



Duke Athletics Climate & Sustainability Impact Report FY2024-2025

Executive Summary

Over the past year, Duke Athletics has advanced its integration of climate and sustainability across operations, engagement, and leadership. In collaboration with the Office of Climate and Sustainability and Athletics Facilities & Game Day Operations, the department formalized leadership through the hiring of a full-time Athletics Climate and Sustainability Coordinator, a dedicated Green Devil intern, and the launch of the Duke Athletics Climate Team (ACT), composed of over 40 representatives from more than 20 departments. These efforts have catalyzed student-athlete leadership, fostered cross-department collaboration, and led to a deeper alignment of Duke Athletics with the Climate Commitment. Duke Athletics is emerging as a national model for sustainability in college sports.

Mission & Strategic Alignment

Duke Athletics Climate & Sustainability aims to:

- Optimize operational practices to mitigate environmental impact
- Collaborate with stakeholders, partners, and the community
- Foster a culture of innovation and lead by example
- Mobilize Duke Athletics to contribute to the Duke University Climate Commitment

Key Highlights

- **Duke Athletics Climate & Sustainability Coordinator**
Hired the inaugural Climate and Sustainability Coordinator – *October 2024*
- **The Duke Athletics Climate Team (ACT)**
Introduced in April 2025, including 40+ representatives across 20+ units within Duke athletics to drive climate and sustainability efforts
- **Duke Athletics Climate & Sustainability Website**
Released in April 2025, new site serves as central hub for updates, impact, information, and engagement opportunities related to sustainability in Duke Athletics

Operations and Physical Environment

Events

- **Live Green Bleed Blue Volleyball Game** – *November 3, 2024*
- **Fall Devils Doing Good Gear Drive** – *December 2-12, 2024*
- **Climate and Sustainability Women's Basketball Game** – *February 6, 2025*
- **Devils Doing Good Gear Drive** – *April 14 - 25, 2025*

- **Collegiate Sports Sustainability Conference – July 13 -15, 2025**

Waste Diversion

- **“Leave it in the Bowl”**

To alleviate concourse congestion and improve in-venue waste stream quality, fans are encouraged to leave their waste under their seats at football games. This enables trained cleanup crews to sort materials more effectively, increasing recycling rates and ensuring a more efficient gameday experience.

Ticketing and Passes

- **Digital Ticketing**

Encouraging digital ticketing to reduce paper waste and enhance fan convenience. Mobile tickets provide a more efficient and sustainable way to access events.

Sport	Year	Printed Tickets
Football	2021- 2022	50,580
	2022 - 2023	17,462
	2023 - 2024	12,076
	2024 - 2025	6,912
Basketball (M)	2021- 2022	68,336
	2022 - 2023	34,502
	2023 - 2024	27,481
	2024 - 2025	20,702
Basketball (W)	2021- 2022	14,001
	2022 - 2023	7,187
	2023 - 2024	8,809
	2024 - 2025	4,863

- **Digital Parking Pass**

Encouraging the use of digital parking passes to reduce paper use and streamline the parking experience.

Year	Printed Passes	Digital Passes
2021- 2022	111,190	No
2022 - 2023	87,305	No
2023 - 2024	49,344	YES
2024 - 2025	29,210	YES

Training Table

Training Table is the daily nutrition program for student-athletes, providing performance-focused meals prepared by our hospitality partner, Proof of the Pudding.

- **Locally Sourced Food**

Proof of the Pudding purchases vegetables, honey, dairy products from over 30 local vendors via FreshPoint Local as well as bakery goods, desserts, and more from local shops including [Mad Hatter Bakery](#), [Guglhopf](#), [Favor Desserts](#), [Goat Lady](#)

[DairyAshe County Cheese](#), and more. Proof of the Pudding strives to source 80% of its fresh ingredients from a local source, with this percentage being even higher in the spring, summer, and fall months than in the winter.

