RESILIENT

GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE SUMMIT
MAY 5-7 | 2026 CLEVELAND, OH



IMPACT REPORT

2026

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SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS

> The ocean powers every second breath that we take, so let's use that breath to tell the stories that inspire."
>
> - Jenna DiPaolo of Ocean Conservancy

1 Networking Reception

9 Networking Breaks

1 Pickleball Clinic

1 Community Impact Event

5 Local Venue Tours

33 Prestigious Awardees

The 2026 Green Sports Alliance Summit spanned three days in Cleveland, Ohio, with the theme "RESILIENT" celebrating the people behind the movement: the staff, players, operators, and advocates who continue to innovate and lead through uncertainty. We brought together players, leaders, and champions from the sports and entertainment sectors to highlight how venues, teams, leagues, organizations, athletes, and corporate partners worldwide are actively addressing and making a difference in the environmental and social challenges faced by our communities.

At Huntington Convention Center & Progressive Field, the Green Sports Alliance hosted a networking reception, keynotes, panel discussions, fireside chats, breakout sessions, innovation exhibitors, and an NBA Playoffs watch party for our diverse group of attendees.

The Green Sports Alliance was proud to once again unite the sports and entertainment industries at the 16th annual Summit and leave a legacy of sustainability in our host city of Cleveland.

26 Sponsors & Partners

29 Innovation Exhibitors

19 Main Stage Sessions

30 Breakout Sessions

13 Huddles



ATTENDEE BREAKDOWN

551

Registered Attendees



TOP 5 INDUSTRIES

1. Sports & Entertainment
2. Sustainability & Environmental Services
3. Food & Beverage
4. Consulting & Advisory Services
5. Higher Education

COMMON JOB TITLES

- Director of Sustainability
- Director of Operations
- Facilities Manager
- Director of Partnerships
- Business Development
- Professor / Student

134
Cities Represented

8
Countries Represented

455
Different Companies









> You have to change minds, and what better platform than what we have here in sports."
>
> - Mike Richter, Brightcore Energy

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



16
Schools Represented

Columbia University
Cuyahoga Community College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Binghamton University
University of Michigan
University of Calgary
Baldwin Wallace University
Boston College
University of Washington
Macalester College
Wake Forest University
Georgetown University
Auburn University
University of Vermont
UCLA Anderson
Macalester College

30
Volunteers

CONNECT
EXPERIENCE
LEARN

11
Organizations Represented

Eastern RI Conservation District
WSP
Cleveland Cavaliers
The Team
Green Slate Advisors
Silent Running LLC
Eco-Products
EcoAthletes
Mitsubishi Electric Classic
Sarasota County Government
USEFULL

ATTENDEE ENGAGEMENT

THROUGH THE EVENT APP

10,791 Profile Views

3,631 Messages Sent

1,267 Business Cards Exchanged









> Now, we have to be the most focused, most calculated, and most resilient to advance our mission. If we want to see these successes carried forward to the next generations, it's going to take a collective resilient mindset."
>
> - Michael Kraus of Green Sports Alliance

SPONSORS


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3R


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VEOLIA


Levy


Copia
resources


Tradewater


bcf


STX


BradyPLUS


intuitive


reusables


THE
GIVING
GROVE


THE TEAM

EXHIBITORS

Georgia-Pacific GP PRO
3R
DENALI
Churchill Container
DART
maxR
Honeywell
CleanRiver Recycling Solutions
50CUT
ECO Products
Force of Nature PRO
Futamura
Huhtamaki
intuitive
Landmark Studio Design
MaCher
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Discover Wonder
Okapi Environmental Services
ORWAK Part of Group
rworld
Rainmaker.Earth
RAREFORM
REFRESH | GLASS
reusables
Rubbermaid Commercial Products
Springclean
WORLD CENTRIC For a Better World
zerocircle








SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE

> People can make a big difference by making small, conscientious, intentional choices–rather than feeling like they have to do everything all at once. Those things build up over time. That's how we were able to go from a 27% diversion rate in our first year of operations up to a 90% zero waste diversion rate by 2024.
>
> - Courtney Mueller of St. Louis CITY SC











Click here to watch the 2026 Summit recap on Youtube

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT







The Green Sports Alliance proudly partnered with **Davey Tree** for this year's Summit Community Impact Project.

In collaboration with Davey Tree & Western Reserve Land Conservancy, **17 volunteers** joined a two-hour community green space clean up at **Thurgood Mashrshall Green**, a 2.6-acre abandoned elementary school in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, developed through a collaborative effort to provide residents with access to quality green space. The site was redesigned with input from local residents, creating a safe and welcoming environment for recreation, gathering and connection. The project also introduced over 100 new trees and 70-80% shade coverage, significantly enhancing the city's tree canopy and contributing to long-term environmental and community benefits.

Volunteers removed litter from planting beds and paved areas, wiped down park signage and play equipment, hand pulled weeds, and mulched shrub beds and tree pits in a 6000 sq. ft. area. Garbage bags, gloves, safety vests, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc. were provided by Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

- **Improved Soil Conditions**
- **Cleaner, Safer Environment**
- **Encourages Outside Activity**
- **Promotes Community Pride**

17
Volunteers

Sponsored by:

DAVEY
Proven Solutions for a Growing World

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE

PICKLE BALL CLINIC & TOURNAMENT







The Green Sports Alliance partnered with **Veolia** to give attendees an opportunity to stay active during the Summit at a pickleball clinic & tournament.

18 attendees joined a two-hour clinic & tournament at the Cleveland Pickleball Center. Pickleball is a wonderful sport that offers great exercise and is accessible to all players. It's a sport that truly brings generations together, making it a perfect activity for our event. Players of all levels were welcomed!

Veolia was the proud sponsor this event. As the Official Sustainability Partner of the PPA Tour, the leading league of the fastest growing sport in America, they are committed to promoting sustainable practices in sports.

Norman Vossschulte from the Philadelphia Eagles and Zach Ruiz from the Miami Heat were the winners of the Veolia Pickleball Tournament at the 2026 Green Sports Alliance Summit!

