SPORTS
FOR
CLIMATE
ACTION

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

As part of the global response to climate change, which requires the involvement of all actors in society, UN Climate Change gathered sports organizations and their stakeholders around a new movement for climate action. As a result, the Sports for Climate Action Framework was launched in 2018. This framework aims to guide environmental sustainability efforts within the sports sector while leveraging the widespread interest in sports activities to engage the public on climate change.

Conservative estimates suggest that the sports sector contributes 1% to annual global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause global warming. On the other hand, sports are not immune to the impacts of climate change. Athletes, sports infrastructure, logistics, events and communities engaging in sporting activities are all witnessing the result of rising global temperatures and feeling the effects of hazards such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, storm activity, shorter winters and so on.

This is why UN Climate Change and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as the secretariat to the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), with support from adidas, joined forces to develop this e-learning course for sports organizations to promote global resilience and solidarity in climate action, through the power of sports.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The e-course provides knowledge about the role of sports in the climate change conversation and how sports organizations can drive positive change towards a low-emission, carbon-resilient pathway. While open to anyone interested, it is primarily designed for the staff of sports organizations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Building on the Introduction to Sports for Climate Action course, this e-course provides an overview of how climate change and sports are linked, and how to strengthen the sustainability of the sports sector while leveraging the widespread interest in sports to engage different stakeholders and the public on climate change.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1 DESCRIBE THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN SPORTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

2 IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS, ADAPT, ENGAGE AND ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH THE POWER OF SPORTS.

3 IDENTIFY ENTRY POINTS FOR INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO BUSINESS STRATEGY AND FINANCIAL PLANNING IN SPORTS.

4 DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS TO DRIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN SPORTS.

5 PRESENT EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTION AND ENGAGEMENT IN SPORTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION.

6 DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE RELEVANCE OF CLIMATE ACTION IN SPORTS TO PROMOTE CLIMATE SOLIDARITY.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The e-course consists of five self-standing, self-paced modules covering a range of topics. In around four hours, it combines various learning experiences and engaging content, including dedicated videos and interviews with relevant sports personalities, coupled with case studies, short exercises and links to additional resources so that participants can understand and apply knowledge and skills gained.
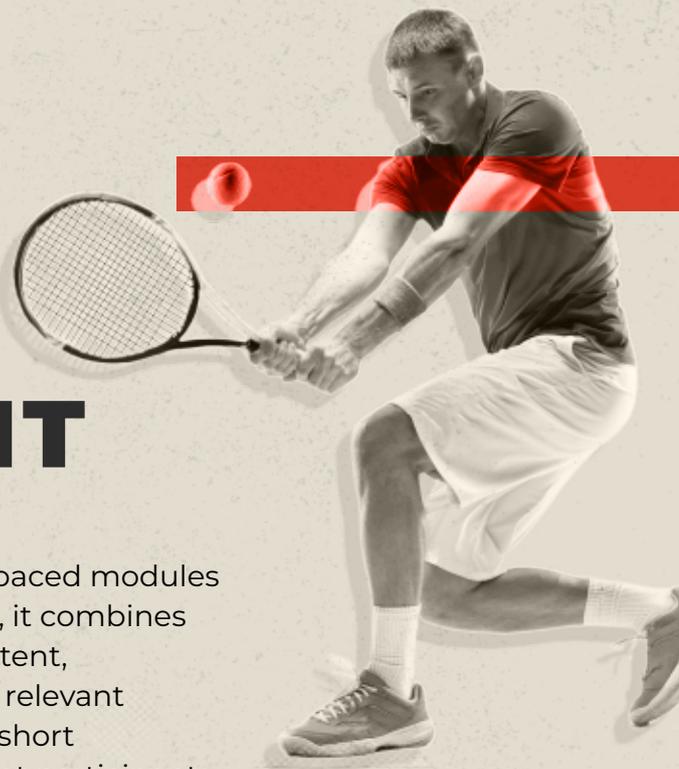
MODULE 1: WINNING THE CLIMATE GAME

MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION IN SPORTS

This module explores how sports organizations can measure and limit their greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change. It also discusses adaptation strategies to enhance the resilience of sports activities, organizations, and the communities they engage with.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1 EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION ACTION AND THEIR IMPORTANCE.

