



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2018 – 2023

DOING OUR PART



VIC WEST LAWN BOWLS & CROQUET



**Victoria, British Columbia
Canada**





SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

“The best way to predict the future is to create it” (Abraham Lincoln)

Sustainability is a pressing issue the world is facing today.

Our Vic West community Lawn Bowls and Croquet organization recognizes that to prosper over time we must work to mitigate our environmental footprint as well as working towards financial performance.

Sustainability makes good business sense.

Our view of sustainability is based on three broad pillars: a fundamental commitment to social and cultural equity (our members and community); economic health (our financial prosperity); and environmental stewardship (our impact on the environment). Collectively, we believe these pillars are the foundation for a strong, vibrant and healthy organization.

The Sustainability Action Plan, expresses our commitment to embed sustainability principles into our everyday decision making. This allows us to operate with forward-looking business practices designed to help us advance environmental stewardship. It is a dynamic document and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis as action items are completed or revised.

It is aligned with the City of Victoria’s Sustainability Framework and Climate Leadership Action Plan, as well as Federal and Provincial sustainability strategies. We believe in **doing our part** and we now have a process for identifying and implementing actions to contribute to our organization’s, the community’s and the City’s vision for the long term vitality and resilience of our South Vancouver Island community.

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The **Sustainability Action Plan** guides our organization to: **(1)** improve environmental performance in accordance with sustainability principles; **(2)** establish actions to effect such improvements; and, **(3)** measure and report progress.

The 9 Principles and associated **27 Actions** are as follows:

1. Getting our Priorities Straight:

We want to establish and integrate policies, programs and practices for conducting operations in our community organization in an environmental sound manner.

Action: (ongoing) – *Integrate the Sustainability Action Plan into the day-to-day function of the organization; and, remain aware of sustainability practices and policies within all levels of government.*

Action: (completed 2021) - *Designate a member to act as an on-site Environmental monitor (one year term) to coordinate and oversee implementation of the Sustainability Action Plan; to help reinforce the commitment to sustainability within the organization's culture and track sustainability actions.*

Action: (annually) – *The President, at scheduled intervals throughout the year will lead the Executive Team through a review of the Sustainability Action Plan and encourage brainstorming to identify new ideas to add to it.*

2. Social and Cultural Equity:

We want to create a sustainable organization within the local community that is respectful and inclusive and promotes wellbeing, equity, diversity, empowerment, democratic input; and health and safety for all its members and visitors.

Action: (2021/22) – *Build cultural connections with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) to create opportunities and limit barriers for new-comers in our community to participate in our year-round recreational and social activities.*

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Action: (2022) – *Implement a formal policy and procedures that promotes tolerance and respect for the rights of all our members and visitors and that ensures everyone can enjoy a positive, safe and secure environment free from bullying and harassment.*

Action: (ongoing) – *Build and strengthen community engagement efforts with schools and community organizations to exchange ideas and develop activities for recreation and social events that appeal to and support diverse groups (e.g. visually impaired, disabled, ethnicities and genders).*

Action: (completed 2021) – *Territory acknowledgement of the traditional lands of the Lkwungen Peoples (Songhees and Esquimalt) posted on all social media platforms and acknowledged at tournaments and other gatherings.*

3. Prior Assessment:

We want to assess environmental impacts before starting a new activity or project, or when decommissioning equipment or other on-site infrastructure.

Action: (2021/22) – *Work with the Greenkeeper to assess the use of existing synthetic pesticides and herbicides (skin absorption) on the green; and, evaluate alternative organic applications.*

Action: (ongoing) – *Evaluate surplus equipment, materials or substances for recycling, reusing or repurposing prior to final disposal.*

Action: (Completed 2022) – *Acquire an absorbent spill kit for any contaminated residue leaks or spills within the facility or outdoor environment.*





4. Facilities and Operations:

We want to operate our facility and conduct all activities maximizing the efficient use of energy and materials; minimize adverse environmental impacts; and ensure the safe and responsible disposal of waste materials.