- **Compost**
Hospitality provider Proof of the Pudding purchases [ECO products](#) for disposables that are compostable. Approximately 1,000 –1,200 lbs. of food per week is composted from back of house collection via Compost Now.
- **Food donations**
Proof of the pudding works with [Food Recue US-RTP](#) and [Slice 325](#) to donate approximately 100 – 150 lbs of food a week.

Sustainable Equipment

- **Sustainable Furniture**
Duke Athletics has purchased sustainable furniture made from as much certified, recycled, and recyclable materials as possible from Haworth for Blue Devil Tower, Cameron Indoor Stadium, Jack Katz Stadium, Krzyzewski Center, Murray Building, Schwartz-Butters, Scott Family Building, Sheffield Tennis Center, Softball Stadium, Wallace Wade Stadium, and Yoh Football Center with recycled content resulting in reduced carbon emissions.

Average Recycled Content of purchased products by spend:

- Post consumer 25%
- Pre consumer 31%
- New Material 44%

Average Recyclable Content of products by spend:

- 68% recyclable
- 32% non-recyclable

Sustainable Product performance:

- 95% of products Greenguard Certified as Low Emitting (by spend)
- 96% of products BIFMA LEVL certified (by spend)

Based on purchases, the recycled content impact resulted in estimated savings of:

1,210 Metrics Tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) equivalent

Equivalent greenhouse gas emissions:

- 163 homes' energy use for one year
- 3,081,388 miles driven by a gas-powered vehicle

Equivalent carbon sequestered:

- 20,000 tree seedlings grown for 10 years
- 1,200 acres of U.S forests in one year

- **Reverse Vending Machines**

Reverse vending machines (RVMs) are automated machines that accept used beverage containers such as plastic bottles or aluminum cans. The machines scan, sort, and collect the recyclables, helping reduce waste and promote recycling at our venues. Duke has this enhanced waste capture and sorting across four locations in partnership with ATLAS RVM and Coca Cola.

Number of ATLAS RVM'S

4

YTD Bottles and Cans Captured

2,998

Donations

• **Devils Doing Good Gear Drive**

Duke Sustainable Athletics Group, in collaboration with Duke Athletics and the Nike Pilot Program, executed the Devils Doing Good Gear Drive, supporting the circular economy. Lightly used shoes were distributed to local partners and end-of-life shoes were recycled through Nike Grind. Nike Grind is a sustainability program by Nike that recycles old athletic shoes and manufacturing scrap into new products. The materials are ground up and repurposed for use in sports surfaces, apparel, footwear, and more.

Fall 2024

326 pairs of shoes

459 clothing items

74 pieces of athletic equipment

Spring 2025

199 pairs of shoes

305 clothing items

23 pieces of athletic equipment

All-time Total

1,837 pairs of shoes

764 articles of clothing

97 pieces of athletic equipment

• **K-Ville Supply Collection Initiative**

Initiative to donate supplies from K-Ville organized by members of the Duke Student Government (DSG), the Green Devils, and the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS). Nearly 50 tarps and 10 sleeping bags were donated to western North Carolina for victims of Hurricane Helene in partnership with Bagginit4kids. In addition, over 100 items including tarps, air mattresses, pillows, blankets, and chairs were donated to Switchback Gear Collective.

Facilities & Operations

In partnership with Duke Facilities Management Department (FMD), Athletics Climate and Sustainability made significant progress in addressing high-impact operational areas through targeted assessments, energy-saving strategies, and future planning.

• **Event Modes**

The FMD Building Energy Group collaborated with Duke Athletics on a project to develop a software application to allow athletics staff to easily schedule “event modes” for high-occupancy athletics events. Through this programming, Duke Athletics is able to save substantial energy by reducing the number of hours buildings are in event mode.

- **Facility Assessments**

Such assessments evaluate athletic buildings and venues to identify opportunities for improvement in areas like energy efficiency, water use, management, and overall sustainability. These assessments help guide upgrades that enhance performance, reduce environmental impact, and support long-term operational goals.

Assessments were conducted at Taishoff Aquatics Pavilion, Cameron Indoor Stadium, Yoh Football Center, Pascal Field House.

