



IFSC Sustainability – 2024 Actions Overview

Introduction

The International Federation of Sport Climbing is committed to fostering a sustainable environment, both through the reduction of our carbon footprint and the promotion of equity, well-being, and best practices in the workplace. This report outlines our key initiatives, performance indicators, and the principles that guide our commitment to sustainability during 2024.

In alignment with our vision for the future, the IFSC has decided to draw inspiration from the pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations. These global goals provide a shared framework for creating a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous world. With the introduction of a new sustainability plan set to launch in Summer 2024, the IFSC will prioritize five SDG objectives that resonate most strongly with the values and responsibilities of a modern sport organization.

While the SDGs encompass 17 interconnected objectives, the IFSC's targeted focus reflects our strategic alignment with the needs of our community and the broader challenges facing the planet. The five SDG goals at the heart of our plan are:

1. **SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**

Recognizing sport's inherent role in promoting physical and mental health, we aim to further leverage climbing as a vehicle for well-being across diverse populations.

2. **SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality**

As a global organization, the IFSC remains dedicated to eliminating barriers and fostering inclusivity, ensuring equal opportunities for athletes, staff, and stakeholders, regardless of gender.

3. **SDG Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**

Reflecting our commitment to minimizing waste and optimizing resource use, the IFSC will advocate for and adopt more sustainable practices in the organization and delivery of our events.

4. **SDG Goal 13: Climate Action**

Climate change is a shared global challenge, and the IFSC will lead by example, implementing strategies to reduce emissions, protect natural environments, and raise awareness within the sport community.

5. **SDG Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

Collaboration is essential to achieving meaningful progress. By fostering partnerships with other sport bodies, governments, NGOs, and industry leaders, the IFSC seeks to amplify its impact and share knowledge for a more sustainable future.

Through these initiatives, the IFSC reaffirms its commitment to integrating sustainability into all aspects of its operations. The following sections of this report detail our ongoing efforts, measurable targets, and the roadmap for realizing these ambitions in 2024 and beyond.

Furthermore, to enhance the effectiveness of our sustainability initiatives, the IFSC is proud to announce the establishment of a dedicated **Sustainability Commission**. This new body will play a pivotal role in reviewing our current guidelines, ensuring they align with best practices and the evolving needs of our sport and the global community. The commission will bring together experts, stakeholders, and representatives from across the IFSC to provide informed recommendations and develop actionable strategies.

By leveraging diverse perspectives and expertise, the Sustainability Commission will enable us to better plan and implement future actions, ensuring that our efforts remain impactful, measurable, and relevant. This collaborative approach underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and positions the IFSC as a leader in driving sustainability within the sport community. Together, we aim to create a legacy of responsibility and innovation for future generations of climbers and beyond.



1. Good Health and Well-Being [SDG Goal 3]

Recognizing sport's inherent role in promoting physical and mental health, the IFSC is committed to leveraging climbing as a powerful vehicle for fostering well-being across diverse populations. Climbing, as a sport and lifestyle, offers unique benefits that go beyond physical fitness, fostering resilience, focus, and mental clarity, while also building communities that promote a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

To further this mission, the IFSC is working through its Development Department to implement targeted initiatives that support athletes and participants at every stage of their journey. Among these efforts is the introduction of **courses on athletes' transition paths**, designed to provide climbers with the tools and resources to navigate the shift from competitive careers to new professional or personal opportunities. These programs emphasize mental health, skill development, and life planning, ensuring athletes are supported holistically as they transition.

In addition to its work with athletes as ambassadors, the IFSC is also embracing well-being as a core principle within its organizational culture. Through the adoption of comprehensive **company welfare policies**, the IFSC is committed to creating a supportive and empowering work environment for its employees, partners, and stakeholders. These policies prioritize mental health support, work-life balance, and inclusive practices, ensuring that well-being is integrated into all aspects of the organization's actions and activities.

By embedding health and well-being into both its sporting and organizational frameworks, the IFSC is setting an example of how modern sport organizations can drive meaningful change, benefiting not just the climbing community but society at large.

2. Gender Equality [SDG Goal 5]

The IFSC firmly believes that diversity and inclusion are essential to building a better workplace, stronger governance, and a vibrant sport community. Gender equality stands as a pillar of our sustainability strategy, reflecting our commitment to creating equal opportunities across every level of our organization. We recognize that fostering a culture of fairness, representation, and inclusivity is not only a moral imperative but also a critical factor in achieving long-term success and resilience.

