

THESE GAMES ARE NOT GREEN!



Olympic transportation has sparked huge debate, from oversized bus depots being built on wetlands to Olympic SUV's and security helicopters – all have negative environmental impacts

Trees make way for car parks and Nordic Trails at Whistler Olympic Park



Centre Photo by:
Bryce Leigh

The Games generate huge demands for energy and water as well as creating huge volumes of waste. Venues are recycling but what about waste from guest rentals?



The Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE) has serious concerns about the negative environmental impacts of the Olympic Games. These include: loss of biodiversity; huge energy & water demands; increased greenhouse gas emissions & waste and a lack of institutional accountability. Locally, Whistler's valuable natural assets have been irreversibly damaged, moving us AWAY from our goal of becoming a sustainable community. AWARE would like to provide warnings & solutions to the problems experienced in Whistler, to the IOC and future host cities, because THESE GAMES ARE NOT GREEN!

What Should You Do?

Tell the International Olympic Committee the time is now for them to become environmental leaders and take responsibility for EVERY SINGLE environmental impact related to the Olympic Games. Make your thoughts heard by e-mailing:

jacques.rogge@ioc.olympic.org

President, IOC

pal.schmitt@europarl.europa.eu

Chairman, IOC Sport and Environment Commission

More Information on the environmental impacts of the
2010 Winter Olympic Games
can be found on the AWARE website:

[**www.awarewhistler.org**](http://www.awarewhistler.org)

BIODIVERSITY

- > Development of Whistler Olympic Park caused deforestation, biodiversity loss, threatens Grizzly Bear habitat and hugely increases the likelihood of future urban sprawl into the area.
- > While the Sea-to-Sky Highway did need safety improvements, the scale of realignment and lane addition would not have been seen without the requirements of the International Olympic Committee.
- > Red-listed (i.e. very rare) wetland habitats and species have been impacted by developments related to the games, ranging from complete habitat loss to migration paths being blocked by buildings or roads.
- > The new bus transit yard destroyed red-listed wetland and is much larger than needed to service the Whistler community at present.
- > Development of venues and sites, such as the Sliding Centre and Athletes Village, often meant the loss of forest and wetland areas.
- > In many cases the fast pace of games-related development, meant studies of what would be sacrificed were often insufficient and condensed into reduced timescales, likely making them less accurate.

TRANSPORTATION

- > The improved highway will increase potential for future urban developments while doing nothing to reduce car travel.
- > VANOC's huge SUV fleet does not encourage car sharing or the use of public transport.
- > IOC security requirements mean the skies have hummed with the sounds of helicopters and fighter jets – all pumping huge emissions into the atmosphere.

WATER & ENERGY

- > Whistler Sliding Centre (WSC) and increased snow-making both use huge amounts of water and energy.
- > VANOC reduced its waste target from zero waste to an 80% diversion from landfill and chose not to maximise recycling education opportunities.
- > Construction of any building has huge impacts on energy and water consumption, especially the use of concrete, which is the highest impact building material. The WSC used 350 metric tonnes of concrete.

Potential Solutions to reducing the environmental impact of the Olympic Games:

- > The International Olympic Committee (IOC) should demand the **highest** standards with relation to minimal environmental impacts in staging the Games and require **independent** verification of promises made.
- > The Olympics could be held in the same location or rotate through venues so that new venue developments are not required.
- > Sliding Sports should be eliminated from the Games or as a minimum these events should be rotated through the 15 Sliding Centres that exist worldwide. This suggestion is made because of the huge environmental impacts in constructing and maintaining these centres and their limited lifespan.
- > The Olympics should be made spectator-free, using advanced cinematography and pay per view technologies to replace ticket sales. This would eliminate infrastructure requirements for huge crowds and reduce Games related travel.



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The Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE) is a volunteer driven non-profit, formed in 1989 and with over 400 members.