Energy Efficient Lighting

Projects completed in FY 24-25:

- **LED Installations**

- Jack Combs bullpens, dugouts, and stadium
- Yoh Football Center players' lounge, received approval for LEDs at Jack Combs stadium
- Sheffield Tennis Center

- **VYV Antimicrobial Lighting Installation**

- Sheffield Tennis Center
- Yoh Football Center players and recruiting lounge and locker room to enhance cleanliness and wellbeing
- Wilson Center wrestling weightroom and wrestling locker room

Projects assessed in FY 24-25:

- **LED Retrofit**

- Pascal Indoor Field, Taishoff Aquatics Pavilion, and Intramural Fields

- **Occupancy Sensors**

- Identifying high-traffic spaces for sensor installation

Energy Efficient Projects

Projects completed in FY 24-25:

- **HVAC setbacks**

An energy-saving strategy where heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems are adjusted during unoccupied hours to use less energy. By allowing indoor temperatures to drift slightly from the normal range when spaces aren't in use, HVAC setbacks help reduce utility costs and environmental impact without affecting comfort.

- All indoor facilities
 - HVAC setback strategy applied to optimize energy use, Temperature ranges: 65–75°F (occupied), 62–78°F (unoccupied) or narrower
- Hours adjusted to maximize time in unoccupied mode
 - Ex: Pascal Field House
 - HVAC setback strategy applied to optimize energy use (estimated ~\$90,000–\$100,000 annually). Temperature ranges: 65–75°F (occupied), 62–78°F (unoccupied)

- Ex: Blue Devil Tower
 - “Event-mode” HVAC scheduling achieved ~\$60,000 in heating and cooling energy savings over 16 months

Projects assessed in FY 24-25:

- **Yoh Football Center**
 - Exploring automation of garage doors to improve energy control
 - Full analysis of three AHUs (Air Handling Units) to ensure optimal operation
 - Push button overrides system mapped, pending use assessment
- **K Center**
 - Identified opportunity to add a chilled water fan coil unit as part of the upcoming renovation (pending design and funding). Will allow unoccupied shutdown of large air handling unit that must run 24/7 to serve video equipment room.

Engagement, Partnerships, and Education

Applied Learning

- **Assessing Duke Athletics Field Irrigation Efficiency** – In partnership with the ENV 790 course titled Sustainable Operations and Supply Chains, graduate students performed a semester-long water use assessment of Duke Football’s natural grass fields – Spring of 2025

Corporate Partners

- **Liberty Mutual** - Sponsored the inaugural Climate and Sustainability Women’s Basketball Game - February 6th, 2025
- **Nike** - Partnered with the Nike Recycling and Donation Pilot Program, supporting the Devils Doing Good Shoe Drive and promoting circularity in athletics.
- **Coca Cola** - Through partnership with Coca Cola implemented reverse vending machines in Bryan Center, Cameron Indoor, and Wallace Wade Concourse

Community Partners

Duke Athletics collaborated with 10+ local organizations to extend the reach of sustainability and service efforts through donations and volunteering efforts:

- **Durham Rescue Mission**
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Durham and Orange Counties**
- **Rogers-Herr Middle School**
- **BaggingIt4Kids**
- **Urban Ministries**
- **Fleet Feet**
- **Note in the Pocket**
- **Open Table Ministry**
- **The Scrap Thrift**
- **Switchback Gear Collective**

Alumni Engagement and Development

Duke Athletics is seeking to build a legacy in climate and sustainability with alumni and donor support. In 2024-2025, Duke laid the foundation for long-term impact by designing new pathways for supporters to directly contribute.