18
Players

Sponsored by:

VEOLIA

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE

Venue Tours provided Summit attendees with an opportunity to visit and learn about the sustainable aspects of local stadiums and arenas sponsored by **Aramark**. They offer insight into local best practices for waste diversion, energy efficiency, and water use and reduction best practices. This year's Summit Attendees were able to visit one of the following venues:

- **Progressive Field,** home to the Cleveland Guardians
- **Rocket Arena,** home to the Cleveland Cavaliers & Cleveland Monsters
- **Huntington Bank Stadium,** home to the Cleveland Browns
- **Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland**
- **Corix Thermal Plant**

Sponsored by:

aramark

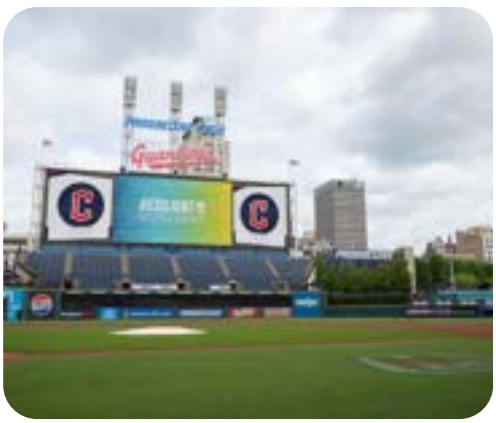





Opening Night Networking Reception: Over 340 attendees engaged in an evening of networking at the crossroads of sports, entertainment, and sustainability at the newly renovated Terrace Hall and North Coast Social at **Progressive Field**. In the collegiate poster board showcase, **10 students** and graduates presented their work in sports sustainability. Guests sampled the flavors of Cleveland in the locally-sourced cuisine in partnership with *Greener by Default* and sponsored by **Delaware North**, while enjoying drinks courtesy of the Green Sports Alliance. Guests were encouraged to show team spirit by wearing their favorite jerseys or team colors.

Sponsored by:

Delaware North


AWARDS CELEBRATION

BILL WALTON GLOBAL CHAMPION AWARD

The award was created to honor the life and legacy of the legendary basketball champion and global citizen, Bill Walton. The award recognizes an extraordinary trailblazer in the sports industry using their voice, platform, and daily actions to drive positive social change.



Read the press release

Watch the video

Jason Collins: Thirteen-year veteran of the NBA and pioneer for equality and inclusion. In 2014, Collins made history as the first openly gay active male athlete in the NBA, MLB, NHL, or NFL.

The sports community is better, more inclusive, and more welcoming because of Jason Collins, and we are deeply saddened by his passing.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Environmental Leadership Award honors a person who has shown organizational environmental leadership, measurable impact, innovation, and scalability.



Mike Richter: U.S. Hockey Hall of Famer and President of Brightcore Energy, was recognized for his commitment to sustainability in both professional hockey and his corporate career.

Read the press release

Watch the video









AWARDS CELEBRATION

The Play to Zero Innovation & Community Impact Awards, by contrast, honor teams, venues, individuals, and programs demonstrating leadership in sustainability, social impact, or environmental justice, highlighting meaningful initiatives beyond quantitative metrics.

All awards were made by **DelMuro Designs**. See how they were made here!

Innovation Award: Environmental Stewardship

Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix implemented a series of innovative water replenishment initiatives, highlighted by a state-of-the-art atmospheric water generator that produced nearly 190,000 gallons of water by capturing moisture from MGM Grand cooling towers.



Innovation Award: Health & Wellness

Morehouse School of Medicine, Center of Excellence on Environmental Health and Sustainability: The Department of Public Health Education at Morehouse School of Medicine developed innovative research translating sustainability efforts at Mercedes-Benz Stadium into measurable public health outcomes. Their Center of Excellence on Environmental Health and Sustainability advanced the connection between sustainable venue operations and human health by demonstrating reduced pollution, improving community health, and increasing food access.



Innovation Award: Next Generation Leader

Maddie Plank: As the driving force behind sustainability at Pacers Sports & Entertainment, Maddie Plank has built a program from the ground up—spearheading a sustainability-forward WNBA All-Star Game, launching Pedal to the Pacers, hosting the Pacers' first Sustainability Night, and delivering measurable operational impact—while uniting leaders across sports and the broader sustainability ecosystem.



Innovation Award: Community Impact Award

The Minnesota Twins are transforming youth baseball by creating safe, inclusive opportunities for girls to play. Through industry-leading girls baseball clinics, teams, and advocacy, the initiative builds belonging, confidence, and equity, breaking long-standing gender barriers and creating pathways for more kids to play the game they love.



AWARDS CELEBRATION

The Play to Zero Awards recognize sports organizations that achieve measurable improvements in waste diversion, renewable energy usage, and water replenishment, as well as measurable reductions in energy and water usage per capita. Award tiers include Player, Leader, and, Champion, emphasizing continuous improvement and growth opportunities for venues with various conditions and sustainable operation maturity. For the first time, we recognized organizations with externally verified or certified data through the new "Verified" category.

All awards were made by DelMuro Designs. See how they were made here!