2 IDENTIFY SOURCES OF SPORT-RELATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND KEY STEPS FOR MEASURING AND ADDRESSING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS.

3 IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROMOTE CLIMATE SOLIDARITY FOR ALL.

MODULE 2: THE GAME PLAN FOR GREEN SPORTS

This module addresses how to get support from leadership to implement climate initiatives, highlighting benefits and opportunities. It also explains how sports organizations can integrate climate change into their business strategies, develop a climate action plan, and incorporate climate considerations into financial planning and resource mobilization.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1 IDENTIFY ENTRY POINTS FOR BUILDING THE CASE FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND INTEGRATING IT INTO A BUSINESS STRATEGY.

2 PRESENT KEY ELEMENTS FOR DEVELOPING A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR A SPORTS ORGANIZATION.

3 DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR INCORPORATING CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS INTO FINANCIAL PLANNING AND FOR MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR CLIMATE ACTION.

MODULE 3: TEAMING UP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

This module explains the importance of partnering with different stakeholders to promote climate action. It focuses, in particular, on collaboration along the sports supply chain to accelerate climate action and enhance sustainability.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1 EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN SPORTS.

2 CATEGORIZE YOUR STAKEHOLDERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION BASED ON NEEDS AND INTERESTS.

3 LIST KEY ENTRY POINTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN SUPPLY CHAINS AND SPONSORSHIPS IN SPORTS.

MODULE 4: LEVERAGING THE SPORTS PLATFORM

ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT

This module focuses on the unique potential for sports to mobilize society for climate action. It explores how sports organizations can develop engagement approaches to encourage their stakeholders – including staff, athletes, fans, and communities – to act on climate change.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1 EXPLAIN HOW SPORTS CAN MOBILIZE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS IN SOCIETY FOR CLIMATE ACTION.

2 DISCUSS EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES FOR CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH SPORTS.

3 PRESENT CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN SPORTS.

MODULE 5: KEEPING TRACK AND MOVING FORWARD

This module explains why transparency is important to climate action. It outlines how to keep an organization climate accountable and how to communicate progress in achieving specific climate targets. It invites participants to reflect on their next steps in climate action and concludes by reaffirming the power of sports in addressing the global climate crisis.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1 EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN CLIMATE ACTION.

2 IDENTIFY KEY ELEMENTS IN COLLECTING ACCURATE AND RELEVANT DATA ON CLIMATE ACTION AND COMMUNICATING PROGRESS.

3 DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS YOU COULD TAKE TO ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION.

CERTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

The e-course contains short quizzes within the modules to strengthen the learner's understanding of the content. A final assessment (quiz) is also available at the end of the course. A certificate of completion is awarded to learners who complete:

1 ALL VIDEOS, INTERACTIVE LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES.

2 THE FINAL QUIZ WITH A SCORE OF 70% OR HIGHER WITHIN THREE ATTEMPTS.

Once these conditions are met, the certificate will automatically become available for participants to download on the platform in the "certification" tab.

COURSE FEEDBACK

At the end of the course, learners are encouraged to complete the course evaluation survey, which measures their satisfaction with the course. Participants will also have the opportunity to take part in a follow-up survey, which assesses the concrete application of knowledge, as well as in the annual impact surveys UN CC:Learn organizes with UN CC:Learn Alumni.

TECHNICAL POINTS

The course is available online to all learners registered to the UN CC:Learn e-learning platform.

All activities are accessible via smartphones and are mobile-compatible. The course takes into account the needs of people with disabilities. It works on any modern version of a browser such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Internet Explorer. Java, cookies, and pop-ups must be enabled.