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Climate Club Trophy



CLUB TROPHY

CASE STUDY DAV ULM

A SUCCESSFUL ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The guiding philosophy at DAV Ulm is that everyone wins. That's why this 8,600-member club, situated on the outskirts of the Swabian Alb close to Ulm, is managing to adapt successfully to climate change while simultaneously minimising its own carbon footprint, growing grassroots participation, and developing talented young biathletes!

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

DAV Ulm has always pursued measures that are good for the environment, economically sound, and have strong potential to develop the sport. Faced with the undeniable reality of climate change – situated at 600 metres above sea level, snowless winters have become the norm, rather than the exception – the club has realised plans to increase grassroots and elite-level participation by developing its training centre, which includes a roller skiing course and a shooting range.



Drone Shot of Construction Site



Having witnessed the effects of climate change first-hand, DAV Ulm has also prioritised mitigation of its own effects on climate change. The club's operational sustainability strategy is based on two pillars: Sustainability at Home, which is focussed on the sustainable development of its PistenBully Biathlon Centre, and Sustainability on the Road, which deals mainly with the transportation of the club's athletes and equipment to competition and training venues.

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HOW IS THE GOAL ACHIEVED?

DAV Ulm has made the decision to invest in biathlon even though the future for the Swabian Alb holds no snow. Very seldom do the members of DAV Ulm train on snow these days. Sometimes, over Christmas, the club will organise snow training in the Black Forest or Allgäu region, but this is more of a community-building initiative than specifically for training. Roller skiing has taken precedence, during summer and in wintertime. Despite this, or rather because of its well-equipped biathlon training centre, the club has continued to grow its large pool of youth talent, at under-16 level. As a highlight, the club's talent Julia Tannheimer returned from the IBU YJWCH 2023 in Schuchinsk, Kazakhstan, with three gold medals and one silver. Furthermore, its membership numbers are increasing, thereby contributing hugely to grassroots participation in the region.

The club owns the PistenBully Biathlon Centre. It was opened in 2005 and has since been expanded in several stages, thanks in large part to significant funding received from local authorities and its partners. Currently the club is pushing ahead with the construction of a new multi-functional building. Throughout development of this phase, as in all previous phases, the club has always kept sustainability as the focal point of decisions. Initiatives have included water harvesting for snowmaking purposes, bullet collection, an unheated cold hall, a heat pump, and a planned photovoltaic system from Viessmann.

Travel is known to be the biggest cause of CO2 emissions in winter sports. The club saw the need to reduce this impact too, in tandem with its own energy costs, through organising a bus-sharing operation in cooperation with its partners.

WHICH IBU SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES DOES IT ADDRESS?

Inactive lifestyle / grassroots participation Lack of opportunities for entry-level participation

The club has placed a strong emphasis on roller skiing and developing immaculate courses: there is a 1km floodlit loop and a 1.3km unlit loop, which was recently enhanced with a hill thanks to the development of a nearby railway line. There are 15 air rifle stands, which can be equipped with targets for laser rifles, and eight small bore stands. These courses have been a magnet for local ski and biathlon athletes, who have flocked to the course in large numbers. The club also has youth champions, like Julia Tannheimer, that have grown up training on roller skis.

Use of water and energy for snowmaking / snow-farming

DAV Ulm installed a cistern for collecting surface water during the 2014 expansion phase at the Biathlon centre. The surface water is used for snowmaking. Despite the environmental benefits of using surface water for this task, it is only useful when the weather is cold enough, hence why the cistern is used very sparingly these days, only when there is a real prospect that the club will benefit from the groomed trails for several weeks.

Lead Toxicity

The club has been collecting lead bullets at its small-bore shooting range since 2005. Although this practice is currently not legally required, the club deems it necessary from an environmental perspective, to minimise ground lead leak-



Roofed shooting range



Lead Collection System



Building Process of the Cistern

age, and – in line with its ‘win-win’ philosophy – it sells the lead, granting the proceeds to support its junior athletes.

Emissions from energy use for heating, cooling and power

In order to offer its athletes better conditions for indoor training, DAV Ulm is in the process of constructing a new multi-functional building with a ‘cold hall’ that features an indoor fitness centre and a synthetic track with a roof. It is due for completion in the autumn of 2023 and will incorporate an air source heat pump to heat another part of the building that accommodates a seminar room, changing rooms, and toilets. Thanks to the Viessmann IBU Climate Cup Trophy, a Viessmann photovoltaic system will be installed on the roof to allow the club to generate its own green electricity.

Emissions from travel & transport

DAV Ulm has a minibus, financed by the Sabian Ski Association, which is used for the transport of its athletes, their luggage and equipment, to competitions and, very rarely, training trips in other locations. However, with only one minibus in the past, there was often a logistical challenge when more than one trip was happening at the same time. To address this, the club has been cooperating with two of its partners, Spohn & Burkhardt and PistenBully – the lead sponsor of its biathlon centre, who provide them each with one of their minibuses that would otherwise be parked in the yard on weekends.

In this case, it’s a win-win-win-win! The parents of the club’s young athletes save themselves time-consuming and cost-intensive journeys, DAV Ulm’s partners gain additional advertising opportunities, the club itself solves its logistical problems, and using the minibuses as an effective ‘bus-sharing’ initiative reduces the amount of CO2 emissions that would have been produced by trips with private cars. According to its own calculations, the club estimates that using a minibus, instead of an equivalent of three cars, results in a saving of around 13.7 kg CO2 per 100 km driven.

WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES FACED?

DAV Ulm faced up to the biggest challenge that is affecting the world today – Climate Change. The club recognised that if it was to continue offering people the opportunity to ski, it would not be on snow. So, it shifted its focus to roller skiing and the quality of the courses on which it could be practiced.

Aside from the very real threat to its continued existence as a club, funding has often been a challenge as well. DAV Ulm has flourished thanks in large part to the generosity of its partners. For example, the new multi-functional building that is being constructed will cost 2.5 million euros, 1.3 million of which is being invested by the city of Ulm along with contributions by the club’s other partners.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In the future, DAV Ulm wants to purchase a minibus that can be operated as a plug-in hybrid or purely battery electric vehicle. The idea would be that it can then charge the minibus with its own electricity that it would be able to harvest through the photovoltaic system that will soon be added to its functional building.

It also plans to attract future income through the private rental of the multi-functional building – specifically the fitness centre and seminar room – by non-members of the club to ensure that the new facility is used as much as possible.

The club is also keen to host more events at its centre, including summer biathlon competitions at national and perhaps even regional level.