PLAY TO ZERO AWARD CHAMPIONS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHAMPIONS

- Climate Pledge Arena VERIFIED
- Moda Center | Portland Trail Blazers VERIFIED
- Rate Field | Chicago White Sox VERIFIED
- Austin FC | Q2 Stadium
- Target Field

RENEWABLE ENERGY CHAMPIONS

- Climate Pledge Arena VERIFIED
- Boston Red Sox VERIFIED
- NASCAR VERIFIED
- Moda Center | Portland Trail Blazers
- San Diego Padres

WATER EFFICIENCY CHAMPIONS

- Climate Pledge Arena VERIFIED
- Fiserv Forum
- State Farm Stadium
- Target Field

WATER REPLENISHMENT CHAMPIONS

- Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix VERIFIED
- Moda Center | Portland Trail Blazers VERIFIED

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT CHAMPIONS

- Austin FC | Q2 Stadium VERIFIED
- Climate Pledge Arena VERIFIED
- Kansas City Chiefs VERIFIED
- Lumen Field VERIFIED
- UBS Arena VERIFIED
- The Ohio State University Gameday Zero Waste Operations
- USC Football Game Day

PLAY TO ZERO AWARD LEADERS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY LEADERS

- Lumen Field VERIFIED
- Gillette Stadium
- Chicago Cubs

WATER EFFICIENCY LEADERS

- Chicago Cubs

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT LEADERS

- Grand Prix Plaza VERIFIED
- Las Vegas Raiders | Allegiant Stadium VERIFIED
- Moda Center | Portland Trail Blazers VERIFIED
- Montreal Canadiens | Bell Centre VERIFIED
- Target Field
- State Farm Stadium
- Sporting KC
- University of Minnesota College Football Game Day
- San Diego Padres
- NC State College Football Game Day
- Moody Center
- Kaseya Center | Miami Heat
- Energizer Park | St. Louis CITY SC
- Centreville Bank Stadium
- Boston Red Sox

PLAY TO ZERO AWARD PLAYERS

RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAYER

- Chicago Cubs VERIFIED

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLAYERS

- St. Louis Cardinals VERIFIED
- Fiserv Forum



NETWORKING RECEPTION PLANT-BASED MENU

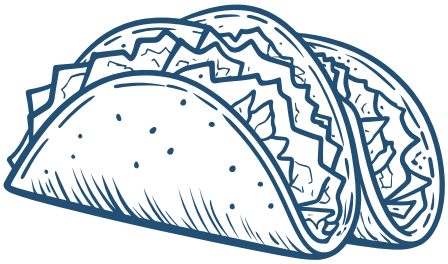
DAY ONE

Sponsored by:

Delaware North

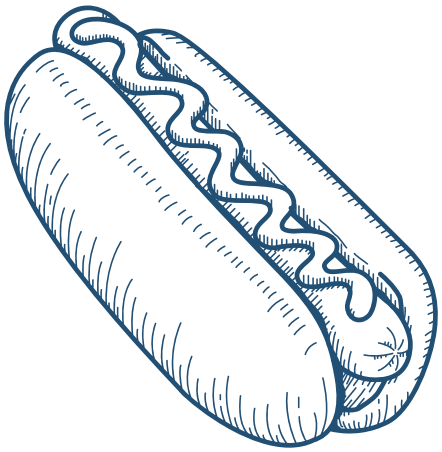
Full Menu at Progressive Field

Chipotle Braised Jackfruit Tacos (GF,V,NF)
Cilantro Lime Slaw, Pico de Gallo and Corn Tortillas



Carmelized Onion & Mushroom Pierogi (V)
Potato, Mushroom & Sauerkraut Pierogi, Carmelized Onion, Smoked Paprika Crema

Fried Tandoori Cauliflower Wings with Mint Yogurt Chutney (V,NF)



Cincinnati Chili Dog (V,NF)
Vegan Chili, Vegan Cheese and Mustard

Mezze - Roasted Garlic Hummus (V,GF,NF)
Smoked Carrot Hummus, Market Vegetables (Carrot, Celery, Cucumber, Radish, Broccoli), Olives with Vegan and Gluten Free Crackers

Peanutbutter Fudge Buckeye Bar (GF,V)
Carrot Cake (V)

V **Vegan**

GF **Gluten Free**

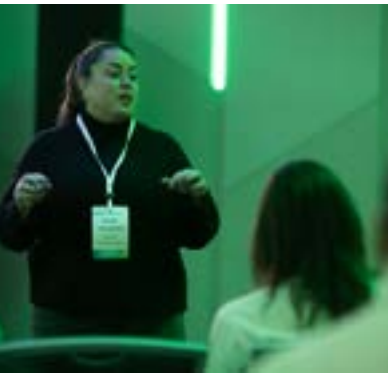
NF **Nut Free**

SUMMIT PROGRAM

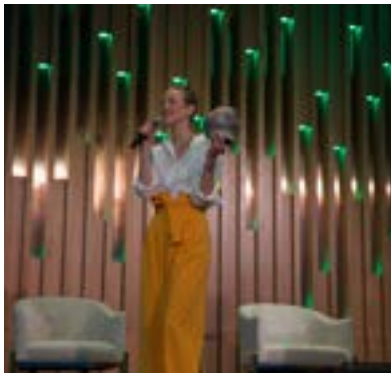
DAY TWO

> Today at the Summit, we announced a resilience architecture for the industry. We've given six key recommendations that talk about how this is important to your business all the way across, from revenue protection to risk management to brand growth. And we think that those are going to be really the north star and the guiding light for our industry to continue thriving and bringing joy to people and communities going forward under very challenging conditions, but challenges that we can certainly tackle."
>
> - Aileen McManamon, Green Sports Alliance Board Chair











SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY TWO

Emcees:

Danielle Doza, Rock Entertainment Group and Cleveland Cavaliers
Steph Hallinan, U.S. Green Building Council

Main Stage Sessions:

Welcome from Green Sports Alliance Leadership
Michael Kraus, Interim Executive Director, Green Sports Alliance

Opening Keynote
Christopher Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive, Cuyahoga County

Voice of the Alliance
Aileen McManamon, Founder / Managing Partner, 5 Tool Sports Group, Green Sports Alliance Board Chair

Keynote - Climate Optimism: The Power of Possibility
Anne Therese Gennari, Author, Speaker & Podcaster, The Climate Optimist

From Field to Fan: Scaling Climate-Smart, Plant-Forward Dining in Sports
Mary McCarthy, Vice President Sustainability, Levy Restaurants
Stefanie Lynch, Corporate Engagement Director, Greener By Default

Voice of the Athlete
Sam Mattis, Olympian, coffee roaster, athlete relations at The Long Game, Team USA
Andrew Ference, Director Social Impact and Legislative Affairs, NHL
Jasmyne Spencer, Founder, Jas It Up
Imani Dorsey, Duke Athletics Climate and Sustainability Coordinator, Duke University