To this end, the IFSC is actively working to ensure **gender-balanced representation** across all its official structures and activities. This includes striving for equal representation in **institutional meetings with National Federations** that are part of the IFSC. By promoting gender diversity in these forums, we aim to encourage collaborative decision-making that incorporates a wide range of perspectives and experiences.

Furthermore, the IFSC is deeply committed to achieving **gender balance within its Board**. This effort reflects our dedication to leading by example and setting a benchmark for governance in sport organizations. A diverse and balanced leadership not only enhances the quality of decision-making but also reinforces the message that opportunities within the IFSC are open and equitable for everyone, regardless of gender.

In addition to these governance-focused initiatives, the IFSC continues to support broader programs and policies designed to remove barriers and foster inclusion at all levels of the sport. By embedding gender equality into our operations and strategic goals, the IFSC aims to cultivate an environment where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive and contribute to the growth of sport climbing.

Through these actions, the IFSC reaffirms its commitment to building a more equitable and inclusive future for climbing and beyond, ensuring that diversity and inclusion are integral to our legacy.



3. Responsible consumption and production [SDG Goal 12]

The IFSC is committed to promoting responsible consumption and production practices within the sport climbing community. This commitment reflects our belief that sustainability must be embedded not only in our operations but also in the broader ecosystem of climbing events, products, and infrastructure. By taking meaningful action, the IFSC aims to minimize its environmental impact while setting a benchmark for sustainable practices in sport.

As part of this effort, the IFSC has already adopted **sustainability guidelines** for its events. These guidelines, which provide a framework for environmentally conscious event planning and execution, are currently under review by the newly established Sustainability Commission. This review process aims to refine and expand the guidelines, ensuring they remain relevant, actionable, and aligned with global best practices.

In collaboration with **holds brands**, the IFSC is also implementing a comprehensive **recycling and waste management program**. This initiative focuses on reducing waste associated with climbing holds and equipment while promoting the circular use of materials. Such partnerships with industry leaders underscore our commitment to fostering sustainability throughout the supply chain and lifecycle of climbing products.

Moreover, sustainability has become a **key criterion** in evaluating companies for inclusion in the IFSC Holds, Macros, and Volumes Catalogue. To be part of this catalogue—a critical resource for IFSC events—companies must demonstrate adherence to sustainable production practices, ensuring that environmental responsibility is a fundamental requirement in the sport's growth and development.

In parallel, the IFSC is in the process of developing a **policy for the standardization of climbing walls**. This policy aims to streamline wall design and construction, emphasizing durability, safety, and reduced environmental impact. By creating standardized approaches, the IFSC seeks to minimize material waste and encourage innovative practices that prioritize sustainability without compromising performance.

Through these initiatives, the IFSC is not only promoting responsible consumption and production within its sphere of influence but also inspiring the climbing community to adopt practices that safeguard our planet for future generations. These efforts are a testament to our dedication to creating a sustainable future for sport climbing.

4. Climate Action [SDG Goal 13]

Climate change represents one of the most pressing global challenges of our time, and the IFSC is committed to taking proactive measures to mitigate its environmental impact. As a leading international sports organization, we recognize our responsibility to lead by example and to inspire the climbing community to embrace practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

A central element of our climate action strategy is the **measurement and offsetting of the carbon footprint** generated by IFSC events and official travel, please see the full measurement in the Excel sheet attached. By quantifying emissions associated with competitions, logistics, and staff mobility, the IFSC can implement targeted actions to reduce these emissions while offsetting unavoidable impacts through verified carbon-offset programs. This ensures that our activities align with our commitment to climate responsibility.



The IFSC has also embedded a **green commuting policy** into its daily operations, underscoring the importance of sustainable practices at every level of the organization. Staff members are encouraged to prioritize eco-friendly modes of transport, including walking, cycling, and using trains or public transportation, when commuting to the office. This initiative not only reduces emissions but also sets a **cultural standard for sustainability within the organization**.

Transport Mode	CO2 Emissions per km (kg)	Avg. Distance (km/day)	Total Emissions per Year (kg CO2)
Car	0.21	10	504
Public Transport (Bus-Metro)	0.1	10	240
Train	0.019	From 100 to 800	From 456 to 3.648
Walking	0	5	0
Cycling	0	5	0

Assumption: 240 working days per year

By encouraging commuting by train, walking or cycling to work, we can achieve a substantial reduction in CO2 emissions.

