

Environmental Sustainability in Oslostudentenes Idrettsklubb

OSI Goes Green

“Climate change and environmental damage are two of the most dramatic challenges facing the world today”. (Mission of Norway to the EU, 2021)

It has become undeniable that human activities lead to climate change. As athletes, we have developed an intimate relationship with our natural environment and an astute understanding of how climate change is already impacting and will continue to affect our lives.

As outdoor enthusiasts, climate change impacts our ability to access our playground. As advocates of healthy active living, we cannot sit by idly knowing that pollution alone takes 7 million lives annually (Mission of Norway to the EU, 2021). As compassionate humans, we cannot continue to just watch as climate disasters wreak havoc and create despair among the world’s poorest and most vulnerable peoples and animals. As lovers of everything Oslo and Norway have to offer, we cannot continue to watch our Arctic and our winters disappear.

This past year has shown us that change is possible. Reduced human activities led to a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions (Le Quéré, et al., 2020). Travel restrictions showed us that we do not need to travel abroad—we can live sustainably, practice our sport locally, and gain renewed appreciation for our immediate surroundings. The coronavirus showed us that in times of crisis, humans have the incredible ability to work together to protect each other. We must continue to work together to fight for sustainability even as restrictions ease.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. We would like our parent organization, OSI, and all affiliated clubs, to join us in advocating for sustainability. We believe that even seemingly small changes can be impactful and contribute to a better future—we are the future and it is about time that we started acting like it.

Here are just a few actionable changes we aim to implement to become environmental stewards. We encourage all clubs to reflect on which of the following actions they can implement themselves to support environmental sustainability.

Actionable changes to become environmental stewards:

- We want OSI leadership to prepare guidelines and aims for sustainability
- We want OSI to add sustainability as a priority to the values on the website
- Limit the usage of flights and plan outdoor trips locally and within Norway/Sweden where many amazing opportunities already exist
- If flight travel is necessary, budget for donating funds to offset the carbon footprint of the flights
- Make activities accessible by public transport
- We want each club to add a sustainability mandate to their “About Us” pages on their websites (example: <http://osi-klatringsidrettenonline.no/p/32494/medlemskap>)

- Provide subsidies for members to have equipment repaired, to reduce purchasing new products
- Investigate and choose sustainable, environmentally friendly suppliers for merchandise and equipment
- When operating in nature, practice collecting litter, even if it is not yours
- When providing food, we will prioritize offering plant-based options
- Encourage and remind members to bring reusable cutlery and water bottles to events
- Reduce or ban the usage of single-use plastic products such as straws and cutlery

Sincerely,

OSI Klatring, OSI Dykking, OSI Sykkel, OSI Ultimate, OSI Roing, OSI Friluft

References

Climate change and the environment - Norway and the EU

([https://www.norway.no/en/missions/eu/values-priorities/climate-env/#:~:text=Norway%20allocates%20a%20significant%20amount,forest%20degradation%20in%20developing%20countries\).&text=It%20is%20the%20first%20global,for%20reducing%20greenhouse%20gas%20emissions](https://www.norway.no/en/missions/eu/values-priorities/climate-env/#:~:text=Norway%20allocates%20a%20significant%20amount,forest%20degradation%20in%20developing%20countries).&text=It%20is%20the%20first%20global,for%20reducing%20greenhouse%20gas%20emissions))

Le Quéré, C., Jackson, R. B., Jones, M. W., Smith, A. J., Abernethy, S., Andrew, R. M., ... & Peters, G. P. (2020). Temporary reduction in daily global CO₂ emissions during the COVID-19 forced confinement. *Nature Climate Change*, 10(7), 647-653.