Action: (by 2022) – Replace roof singles and install solar panels to power the entire facility to help combat greenhouse emissions; reduce high electrical costs; free up cash flow; and, support the local economy (use local contractor).

Action: (ongoing) - Work towards conversion (from fossil fuel) or purchase (electric/propane) all maintenance equipment used on the bowling/croquet green.

Action: (Completed 2020) - Re-paved four sidewalks (4000 sq. ft.) surrounding the bowling/croquet green with a non-slip, impact absorbing environmentally friendly rubber surface made from locally sourced 100% recycled tires.

Action: (Completed 2018) - Retro fitted facility with energy efficient windows, doors, programmable heat pump (with back-up baseboard heaters), LED overhead lighting and solar powered motion sensor exterior lights.

5. Products and Services:

We want to provide products or services with no negative environmental impacts and are safe in their intended use; and can be recycled, reused or disposed safely.

Action: (Completed 2021/22) – Convert to using eco-friendly cleaning products for use in and around the facility and reduce the use of plastic bags and to use composting bags for garbage and food waste.

Action: (Completed by 2021/22) – Convert to using eco-friendly chlorine free 100% recycled toilet and paper towels, computer paper and other paper products.

Action: (Completed 2019) - Constructed facility compost box for grass clippings and turf cores (from the green maintenance), general garden waste and appropriate food waste for re-use as compost on facility gardens.

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6. Contractors and Suppliers:

We want to promote the awareness of our Sustainability Action Plan with contractors/suppliers working at our facility and, where appropriate, ask for their on-site activities to be consistent with our principles.

Action: (ongoing) - Provide a copy or explain the principles of the Sustainability Action Plan to contractors/suppliers prior to the start of a project to reduce the project's environmental impact.

Action: (ongoing) – Make every effort to source contractors/suppliers that demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and who minimize water use, save power and optimize fuel use, protect air quality and health, use clean and safe materials and conserve and recycle waste material.

Action: (2021/22) – Encourage contractors/suppliers to try and reduce unnecessary packaging (e.g. plastics/styrofoam) prior to delivery of supplies and materials and request they recycle or divert useable waste products after project completion from landfills.

7. Membership Education:

We want to educate, train and motivate our members to conduct their activities in an environmentally sound manner.

Action: (by 2021/22) – Encourage members to eliminate the use of single use plastic or non-recycled paper beverage containers.

Action: (annually) – Honour 'Earth Day' each year (April 22) by providing information to the members on initiatives such as recycling, conserving energy and the importance of environmental stewardship.

Action: (by 2023) – Encourage members to “leave the car at home” and car pool, use public transit, walk or bicycle to the facility (providing a bicycle rack).

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Transfer of Information:

We want to contribute to the ‘common effort for a healthy environment’ and the transfer of information on sound sustainability practices throughout the Bowls BC member clubs, affiliates, all levels of government and the community at large.

Action: (ongoing) - Ensure the organization’s website, Facebook and other social media platforms are up to date with the most current information on our sustainability initiatives.

Action: (ongoing) – Where possible, liaise with other organizations like Bowls Canada, BC Bowls, BSI Governance Committee, Vic West Community Center, local businesses, developers and organizations to exchange information on sustainability initiatives.

Action: (ongoing) – Continue to advance partnerships and constructive engagement with all levels of government and local businesses by meeting with staff to ‘keep the ideas flowing’ and identify emerging opportunities and challenges.

9. Compliance and Reporting:

We want to measure our sustainability performance by conducting an annual environmental audit of our ‘Sustainability Action Plan’; and, to provide this information on request to members and the public.

Action: (annually) - The ‘Environmental Monitor’ will prepare a brief annual report for presentation to the Annual Fall General Membership Meeting (AGM) outlining progress to implement sustainability actions and gather any new actions for addition to the Sustainability Action Plan.

Cover photo sources/credits: Vic West Lawn Bowls and NPM (private collection).