4.1 CO2 Savings

At IFSC Employees commuting by walking or cycling instead of driving save per year:

- Car / Walking/Cycling:
 - (504 kg CO2 - 0 kg CO2) = **an average of 504 kg CO2 saved annually per person**

For IFSC 10 employees making this switch, the annual CO2 reduction equals approximately 5 tons of CO2

Basic Data (General Estimates):

- Car: Average emissions of approximately 120-200 g CO₂/km (depending on the model and fuel type).
- Train: Average emissions of approximately 20 g CO₂/km per passenger.

Difference in Emissions in the commuting per Kilometer

CO₂ Savings per km = Car Emissions – Train Emissions

For example, with a car emitting **150 gCO₂/km**, the savings are:

150gCO₂/km–20gCO₂/km = 130gCO₂ → Savings over 300 km

We multiply the savings by the distance traveled:

Total Savings=130gCO₂/km × 300km=39,000gCO₂



Converting grams to kilograms:

$$39,000\text{g} = 39\text{kgCO}_2$$

Result: Each employee traveling 300 km by train instead of by car saves approximately 39 kg of CO₂.

CALCULATION OF CO2 SAVINGS - BASED ON IFSC EMPLOYEE COMMUTING (PER YEAR)

Category	Transport Mode	CO2 Emissions per km (kg)	Days of commuting per year	Avg. Distance of commuting (km/day)	Total Emissions per Year – based on days of commuting (kg CO2)	Total CO2 saving per year (kg CO2)
Staff 1	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 2	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 3	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 4	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 5	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 6	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 7	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 8	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 9	Walking/ Cycling	0	240	10	0	504
Staff 10	Train	0,019	192	300	1.094	11.002
Staff 11	Train	0,019	144	200	547	5.501
Staff 12	Train	0,019	96	660	1.203	12.102
Staff 13	Train	0,019	48	828	755	7.591
Staff 14	WFH	0,019		-	0	504

In addition to these efforts, the IFSC applies its green ethos to event-related travel. For official journeys, the organization prioritizes train travel and other eco-friendly options whenever possible, choosing the most suitable and sustainable methods for transportation. This reflects the IFSC’s determination to minimize the environmental impact of travel while maintaining efficiency in its operations.



4.2 Sustainable Travels Guidelines

At IFSC, we have established a **set of internal principles** for employee to follow when planning business trips, with a focus on environmentally friendly practices. These include:

- **Alternance with Virtual Meetings:** When possible, virtual meetings should replace in-person travel, reducing emissions altogether.
- **Public Transport Over Private:** Employees are encouraged to use public transportation such as trains or buses instead of cars or flights for medium-range travel.
- **Carpooling:** For short-distance trips, employees are encouraged to carpool to reduce the number of vehicles used.
- **Train Over Plane:** For distances less than 500 km, President, IFSC Board Member, IFSC Officials and employee should prioritize train travel over air travel whenever feasible.

To ensure travel is as sustainable as possible, we have implemented the following initiatives:

- **Event Coordination:** Grouping employee traveling to the same event to coordinate travel plans and share transportation.
- **Travel Carbon Offsetting:** For necessary air travel to IFSC Events, we purchase carbon offsets to compensate for the emissions produced.
- **IFSC Calendar Optimization:** Prioritizing event venues in the IFSC Calendar that are easily accessible by public transportation or located near main city hub reducing the need for long-distance travels.

4.3 Impact of Travel Harmonization and Sustainability guidelines

Through travel harmonization efforts, we expect to reduce event-related travel emissions by approximately **50%** over the next years. This reduction will be achieved by promoting the use of more sustainable travel modes and better coordinating travel among our employees.

- **Short-term:** to reduce our operational emissions covering Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 15% by 2026 against a 2022 baseline;
- **Mid-term:** to reduce our operational emissions covering Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions by 50% by 2030 against a 2022 baseline;
- **Long-term:** to achieve net zero emissions covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 2040.

By integrating these principles into its daily activities and long-term planning, the IFSC is committed to demonstrating that meaningful climate action can be achieved through thoughtful policies and sustained effort. From event planning to office operations and beyond, the IFSC's climate strategy is a testament to its dedication to reducing emissions, protecting the environment, and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change. Through these actions, we aim to inspire others in the sport community to join us in creating a greener, more sustainable future.



