



# Environmental Sustainability Plan

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2025-28

AUS  
TRIATHLON

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TRIATHLON**

## OUR VISION

At AusTriathlon (AusTri), our vision is to create a happier, healthier, and more connected nation through triathlon and multisport experiences.

Our Behavioural Framework shapes the culture of the triathlon and multisport landscape in Australia and influences how groups work together. **Our five values; Unity, Accountability, Courage, Enjoyment and Inclusivity, define our character and guide how we behave as we collectively do what is right for the sport.**

## OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In line with our Strategic Priority "A Sport for Everyone", we recognise the connection the sport of triathlon has to country and aim to minimise the impact we have on the land and sea we play in. Few sports are as linked and dependent on a pristine natural environment for the conducting of safe and enjoyable events as that of triathlon. As the custodians of culture for the sport of triathlon in Australia, we recognise the important role we play in embedding good environmental stewardship across our ecosystem.

## OUR APPROACH

The overarching aims in this plan, form the foundation for a more comprehensive Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Framework to be developed in the future which will aim to reflect a commitment to not only mitigate the environmental impact of the sport, but also to be a catalyst for positive change in the broader community. We do not underestimate this challenge, as climate change in its scope and magnitude is a pressing global issue.



We are proud to have commenced work in this area noting that recent research ([Environmental Defenders Office/Front Runners](#)) indicates that less than 1% of National Sporting Organisations (NSO) mention climate change in their annual reports, just 6% reference climate change or sustainability in their strategic plans and only 3% have any guidance on the issue on their websites.

AusTriathlon acknowledges that there are many aspects of Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action which need to be addressed. We will be working to “move the dial” on specific aspects initially, whilst keeping a view on implementing an overall approach over time. With this in mind, we have focused our current efforts on the following four focus areas: **Reduce Emissions, Advocate for Change, Adapt for Change** and **Build Partnerships**.

This plan will “live and breathe” over time as AusTriathlon evolves. It will adapt as initiatives are identified, advanced and achieved. In the development of both the AusTriathlon Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan and this Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action plan [the United Nations \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) have provided a framework for us to set goals around. On top of the four SDGs our EDI Plan focuses on, the SDGs that this plan will focus on are: Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7), Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11), Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), Climate Action (Goal 13).

Whilst the aims in this plan are focused on operations of AusTriathlon and participating State and Territory Triathlon Associations (STTAs) we encourage our clubs, race directors, members and partners to embrace and adopt some or all of the initiatives.





# OUR OBJECTIVES

## 1. Reduce Emissions:

AusTriathlon is committed to significantly reducing its carbon footprint and overall greenhouse gas emissions across its operations, events, and administrative activities. This includes minimising energy consumption, adopting renewable energy sources where possible, and implementing sustainable transportation options.

## 2. Advocate for Change:

AusTriathlon seeks to leverage its influence and platform to advocate for broader systemic changes and policies that support climate action. This involves collaborating with stakeholders, engaging the triathlon community, and participating in advocacy initiatives to drive positive environmental outcomes.

## 3. Adapting for Change:

Recognising the inevitability of climate change impacts, AusTriathlon aims to enhance its resilience by implementing adaptive measures. This includes modifying event planning, infrastructure design, and safety protocols to withstand changing climate conditions.

## 4. Building Partnerships:

AusTriathlon recognises the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving climate action goals. Building partnerships with like-minded organisations, sponsors, and environmental agencies will amplify the impact of sustainability initiatives.



