



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Elite Tournaments



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Sports Event Management
Member since December 2011

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

Elite Tournaments is committed to minimizing the impact of its activities on the environment and educate its customers on environmental issues related to company activities.

The key points of its strategy to achieve this are:

- *Minimize waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.*
- *Minimize carbon emissions through the selection and use of its fleet and the source of its power requirement.*
- *Incorporate technology to minimize travel requirements.*
- *Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers, suppliers, and partners.*
- *Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to the Company.*
- *Use an accredited program to offset the greenhouse gas emissions generated by our activities.*

Elite Tournaments will measure its impact on the environment and set targets for ongoing improvement.



Environmental Team

Our environmental team consists of our operations department and senior management. Due to the small size of the company this is an 'all hands' effort.

Environmental issues are discussed during our weekly staff meetings as well as during all lessons learned evaluations occurring post event.



Annual Environmental Goals

- *Minimize employee travel and use carbon offsets in all cases where travel is required.*
- *Reduce the use of paper products and utilize recycled paper products when printing is required.*
- *Increase quantity of recycled materials collected at each event while decreasing amount of non recyclable items collected*



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

100% of all commercially printed materials are procured from a printer who utilizes FSC Certified paper. (Currently we use Indigo Ink Digital Printing who is a member of the Maryland Green Registry.)

All in house printing utilizes post-consumer recycled products.

Waste



Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

In 2011, we changed the methodology for our tournament check-in process. Traditional tournaments hold an onsite check-in process the evening before the tournament starts. This process would require a representative of each team drive to a central location and provide printed copies of team rosters, player passes and medical release forms. The tournament would then distribute copies of rules, schedules, and additional materials such as promotional or advertising materials to these teams. We have moved to an all electronic registration process. Teams no longer travel to the registration site and instead emails scanned copies of player passes, rosters, and other forms in advance of the event. All materials distributed by the tournament are done electronically and requires no printing. This practice has saved the company \$7500 in printing cost from paper and toner. Additionally, this change reduces printing by participants as well as carbon emissions from and additional day of travel to the event site.

We have also developed an all-digital Tournament Program that is distributed to teams reducing paper usage. Lastly, we have moved to a digital player profile book that is distributed to college coaches during recruiting events.

We have also worked with several charitable groups that reuse equipment and apparel from our events including the US Soccer Foundation, Special Olympics and Cleats for Bare Feet. We provided US Soccer Foundation shirts, shorts, socks, shoes, soccer balls, shin guards, goalie jersey, and miscellaneous items such as medals, clipboards, cones, ball bags, and other items. Some of these items include unclaimed lost and found items which would normally be put in the trash.



Recycling

We have established two separate recycling programs internal and external. Internally we recycle all paper products, bottles, cans, and other standard recyclable household items. These items are collected monthly by a commercial waste management company to be processed. Our internal recycling has outpaced our trash output 2-1.

Externally, we work with facility owners to install permanent recycling containers on site to collect recyclable materials. We worked closely with the Soccer Association of Columbia to have them install recycling containers and a recycling dumpster for collections on site at their club owned Covenant Park in Howard County. We use this facility for 10 weekends each year and recycle bottles, plastic containers and paper products from fields and concession areas throughout the park. This effort has drastically reduced the annual tonnage of trash collected from the site.

Transportation



Employee Commute

In 2013 we moved our office to a more central location in Howard County. This move allowed us to limit the commute of all staff to under 20 miles. This move has allowed us to cut fuel usage and carbon emissions.

All employees are allocated one day a week in which they can work from home. We utilize technology such as web cams, and IM chat to eliminate the need to work from a central office every day. This policy reduces the number of miles traveled by our staff by 328 miles each week, or 17,056 miles annually.

In addition, we have two staff members who works exclusively from their homes, one in southern Pennsylvania, one in Raleigh North Carolina.



Efficient Business Travel

We reduce the number of trips taken for preliminary work in setting up events. We typically utilize videoconference, web chats, and conference calls to coordinate all pre event planning, and site evaluations.

Additionally, we only send key staff to out of state events. All onsite event staff are hired locally except key management personnel to reduce travel requirements for out of Maryland events.



Fleet Vehicles

Elite Tournaments uses a Ford Escape Hybrid vehicle for most local travel and transportation needs. This Hybrid vehicle attains an average fuel efficiency level of 31 mpg. This is nearly 10 mpg higher than a standard SUV. The Escape Hybrid provides increased fuel efficiency while still providing the necessary cargo area needed for transporting equipment. This has reduced our fuel consumption by 368 gallons of gas and nearly \$1300.00 in fuel costs. The hybrid vehicle also drastically reduces harmful emissions from the vehicle.

Additionally, Hybrid vehicles require less routine maintenance, such as oil changes, than a gas engine equivalent vehicle which also provides cost savings and reductions in oil usage.

In 2013 we purchased a more fuel efficient vehicle to replace an out dated and fuel inefficient work van for the transportation of materials to and from events. This has reduced our fuel consumption by 10%.

Profile Updated September 2020



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