4.4 Carbon Offsetting

For many years, the IFSC has demonstrated its commitment to climate responsibility by offsetting its carbon emissions through contributions to impactful climate protection initiatives. Helping the IFSC with this effort has been its partnership with **myclimate** [link here](#), a globally recognized organization that finances high-quality climate protection projects and delivers climate education programs. Through myclimate, the IFSC supports projects that not only offset carbon emissions but also promote sustainable development and environmental awareness, aligning with its holistic approach to addressing climate change.

To further strengthen its environmental initiatives, the IFSC is actively exploring partnerships with the **United Nations Carbon Offsetting Platform**, which supports a diverse range of projects certified by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These projects are implemented in developing countries worldwide and are designed to reduce, avoid, or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. For each ton of greenhouse gas emissions mitigated, the projects are rewarded with **Certified Emission Reductions (CERs)** [link here](#), ensuring measurable and verified impact.

By leveraging these collaborations, the IFSC ensures that the carbon emissions generated by its activities—such as events and official travel—are effectively neutralized through verified, impactful measures. Initiatives supported through these partnerships include **renewable energy projects, reforestation efforts, and energy efficiency programs**, which collectively contribute to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainable growth.

Sustainability Contribution Fee (€)	Local Organizing Committee	Total budget for Offsetting
1.000 €	10	10.000 (€)

Looking ahead, the IFSC recognizes that offsetting is just one part of a broader strategy for sustainability. As part of its mandate, the newly established **Sustainability Working Group** will review the IFSC's offsetting plan and explore ways to enhance its effectiveness. Over the next year, the group will work to refine the approach, ensuring that our offsetting activities are aligned with the latest advancements in climate science, reflect best practices, and maximize positive impact.

This forward-looking review will also aim to integrate offsetting efforts into a more comprehensive climate strategy that prioritizes emission reductions, responsible consumption, and sustainable development. By addressing offsetting through a strategic lens, the IFSC aims to strengthen its leadership in climate action and continue to contribute meaningfully to the global fight against climate change.

Through this dual commitment to immediate action and long-term planning, the IFSC is not only taking responsibility for its environmental footprint but also laying the groundwork for a more sustainable future for sport climbing and the planet.



5. Partnerships for the Goals [Goal 17]

Collaboration is at the heart of meaningful and sustainable progress, and the IFSC recognizes that achieving its sustainability ambitions requires strong partnerships across all facets of the sport climbing community. By working together with athletes, sponsors, and fans, the IFSC seeks to amplify awareness, inspire collective action, and implement visible, impactful sustainability measures, particularly at events.

Athletes as Ambassadors

Athletes are not only the faces of the sport but also powerful voices for change. The IFSC is committed to engaging climbers as ambassadors for sustainability, encouraging them to champion environmentally conscious behaviors within the climbing community and beyond. Through workshops, social media campaigns, and personal initiatives, athletes can inspire fans and peers to take action on critical issues such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and supporting climate resilience.

Sponsors as Partners in Sustainability

Sponsors play a vital role in shaping the culture and practices of sport climbing. The IFSC collaborates closely with its sponsors to align their values and commitments with sustainability goals. This includes encouraging sponsors to adopt greener production methods, support sustainable event operations, and co-develop educational campaigns that resonate with the climbing community. By fostering these partnerships, the IFSC aims to ensure that sustainability is embedded not only in its events but also in the wider industry.

Fans and Event Engagement

Fans are a key part of the sport's ecosystem, and their engagement is essential to driving meaningful change. The IFSC is working to enhance sustainability visibility at events, including implementing recycling programs, reducing single-use plastics, and promoting eco-friendly travel options for spectators. Additionally, interactive activities and educational booths at events can provide fans with the knowledge and tools to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

The Importance of Education

Education underpins all these efforts, as raising awareness and providing resources empower individuals to take informed action. The IFSC is committed to integrating sustainability education into its initiatives, offering workshops, seminars, and campaigns that highlight the importance of climate action, gender equality, responsible consumption, and more. These programs aim to reach athletes, sponsors, fans, and the broader climbing community, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond IFSC events.

By fostering partnerships with all stakeholders and prioritizing education, the IFSC is building a unified and informed community dedicated to sustainability. These collaborative efforts ensure that the sport of climbing not only grows responsibly but also serves as a beacon for positive change in the global movement toward a sustainable future.