# OUR FOCUS AREAS

Focus area	Stage 1 (2025 – 2026)	Stage 2 (2027 – 2028)
<b>Reduce Emissions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and monitor Carbon footprint baseline for AusTriathlon and participating STTAs business operations</li> <li>Identify at least two target areas that offer a significant opportunity to reduce emissions and impact of AusTriathlon operations</li> <li>Develop and implement a procurement policy that prioritises environmentally sustainable products and services</li> <li>Adopt partnership procurement protocols in alignment with our Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action Plan aims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On track to achieve 50% less emissions by 2032 compared to initial carbon footprint calculation</li> <li>All vehicles owned or used by AusTriathlon to be electric or hybrid</li> </ul>
<b>Advocate for Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify current success stories within the network and amplify the stories within our staff, athletes, sponsors, to influence more change in the community</li> <li>Encourage and campaign for the use of carpooling or public transport to and from events</li> <li>Develop programs to educate and engage the triathlon community on climate and environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll-out a network wide event waste reduction program including highlighting existing initiatives (particularly at club level)</li> <li>Acknowledge publicly those initiatives that are shifting the dial in reducing emissions</li> <li>Identify suppliers and negotiate preferred rates so our network can implement more environmentally and financially sustainable initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>Adapt for Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create and implement a specific Extreme Weather Policy – review on a regular basis to reflect changing conditions</li> <li>Incorporate sustainability into major events to manage risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review key venue designs to enhance resilience against climate change effects</li> </ul>
<b>Build Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with key National and International Sports Organisations to ensure best practice adoption of principles</li> <li>Partner with research bodies to examine the impact of climate change on our sport and how the sport can respond</li> <li>Join UNS4CAF</li> <li>Engage with partners with a strong environmental commitment and performance</li> <li>Identify key local and community partners to collaborate with on addressing specific climate challenges affecting racing venues and training environments</li> <li>Collaborate with environmental organisations to amplify our message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with BNE2032 organisers and venue directors to ensure the triathlon program is delivered as close to carbon neutral as possible</li> </ul>





## A SPORT FOR EVERYONE

We are a welcoming community for people of all backgrounds, ages, genders, sexual orientations and abilities making triathlon easier to access.

With a connection to country, we minimise the impact we have on the land and sea we play in and are more relevant and more rewarding for more people.

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### STRATEGIC PROOF POINTS

- National programs to educate and engage members on all aspects of environmental sustainability and climate change, with a view on how important environmental issues are to the longevity of the sport of triathlon in Australia and around the world.
  - The triathlon community is demonstrating a growing understanding of the impact of climate change on the sport and is willing to do more to manage their footprint
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## WINNING WELL TO INSPIRE

Team AUS is the world's best and we enable our athletes to deliver results on the world stage. With a focus on our athletes, we provide performance driven, optimised and supported programs.

We celebrate our success by sharing athlete stories and explaining the journey to inspire our community and the next generation and promote the sport of triathlon.

- A comprehensive Extreme Weather Policy created to assist our athletes in performing at their best at all times
- A clear environmental impact strategy which highlights stories of how our athletes are embracing the need for environmental change and examples of what they are doing to reduce their carbon footprint



## WORKING IN HARMONY

We work together with a united strategy, operational plans, goals, behaviours, brand, structures and systems, to grow an industry leading national sports business.

- Development and implementation of a supplier and partnership procurement policy focused on environmental sustainability best practice
- Advocacy efforts specifically targeted at major events companies to adopt their own, genuine sustainability strategy



# SUSTAINABILITY TERMS

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** – involves adopting practices that will ensure natural resources are preserved and the general health of the planet is sustained

**CLIMATE CHANGE** – a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods<sup>1</sup>

**CLIMATE ACTION** – efforts taken to combat climate change and its impacts These efforts involve reducing greenhouse gas emissions (**climate mitigation**) and/or taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current effects of climate change and the predicted impacts in the future (**climate adaptation**)<sup>2</sup>

**CARBON FOOTPRINT** – a measure of greenhouse gases produced as a result of human activities and expressed in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>eq) emissions and typically measured in tonnes<sup>3</sup>

**CARBON BASELINE** – the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions produced over a period of time (usually one year) and serves as a referencing point for measuring an organisation's carbon emissions and identifying areas for reduction<sup>4</sup>

**CARBON EMISSIONS/EMISSIONS** – carbon compound (such as carbon dioxide) released into the atmosphere, often through human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels such as coal or gas

**CARBON NEUTRAL** – achieving a balance between emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere<sup>5</sup>

**ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE** - changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare

**GREENHOUSE GAS** - Human activities, in particular the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas), emit key greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases). They play a key role in the greenhouse effect, which is a natural effect and vital for regulating the Earth's temperature. However, due to increased concentrations in the atmosphere through human activities, they contribute to global warming<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations: What is Climate Change

<sup>2</sup> European Union Glossary of summaries: Climate action

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organisation – sourced from Youmatter Carbon Footprint simple definition

<sup>4</sup> Our Trace - Baseline Emissions: What are they & How to Calculate

<sup>5</sup> Swinburne University - Carbon Neutral

<sup>6</sup> National Grid - What are Greenhouse Gases