Planning for Impact: From Back of House to the Fan Experience
Kristin Hanczor, Senior Associate, Venues, WM
Lee Spivak, Director, Advisory Services, WM
Melanie Lee, Sr. Director of Ball Park Operations , Major League Baseball
Danielle Doza, VP Sustainability & Environmental Services, Rock Entertainment Group and Cleveland Cavaliers

The Next Competitive Edge: Why Leading Venues See Value in Food Recycling
Thomas McQuillan, Vice President, Commercial Strategy and Sustainability, Denali
Laila Lakhani-Ali, EVP, Commercial Strategy and Sustainability, Denali

Future of Sports-Anchored EcoDistricts
Jason Twill, Head of Strategy and Capital, Alterra Mountain Company
Mike Richter, President, Brightcore Energy
Diego Mandelbaum, Chief Development Officer, Corix
Phil Semon, Senior Director, Marquee Development

Measured to Matter: Decarbonization through Paper Products
Audrey Wesson, Sustainability Manager, TORK an Essity Brand
Norman Vossschulte, Vice President Fan Experience & Sustainability, Philadelphia Eagles

AI-Enabled Stadiums: Opportunities, Challenges, and Considerations for Smart Venue Operations and Enhanced Fan Experience
Dani Stern, Senior Director, Product Management, Honeywell
Randall Mcwilliams, VP, Facilities and Special Projects, San Diego Padres
Bryan Bedford, GM/Director of Consumer Industries and Business Solutions, Cisco

Huddles:

Influence for Good: A Huddle on Celebrity Engagement
Denise Melanson, The Team

No Planet, No Play: A Climate Adaptation Fund Framework for Global Sport
Chandler Precht, Columbia University
Ariana Sobhani, Columbia University
Gabriele Silver, Columbia University

The GenZ Sports Pivot for the Future
Dena Ciampa, Gillette Stadium
Diana Dehm, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Thomas MacPherson, Franklin Sports
Dylan Marshall, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Margot Ridgeway, Rhode Island FC

Build for Better Health: A Sustainable Cities Challenge
Carrie Salone, MPH, WELLAP, Faculty, Morehouse School of Medicine
Paris Stroud, MPH, WELL AP, Morehouse School of Medicine

Building Community Partnerships That Actually Work
Aleah Likas, The Giving Grove

Driving Community-Centered Renewable Energy: The Social REC Opportunity for Sports
Dana Redden, Solar Stewards

Nature Resonate: Partnerships to Protect the Planet
Evan Walker, World Wildlife Fund

No Water, No Glory
Hans Verhoeven, MTD

What Aren't We Asking Our Vendors? A Candid Conversation on Sustainable Procurement
Monika Dharia, Green Gear Supply Company

From "Diversion Rate" to Decisions: The Power of Better Waste Data
Laura Rosenshine, WATS

Challenges and Successes of Sustainability Operations in a Stadium (Soldier Field)
Emmett Finnegan, Soldier Field

From Travel Emissions to Local Impact: How the Minnesota Wild and Kirill Kaprizov Offset Carbon Footprint
Alex Ablamunets, Green Cities Accord

From Giveaway to Game-Changer: Turning Fan Products into Sustainable Engagement Engines
Jonathen Lund, Macher

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY TWO

Breakout Sessions:

The Biggest Emissions You Don't Control: Rethinking Fan Mobility
Dawn Brown, Mercedes-Benz Stadium
Brianna Treat, Climate Pledge Arena
Mohit Mehta, POPULOUS

Powering Performance Through Sustainable Operations
Eric Koncz, Statefarm Stadium
Roger Elu, Forty Niners Stadium Management Company
Chris DeVolder, Gensler

From Game Plan to Game Day: How to Launch and Scale Food Recycling
Laila Lakhani-Ali, Denali
Ashley Gladney, CRVA & Spectrum Center
Thomas McQuillan, Denali
Dominique Dashwood, NASCAR

Birds Supporting Birds: How Professional Sports Can Build More Resilient Public Waters
Norman Vossschulte, Philadelphia Eagles
Joel R. Johnson, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Resilient Leadership in Changing Times: A Deep-Dive in Climate Optimism
Anne Therese Gennari, The Climate Optimist

NextGen Innovation Workforce Development Day at Gillette Stadium
Dena Ciampa, Kraft Sports + Entertainment
Diana Dehm, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Thomas MacPherson, Franklin Sports
Dylan Marshall, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Margot Ridgeway, Rhode Island FC

ROI on Zero Waste through Collaboration
Garrett Wittmaier, Kansas City Chiefs
Jt Marburger, Circular Solutions Advisors
Joshua Sierra, Barclays Center
Alex Nicolaou, The Coca-Cola Company

Winning with Water
Keith Lawlor, Seattle Mariners
Dennis Williams, Fiserv Forum
Ryan Heither, Minnesota Twins
Paul Sambanis, SLOAN
Jeremy Walters, Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix

Scaling Reuse Across Sports Venues: The Next Phase of Activation
Carolina Lobel, Closed Loop Center
Anton van Zyl, The Coca-Cola Company

Fans Bring Sustainable Impact Home: Deep Dive into the Fan Engagement Playbook
Jackie Polanco, Okapi Environmental Services
Brittany Saulsbury, Moda Center / Portland Trail Blazers
Debbie Friedel, Delaware North
Shaun Hoyte, Columbia University

Eagles Go Greener with Tork: Reducing Carbon for People, Planet and Business
Christine FitzPatrick, Tork an Essity Brand
Norman Vossschulte, Philadelphia Eagles
Audrey Wesson, Tork an Essity Brand

Winning the Waste Game: Sustainability, Operational Efficiency & Diversion at Large Venues
Sam Chun, Copia Resources, Inc.
Christy Briggs, Seattle Seahawks / Lumen Field

