlon community to use buses for local events and competitions, while the elite team committed to avoiding business-class and private-aircraft travel.



POLISH NATIONAL FEDERATION – NF Sustainability strategy

The Polish Biathlon Association (PBA) began developing its own sustainability strategy through meetings, workshops and brainstorming sessions, supported by exchanges with IBU sustainability representatives.

Building Awareness: The process focused on identifying realistic, long-term actions that could be implemented in Poland and communicating their importance to clubs, coaches and other stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement: The strategy was presented to around 50 coaches and biathlon activists from different parts of Poland, helping to raise awareness and encourage broader participation in future sustainability activities.

Next Steps: The PBA established implementation stages and responsibilities and began cooperation with an external company to calculate its future carbon footprint and identify suitable measures for reducing emissions.