- **Climate & Sustainability Coordinator Fund**
- **Athletics Climate Team (ACT) Fund**
- **LED Stadium Lighting**
- **VYV Antimicrobial Lighting**
- **University Waste Restructuring**

Internal Marketing and Promotion

- [Collegiate Sports Sustainability Conference Debuts New Network](#) – July 17, 2025
- [ACE in Costa Rica](#) – July 2025
- [Assessing Duke Athletics Field Irrigation Efficiency | Office of Climate and Sustainability](#) – Spring, 2025
- [Duke Athletics Climate and Sustainability Website](#) – April 22, 2025
- [Duke Athletics Climate Team Launch](#) – April 22, 2025
- [Duke Athletics Climate Team: Leaders on and off the field](#) – April 21, 2025
- [Climate Pathfinder: Leading the Green Devil Way](#) – April 21, 2025
- [Grassroots Efforts Make Duke Sports Greener](#) – April 21, 2025
- [A Slam Dunk for a Sustainable Environment](#) – March 28, 2025
- [Jordan Wood Sustainable Fashion Journey](#) – February 8, 2025
- [Women's Hoops to Host Climate and Sustainability Game Feb. 6](#) – January 28, 2025
- [Duke Sustainable Athletics Group: The Blue Devils kicking off a rising tide of going green](#) – January 20, 2025
- [ACE Alumna Receive Climate Commitment Leadership Award](#) – November 12, 2024
- [Duke Student Athletes Receive Climate Commitment Award](#) – October 29, 2024
- [Burns, Tomlak Represent Duke at 2024 GSA Summit](#) - July 2024
- [Duke student-athletes honored at the ESPYS for environmental advocacy](#) – July 19, 2024

External Marketing and Promotion

- [US Universities as Climate Action Leaders: Duke University's Holistic Approach to Driving a Sustainable Future through Education, Research, Operations, Sports and Public Health Response](#) – May 30, 2025
- [Alayna & Brandon: 2024 Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Honorees Driving Environmental Change](#) - April 11, 2025
- [Duke Athletics Announces New Climate Initiative](#) – April 22, 2025
- [Sustainable Development in Sport's: Duke's Green Initiatives, Student Leadership, and Career Opportunities](#) – April 22, 2025
- [Duke introduces Athletics Climate Team](#) -April 24, 2025

- [*Duke student-athletes honored at the ESPYs for environmental advocacy – July 19, 2024*](#)

Leadership and Innovation

Student-Athlete Empowerment

- **Duke Sustainable Athletics Group**
Founded by student-athletes in 2023, currently consists of 30+ members and has contributed significantly to the Devils Doing Good Gear drive and Green Games.
- **Rubenstein Student-Athlete Civic Engagement Program (ACE Costa Rica)**
15 ACE student-athlete participants spend two weeks living in the community of Gandoca, Costa Rica, where they engaged in organic farming, environmental conservation, and sustainability practices. They completed 58 hours of night patrols in support of local sea turtle conservation efforts and contributed over 30 hours to beach cleanup efforts.
- **Jordan Wood Sustainable Fashion Journey**
Duke sophomore Jordan Wood showcased her off-court interest in fashion and her efforts to apply sustainable practices through a special video feature.
- **Green Sports Alliance in Miami**
Duke Track/XC's Sean Morello and Duke Rowing's Noelle Fuchs attended the Green Sports in Miami and led a breakout session on College Sports Sustainability.

External Leadership & Influence

- **Launched the Duke Athletics Climate Team**
A cross-functional team of 40+ staff representing more than 20 departments across Athletics and the University.

Conference Leadership and Networks

- **Collegiate Sports Sustainability Conference**
Duke hosted the Collegiate Sports Sustainability Conference consisting of more than 75 leaders, professionals, and students from more than 50 universities and organizations nationwide on July 13-15, 2025.
- **Collegiate Sports Sustainability Network**
Duke is a founding member of a group of colleges and universities focused on sports sustainability.
- **Green Sports Alliance**
Duke has been a member of the Green Sports Alliance since 2023.
- **Southeastern Student Sustainability Conference Athletics Tour**
Duke hosted sustainable athletics facility tour for 40+ students.
- **SALA Series Athletics Tour**
Duke Athletics hosted SALA Series Event in the Champion Club and sustainable Athletics Tour for 20 industry leaders.
- **Collegiate Sports Conference Sustainability Tour**

Duke Athletics hosted 55+ colleges, universities, and companies on a sustainable athletics tour.