The Future of Sustainable Food Service
Stefanie Lynch, Greener by Default
Zach Ruiz, Miami Heat
Mary McCarthy, Levy Restaurants

Common Ground: Where Broadcasters & Venue Operations Can Align on Sustainability
Sam Read, Sustainable Entertainment Alliance
Nelson Ventress, AEG
Todd Moore, NBC Universal
Amanda Kielian, FOX

Creating New Revenues from Collegiate Sustainable Sports Programs
Jamie Zaninovich, TrailRunner International Sports
Riley Bahr, Blue Strike Environmental
David Newport, Blue Strike Sports
Brian McCullough, University of Michigan
Scott Jenkins, ABM

Resilient by Design: Shaping Venues and Facilities that Evolve, Inspire and Add Value
Jana Lake, 3R Sustainability
Valeria de Jongh, ROSSETTI
Dena Ciampa, Kraft Sports + Entertainment
Joseph Lewis, 3R Sustainability

SUMMIT PLANT-FORWARD MENU

DAY TWO

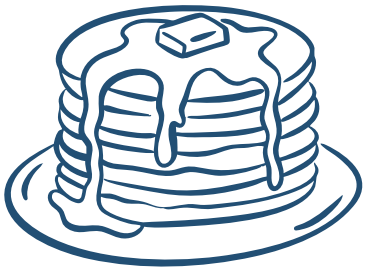
Sponsored by:

Levy

Full Menu at HCCC

BREAKFAST

- Freshly Baked Breakfast Breads and Pastries:
- Cranberry Orange Muffins [AVG, VGN], Chocolate Chip Pound Cakes [VEG], Spinach and Cheese Croissants
- Seasonal Fresh Cut Fruit [AVG, VGN]
- Eggplant Sausage [AVG, VGN]
- Redskin Homefries [AVG, VGN]
- Buckwheat Pancakes [AVG]
- Overnight Oats (mixed berry & cinnamon peach made with oat milk) [AVG]
- Build your Own Tofu Scramble Tacos Flour [VGN] / Corn Tortilla [AVG, VGN]: Scrambled Tofu, Tater Tots, Avocado, Chipotle Aioli [VGN]
- Scrambled Eggs [AVG]



LUNCH

- Elote Salad: Roasted Corn, Cotija Cheese (on side), and Cilantro Lime Crema [VGN, AVG] **made with vegan mayo
- Chopped Kale Salad: Cumin Pinto Beans, Diced Tomato, and Lime Dressing [VGN, AVG]
- Spanish Tomato Rice [VGN, AVG]
- Diced Grilled Fajita Chicken + Grilled Vegetables to include: zucchini and yellow squash [AVG]
- Cuban Black Beans [VGN, AVG]
- Crispy Adobo Tofu [AVG]
- Diced Fajita Chicken [AVG]
- Salsa, Lime Crema [VEG, AVG], Tortillas: Corn [AVG, VGN] and Flour [VGN]



DESERT

- Churros with Caramel Sauce [VEG]
- Coconut Macaron [VGN, AVG]
- Rice Pudding [VGN, AVG]

BREAK

- Whole Fresh Fruit
- Energy Bites: Triple Chocolate, Pepita Cranberry, and Super-Fruit Trail Mix [VEG, AVG, Dairy Free, Egg Free, Nut Free]
- Ginger and Lime Quinoa Power Bowl Bites: Ginger Toasted Sunflower Seeds, Quinoa, Edamame,
- Cabbage and Veggie Slaw with Lime [VGN, AVG]

EVENING

- Basil Risotto Stuffed Mushrooms [AVG, VGN]
- White Bean Cake Sliders with Fire Roasted Tomato Jam [VGN]
- Cauliflower Quinoa Meatball with Roasted Tomato Jam [AVG, VGN]
- Avocado Chocolate Pudding [VGN, AVG]

VGN Vegan

AVG Avoiding Gluten

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY THREE

> Sports have such a unique platform for having fans come in day in and day out–and if it's something little that they learned at the ballpark that they could go home and change, that's really the goal of a lot of our sustainability initiatives: to keep inspiring people to make that change.
>
> - Melanie Lee of Major League Baseball











SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY THREE

Main Stage Sessions:

Touring Leagues Lightning Round
Brazos Barber, Director of Sustainability, PGA TOUR
Hilary Meyer, Chief Impact and Athlete Engagement Officer, Athletes Unlimited
Andrew Glenn, Director of Safety and Sustainability, Team Penske
Ester Fonseca-Patriarco, Senior Sustainability Manager, NASCAR
Micah Elan, Sr. Manager Sports Membership, Green Sports Alliance

Smart Venues Are Closing the Sustainability Loop
Alejandra Alvarez, Sr. Manager, Maintenance Operations, San Francisco Giants
Christy Briggs, Sustainability Manager, Seattle Seahawks / Lumen Field
John Strom, VP / GM Innovation, Georgia Pacific Professional
Rosalie Morrison, Assistant Director, Facility Operations, Cleveland Guardians

Launching the Fan Engagement Playbook: Lessons from SL Benfica
Carlie Bullock-Jones, Founder and Principal, Ecoworks Studio
Henrique Conceição, Head of Sustainability, Sport Lisboa e Benfica
Rafael Freitas, Sustainability Assistant, Sport Lisboa e Benfica

Take Action. Win Prizes - The Future of Sustainability Fan Engagement
Alex Nicolaou, Director Sustainability, FIFA World Cup 26 + LA28 Olympics, The Coca-Cola Company
Christy Briggs, Sustainability Manager, Seattle Seahawks / Lumen Field
Tom Gribbin, CEO, Rolling Green

Reuse = Revenue + Impact
Michael Martin, Founder & CEO, r.World

Beyond Resilience: Storytelling that Breaks Through the Noise
Jenna DiPaolo, Chief Brand & Communications Officer and Head of Protect Where We Play, Ocean Conservancy
Angela LaChica, CEO & Founder, LaChica Sports & Entertainment Group
Alessandra Gherardi, Director, Corporate Affairs, NBCUniversal Telemundo

