

GREEN ATHLETICS

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Overview

The student-athlete run Green Athletics group drives sustainability in the UVA Athletics department through education, stewardship, and leadership. Members are passionate about leading conversations surrounding sustainability and climate change in the Athletic department and encouraging small shifts in day-to-day team operations that can help UVA teams build more sustainable habits. These efforts have become increasingly important in helping student-athletes and Athletics leadership identify ways to effectively address and reduce the collective impact of UVA's Athletic events within UVA's larger environmental footprint. The Green Athletics group also works closely with UVA's Office for Sustainability to help advocate for more sustainable practices and initiatives.

2020-2021 Goals:

- Increase number of zero-waste athletic events through targeted events such as Green Games or Green Sports Weekend campaigns
- Reduce waste, energy, and water consumption of sports venues and training areas
- Engage with the Charlottesville community by collaborating with residents in projects such as food recovery, clean up events, and sports gear donations
- Certify more than 50% of UVA Athletic teams through the Green Team Certification Program by the end of Spring 2021

- Create more accessible pathways for sustainability knowledge to be shared with fellow athletes and Athletic leadership

Current Initiatives:

- Continue to expand Green Team Certification, including a team competition
- Plan Spring 2021 Hoos Choice Awards as a zero-waste event
- Host a Spring 2021 Green Weekend with baseball and softball
- Continue to support the ACC Sustainable Athletes group
- Develop a food recovery program at John Paul Jones Arena flexible for all events hosted in the arena
- Launch the Moped Collaborative program to provide gently used mopeds to students and community members in need through a partnership with the International Rescue Committee

Yearly Progress Update

Accomplishments:

- Updated recycling and compost signage at the John Paul Jones student-athlete dining hall
- Hosted a Fall 2019 Green Weekend with women's volleyball, soccer, and field hockey to promote waste reduction initiatives
- Met with coaches and/or athletes from each team to discuss sports sustainability initiatives, such as Green Team Certification
- Collaborated with The Chris Long Foundation to promote the [Hoops2O](#) campaign on Grounds
- Initiated and helped organize the ACC Sustainable Athletes group, the first conference-wide student-athlete group focused on sports sustainability efforts
- Moderated first student-athlete panel held during ACC Sports Sustainability Conference

Green Team Certification

Created by the Green Athletics Group, Green Team Certification promotes sustainable actions and environmental consciousness within UVA Athletics teams. In addition to education, it enables teams to contribute to the efforts to meet UVA's carbon, fossil fuel, and waste goals. Teams can perform various sustainable actions, such as hosting a zero-waste event, to obtain points. Once a team has accumulated 10 points, they are Green Team Certified. Learn more about what sustainable actions have been undertaken by teams on the [Green Team Certification Leaderboard](#).

UVA Football and Basketball Green Game Results:

Green Game Football and Basketball are friendly competitions for colleges and universities around the country to promote waste reduction at home football and basketball games during the Gameday Recycling Challenge (football) and Recyclemania 2 (basketball) competitions.

During the 2019 Football Gameday Recycling Challenge, UVA Athletics achieved a waste diversion rate of 59%, placing UVA 3rd in the ACC and 15th in the nation. This number means that 59% of all waste (by weight) from inside the stadium and the surrounding tailgates was diverted from the landfill.

During the winter 2020 Basketball Gameday Recycling Challenge, UVA Athletics achieved a waste diversion rate of 79%, placing UVA 1st in the ACC for diversion and 10th in the country. To note, the 2020 competition are based on weeks 1-5 only (Feb 2-Mar 7) due to COVID-19 and early campus closures.

Green Weekend Results:

The Green Games took place during the Fall 2019 Green Weekend, which was organized by student-athletes and UVA Sustainability. Volunteers helped fans at a women’s soccer game, volleyball game, and field hockey game learn how to appropriately dispose of their waste materials into composting, recycling, and landfill bins.

The waste audit at the baseball game consisted of hand-sorting all disposed materials following the game to assess how much waste from a typical baseball game could be composted or recycled (i.e. diverted from the landfill). With zero-waste requiring 90% or more materials diverted, the waste audit results of 89% landfill diversion showed there was a ready opportunity for making all baseball games zero-waste.

SPORT	DIVERSION RATE	YEAR
W Soccer	74%	Fall 2019
	91% (zero-waste)	Fall 2018
Baseball	89%	Spring 2019
Volleyball	55%	Fall 2019
Field Hockey	55 lbs diverted	Fall 2019

Contact Information and Affiliated Websites

Student-athletes interested in joining the Green Athletics group, or learning more about how to implement sustainability efforts within their own teams and to influence greater sustainability across the UVA Athletics program, can reach out to viriniagreenathletics@gmail.com.

- [Virginia Green Athletics Instagram](#)
- Sustainability in UVA Athletics
- [Green Athletics](#)
- [Recyclemania](#)