Awards and Recognition

- [Green Sports Alliance Next Generation Leadership award](#) - June 10, 2025
- [Climate Commitment Leadership Award](#) - October 25, 2024
- [ESPN Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award](#) - July 11, 2024
- [Next Generation Leadership Award](#) - June 12, 2025

By the Numbers

Waste Diverted

- 97 pieces of equipment
- 150+ camping items
- 459 clothing items
- 604 pairs of shoes
- 1,000 lbs of compost/week
- 2,998 bottles and cans

Green Games

- 2 Games (Volleyball and WBB)
- 2 Green Devils of the Game
- 2 prizes awarded
- 4 in-game contestants
- 3,124 fans engaged

Engagement

- 9+ community partners
- 20+ departments
- 40+ athletics staff
- 50+ student-athletes
- 100+ tour participants
- 150,000+ views on social media

Influence and Engagement

Recognition

- 22 articles featuring athletics climate efforts
- 2 ESPN Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award Recipients
- 2024 Climate Commitment Award Recipients for Duke Sustainable Athletics Group
- 2025 Green Sports Alliance Next Generation Leadership Award

Social media

- DSAG
 - Views: 12,811
- Duke Athletics
 - Views: 17, 215
- Duke Women's Basketball
 - Impressions: 64,998
- Sustainable Duke
 - Impressions: 89,940
- Duke University
 - Views: 147,120

*Social media includes all posts related to Athletics Sustainability on Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and X

History of Athletics Sustainability

- 2025: First Athletics Climate and Sustainability Impact Report Released
- 2025: Duke Athletics Attends Green Sports Alliance in Miami
- 2025: [Duke Athletics Climate Team Launched](#)
- 2025: [Climate and Sustainability Women's Basketball Game](#)
- 2024: [Bleed Blue Live Green Volleyball Match](#)
- 2024: [Duke Student-Athletes Win Climate Commitment Leadership Award](#)
- 2024: [Athletes attend Green Sports Alliance in Los Angeles, CA](#)
- 2024: Athletics Climate and Sustainability Coordinator Established
- 2024: [Duke Student-Athletes win ESPN Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award](#)

- 2024: Athletics Climate and Sustainability Internship Established
- 2023: Training Table Green Week Pilot Program
- 2023: [Climate Commitment Football Game](#)
- 2023: [Bleed Blue Live Green Field Hockey Game](#)
- 2023: Duke Athletics Attends Green Sports Alliance in Seattle, WA
- 2023: [Duke Athletics becomes member of the Green Sports Alliance](#)
- 2023: [Devils Doing Good Gear Drive Established](#)
- 2023: [Duke Sustainable Athletics Group Founded](#)
- 2022: [Duke Climate Commitment Established](#)
- 2022: [Field Hockey Tokyo GT Turf](#)
- 2019: [Duke Publishes High Performance Buildings Framework](#)
- 2016: [Blue Devil Tower Earns LEED Silver](#)
- 2014: [Field Hockey Stadium LED Lights](#)
- 2014-2019: [Zero-Waste Football](#)
- 2013: [Zero-Waste Kville](#)
- 2008: [First Men's Basketball Green Game](#)

Looking Ahead FY 2025-26

For more information see the *Duke Athletics Climate and Sustainability Goal and Strategies Document for FY 2025-2026*:

- **Impact Reduction**
Goal: Reduce the environmental footprint of Athletics Operations and facilities
- **Financial Viability**
Goal: Mobilize sustainability efforts to support long-term operational efficiency, cost-conscious decision making, and value-driven investments
- **Community Engagement**
Goal: Strengthen collaboration across Duke and with the broader Durham community through sustainability in sport.
- **Student-Athlete Development**
Goal: Empower student-athletes as sustainability leaders and equip them with skills for impact driven careers
- **Brand Elevation**
Goal: Position Duke as a national leader in sustainable athletics.