Local Impact in Action: Building Lasting Legacies
Monica Gustin, SVP, Business Strategy & Event Operations, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Rachael Stentz-Baugher, Senior Vice President, Organizational Development, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Pam Frasco, SVP of Social Impact & ED of the Cavaliers Foundation, Cleveland Cavaliers/Rock Entertainment Group
Christina Hovestadt, Senior Manager, Community Relations, NFL
Becky Dale, VP, Sustainability, LA28

NextGen Leaders: Relentless Resilience Reimagined
Dena Ciampa, Energy, Water, and Waste Administrator, Kraft Sports + Entertainment
Diana Dehm, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Margot Ridgeway, Community Relations Manager, Rhode Island FC
Dylan Marshall, Rookie Team, Green Sports Alliance Foundation
Thomas MacPherson, Jr. Quality Assurance Coordinator, Franklin Sports

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY THREE

Breakout Sessions:

Operational Strategies for Zero Waste Game Days
Logan Gould, The Ohio State University
Ayodeji Oluwalana, Penn State University
Matthew Buswell, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

Turning Your Tax Liability into Profit Through Sustainability
Austin Wentworth, STX Group

Beyond the Venue: Energy Decisions That Shape Sports Districts and Communities
Alexis Omilion, Corix

From Single-Use to Reuse: The Venues That Made the Switch Aren't Looking Back
Heather Watkins, BOLD Reuse
Alejandra Alvarez, San Francisco Giants
Brianna Treat, Climate Pledge Arena / Seattle Kraken
Gabriel Saenz, Portland Timbers Football Club

Circular Style: Sustainable Apparel & Merchandise
Nick Otte, Austin FC
Jessica Lenhart, U.S. Polo Assn.
Gina Macilwraith, 3R Sustainability
Lou Mialhe, New York Road Runners
Jenna Molloy, Fanatics

Next-Gen Sustainability: How Emerging Leaders Are Moving the Needle in Sports
Olivia Begalla, Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena
Madison Kane, NBA

Communication & Storytelling: Adapting to the Times
Brianna Cook, Green Sports Alliance
Courtney Mueller, St. Louis CITY SC
Krystle Johnson, Alder Tree Consulting

The AI Playbook: How Venues Are Winning on Waste, Fan Engagement & Revenue — All at Once
Corey Morrow, Intuitive AI
Hassan Murrad, Intuitive AI

What Are You Missing? Finding New Insights in Sustainability Data
Eric Shaphran, Honeycomb Strategies
Imani Dorsey, Duke University Athletics
Emily Heppard, USGBC
Rhiannon Jacobsen, USGBC

A Playbook for Sustainability and Collaboration at Super Bowl Scale
Ja'Rel Rucker, Copia Resources
Ryan Sclar, Engie Impact / NFL Green
Kimberley Jensen, Engie Impact / NFL Green

From Planting to Preservation: Engaging Fans and Communities Through Trees
Kia Sutter, City Forest Credits
Jeff Ashelford, Arbor Day Foundation
Sandra Reid, Davey Tree
Penny Forster, Cleveland Guardians

When Sport Champions Nature: Project Lake Blue and the Power of Partnerships
Danielle Doza, Rock Entertainment Group and Cleveland Cavaliers
Mike Geddes, 17 Sport
Emily Bacha, Fresh Water Institute - Cuyahoga County

Sustainability Accountability at Global Events: Examples from World Athletics
Bob Ramsak, World Athletics
Sam Mattis, The Long Game, Team USA

When You Uplift The Community That Surrounds You It's Always Sustainable
Andrew Bohenko, Mercedes-Benz Stadium / Atlanta Falcons / Atlanta United
Shamare Holmes, Connecticut Sun

SUMMIT PLANT-FORWARD MENU

DAY THREE

Sponsored by: Levy

Full Menu at HCCC

BREAKFAST

- Freshly Baked Breakfast Breads and Pastries
- Zucchini Muffins [AVG, VGN], Traditional Croissants [VEG], Banana Muffins [VEG]
- Seasonal Fresh Cut Fruit [AVG, VGN]
- Beyond Beef Sausage Patties: Sage and Cracked Pepper Plant Based Sausage Patties
- Scrambled Tofu with Peppers and Onions [VGN]
- Egg Bakes with Sundried Tomato, Scallions, and Smoked Cheddar [AVG, VEG]
- Redskin Homefries [AVG, VGN]
- Buckwheat Pancakes [AVG]
- Overnight Oats (mixed berry & cinnamon peach made with oat milk) [AVG]



LUNCH

- Chickpea Salad: Cucumbers, Tomatoes, and Red Onions with Herbed Vinaigrette [VGN, AVG]
- Panzanella Salad: Heirloom Tomatoes, Kalamata Olives, Grilled Bread [VGN], Preserved Lemon, and EVOO [VEG] **Bread on the side
- Hummus, Romesco, and Tabouli [VGN, AVG] Served with Mini Naan
- Sweet Potato and Quinoa Cakes [VGN, AVG]
- Zesty Falafel [VGN]
- Diced Za'atar Spiced Chicken Breast + Grilled Vegetables garnished with Preserved Lemon and Parsley to include: zucchini and yellow squash [AVG]
- Mini Mushroom + Beef Burger: Roasted Olive Oil Tomatoes and Fried Rosemary Truffle Aioli [AVG]
- Basmati Rice Pilaf [VGN, AVG] & Garlic Sauce [AVG]

DESERT

- Rose and Apricot Shortbread [VGN]
- Date Chocolate Mousse Cups [VGN, AVG]
- Sugar Cookie [VGN]



BREAK

- Nori Cakes: Peppadew Aioli [AVG, VGN]
- Roasted Tofu Satay: Fire Roasted Tomato Jam [VGN]
- Balsamic- Glazed Mushroom Flatbread: Grilled Mushrooms, Arugula, Red Onions, Olive Oil and Balsamic Vinegar, Hummus [AVG, VGN]
- Berry Custard Shooters [VGN, AVG]

VGN Vegan

AVG Avoiding Gluten

EVENT SUSTAINABILITY INTIATIVES

GHG Tracking

- Scopes 1 & 2: Utility tracking from HCCC & Progressive Field
- Scope 3: Attendee travel & hotel footprint

Event Transportation

- The Community Impact Event & Pickleball Clinic / Tournament used a shuttle to transport attendees, avoiding an estimated 24 individual vehicle trips and reduced transportation-related emissions by approximately **114 lbs of CO_2**.
- All venue tours were within walking proximity avoiding an estimated **162 lbs - 648 lbs CO_2.**

Food

- In partnership with Greener by Default, venue culinary teams created plant-based dishes both abundant and appealing. The partnership drove sustainable choices while maintaining diner freedom of choice and providing inclusive, allergen-cautious options.

Bring your own water bottle

- Guests were encouraged to bring their own water bottle and utilize the water refill stations on site.

Waste

- Our *procurement guide* was distributed to all partners encouraging reusable signage, digital alternative give-aways, energy efficient solutions, and zero waste strategies.
- Guest-facing composting was introduced at Progressive Field & HCCC in partnership with Max-r & Okapi. All guest-facing compost was handled by Denali.
  - Single-use products were NOT served, including bottles/cans, sugar packets, stir sticks, etc.
- Used only reusable serviceware, courtesy of r.World, Levy at HCCC, & Delaware North at Progressive Field.
- All waste was sorted by the Okapi team.
- All food waste from the kitchens were transferred to HCCC's Grind-to-Energy systems.
- All signage purchased for the event was made with recyclable material, in collaboration with FASTSIGNS Cleveland. This included window covers, dye-cut cardboard cutouts, and all directional signage.
- All exhibitors were encouraged to donate any leftover materials in partnership with a local non-profit, Goods Bank NEO.
- All non-perishable food was donated to the Ed Keaton Center.
- All awards were made from diverted waste from the MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL, & PGA tour in partnership with DelMuro Designs.
- The final diversion rate of all events is **99.6%**, with a conclusion of nearly only tea bags and bin liners that went to landfill

Water Restoration

- We estimated all water used at the Summit, including our partner hotels, networking reception, & duration of the Summit at HCCC.
- In partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, we purchased restoration credits to offset our water use.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT

The Green Sports Alliance committed to lowering our environmental impact by reducing, calculating, and offsetting our GHG emissions and water usage and creating minimal waste.

We committed to procurement, services, and practices that were healthier for the environment, reduced waste, conserved resources, lessened pollution, and minimized carbon emissions.

As a testament to our commitment, this year, with the support of 3R Sustainability and RoyalCert, we achieved ISO 20121 certification for the Summit–the international standard for sustainable event management.



CERTIFICATE

Green Sports Alliance

601 SW 2nd Ave. Suite 1140 Portland, OR. 97204

ISO 20121:2024

Event sustainability management system

Scope: Leveraging the influence of sports to promote environmental sustainability and social responsibility across the global sports industry.

General Manager
Chris Markopoulos

THANK YOU EVENT GREENING PARTNERS:

Please see the Appendix for all relevant data supporting the 2026 Green Sports Alliance Environmental Impact Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Waste

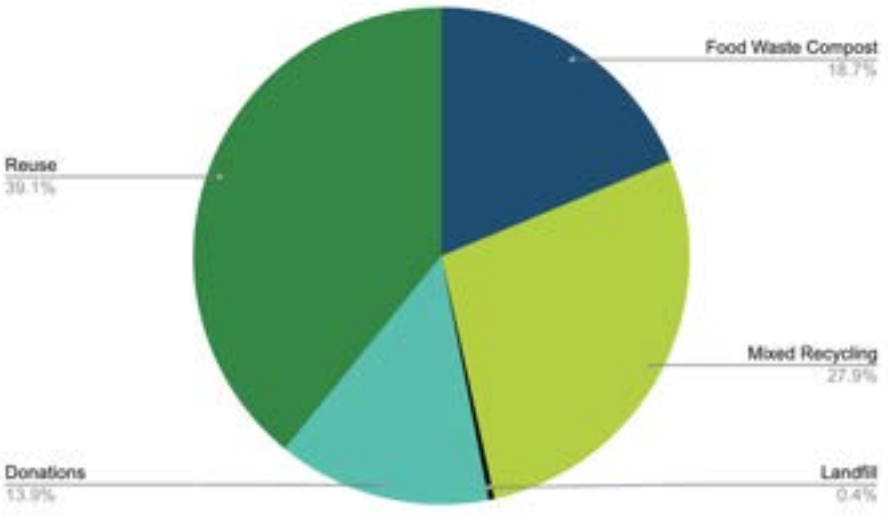
All waste was hand-sorted by the Okapi team to ensure maximum diversion. Okapi provided signage for the recycle & compost waste bins. Max-r provided guest-facing compost lids. Denali composted all guest-facing compost at HCCC and all guest-facing compost and back of house compost at Progressive Field. All back of house compost at HCCC was composted through their Grind2Energy system. All signage purchased by the Green Sports Alliance was recycled or reused.

In alignment with our 2024 publication of the Reuse Playbook, we used all **reusable** r.World cups for beverages. Levy at HCCC and Delaware North at Progressive Field provided reusable plates & cutlery.

173lbs of equipment were donated to Goods Bank NEO. Items like napkin holders, clothing racks, hangers, a megaphone, etc. were distributed to different non-profits across the Cleveland area. Helping Hands Dry Bottoms is a grassroots organization that leverages community resources to decrease infant mortality rates in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland. They were able to use the napkin holders and napkins to use at their event where they gave out supplies to new and expecting mothers.
Additionally, **140lbs of food were donated** to the Ed Keating Center.

100% use of reusable food and beverage serviceware for the entire event.

99.6%
Waste Diversion Rate



Okapi Environmental Services

Zero Waste Sponsor



Category	Tonnage
Food Waste Compost	0.21
Donations	0.16
Mixed Recycling	0.31
Reuse	0.44
Landfill	0.004
Total	1.122
Diverted	1.118
Diversion Rate	**99.6%**

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

FOOD

GREENER BY DEFAULT

Carbon Savings Report

GSA Summit 2026

Greener by Default partnered with the Green Sports Alliance on the GSA 2026 Summit to implement strategies to nudge diners towards more sustainable meals in order to meet carbon reduction goals and serve more inclusive and healthy food for attendees.

The strategies implemented include:

Climate-Friendly Ratios

A majority of plant-based options were provided for all meals, including breakfast, lunch and receptions. The menu featured tofu scramble tacos, sweet potato & quinoa cakes, and balsamic-glazed mushroom flatbread.

Subtle Substitutions

Plant-based dressings, breads and desserts were served where possible, including vegan pastries, bread and salad dressings.

Prime Placement

The placement of plant-based options was prioritized by placing them first in all buffet lines.



By The Numbers

SUSTAINABILITY

A total of 92 kg of CO_2e was saved from serving plant-forward menus during the event (compared to what would have been expected without GBD's strategies). This is the equivalent to driving over 230 miles or charging more than 6,000 smart phones!

Per meal, there was an 80% reduction in the amount of meat being served and over 2,000 servings were shifted from animal-based to plant-based.

DINER SATISFACTION

A food question was not included in this year's post-event survey, however, attendee comments showed positive feedback:

- "Food was YUM!"
- "Great food choices this year! Had a little bit for everyone."

ATTENDEE COMMUNICATIONS

GSA helped attendees understand the impact that their food choices have on the environment by sharing their plant-forward menu efforts during the event (via buffet table tents & electronic signage).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Energy

Emissions and Offset Sponsor

Tradewater

Tradewater verified 371.2 climate credits through a blend of high-integrity, third-party certified climate solutions. Each credit represents one tonne of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or removed, contributing to measurable, lasting global impact.

371.2 TONNES

Carbon Credits Retired

Total GHG Emissions calculated using the following inputs:

- Attendee travel
- kWh at Progressive Field, HCCC, & hotels.

Tradewater's curated climate portfolio for the 2027 Green Sports Alliance Summit supports multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including:



The offset's go towards the OOG1 project plugged 3 former gas wells in Indiana. OOG wells leak methane and other pollutants that fuel climate change and threaten ecosystems and public health These three were prioritized because they were actively leaking methane, had damage to the above-ground equipment, were emitting toxic gases in addition to methane, were not on the state's plugging plan, and were in areas that presented real hazards to the local community.



Before plugging



During plugging



After plugging

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Water

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) offset our water footprint by restoring water to critically dewatered rivers and streams through their Water Restoration Certificates® (WRCs). These certificates help restore the ecological, recreational and economic health of critical freshwater ecosystems.

BEF provided 2,500 WRCs, **equivalent to 2,500,000 gallons of water restored** to critically dewatered rivers and streams or the equivalent of 500k four-gallon water cooler containers.

Water Footprint Sponsor

2,500,000 GALLONS

Water Restored

Related to: restrooms, sanitation, food service (preparation and dishwashing), and HVAC systems.





CERTIFICATE #15656 - 06/23/2026

THE BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (BEF) HONORS

Green Sports Alliance for 2026 Green Sports Alliance Summit

For restoring water to critically dewatered rivers and streams by purchasing Water Restoration Certificates® (WRCs) from BEF. Your purchase, combined with that of other BEF partners, helps restore the ecological, recreational and economic health of critical freshwater ecosystems.

All WRC projects are certified by a qualified third party against a strict set of criteria to ensure flow is restored to the environment in locations and at a time that will have optimum environmental benefit. For more information regarding our WRC supply sources, visit: b-e-f.org/water-portfolio.

Todd Reeve | BEF CEO

PURCHASE DETAILS AND EQUIVALENCIES:

2,500
NUMBER OF WATER RESTORATION CERTIFICATES® PURCHASED

THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO
2,500,000
GALLONS OF WATER RESTORED TO CRITICALLY DEWATERED RIVERS AND STREAMS

OR, THE EQUIVALENT WATER IN
500,000
STANDARD FIVE-GALLON WATER COOLER CONTAINERS

DETAILS OF WATER RESTORATION CERTIFICATES® ORDER:

Jordan River Flow Restoration

The Jordan River Flow Restoration project focuses on Environmental Water Transactions (EWTs), as an important conservation tool for restoring and maintaining flow in the Jordan River to Farmington Bay of Great Salt Lake in Utah. Water transaction efforts in this section of the Jordan River are year-round industrial and municipal water rights. Third party verification by Watercourse Engineering.

VENUE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

HUNTINGTON CONVENTION CENTER

- LEED Gold building
- 4-acre green roof, reducing sewer overflow and filtering stormwater
- Urban Garden onsite by Levy
- Onsite Bee Hives
- Recycle bins made from recycled milk jugs
- Eco-friendly cleaning products
- Food donation programs in partnership with Ed Keating Center & Stella Maris
- Material donation programs in partnership with local non-profits and Habitat for Humanity
- Water refill stations
- Grind2Energy system that converts kitchen food scraps into energy, natural gas, electricity, & soil nutrients.



SUMMIT HISTORY

Download 2011 Report

Download 2012 Report

Download 2013 Report

Download 2014 Report

Download 2015 Report

Download 2016 Report

Download 2017 Report

Download 2018 Report

Download 2019 Report

Download 2022 Report

Download 2023 Report

Download 2024 Report

Download 2025 Report

> A lot of people aren't going to remember a single play I made on the ice ten years after I made it. But they will remember the type of person you were, and they will remember how you engaged the community, and what you stood for, and what you did beyond the ice. And that's the opportunity you have as an athlete."
>
> - Andrew Ference of the National Hockey League



DENALI



RESILIENT

RECYCLE











2027 GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE SUMMIT

ST. LOUIS, MO
JUNE 22-24



www.greensportsalliance.org/summit
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