NSAA

NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION™

USER'S GUIDE

January 2020

SUSTAINABLE SLOPES

NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

Contents

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Slopes was first adopted by the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) in 2000 and focuses on offering a framework for ski areas on sustainability and enhancing environmental performance. In 2005, the Environmental Charter of Sustainable Slopes was revised to reflect the latest industry technology and best management practices. By 2009, the Sustainable Slopes Grant Program was developed to provide funding support for sustainability projects at NSAA member ski areas. As a way to monitor ski area's impacts on climate change, the Climate Challenge was launched in 2011 and is a voluntary program dedicated to helping participating ski areas inventory, target, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

As Sustainable Slopes reaches its second decade, NSAA is taking the opportunity to refresh, refocus, and redesign the sustainability efforts of ski areas. This Program Guide provides an overview of the 2020 Sustainable Slopes for ski areas and describes the requirements, expectations, and benefits of endorsing the program. In order to join Sustainable Slopes, ski areas are asked to pledge to being environmental stewards within 10 priority topic areas. These areas correlate to 10 badges that can be earned through various sustainable actions. Ski areas earn credits for badges by submitting documentation on the *Collaboration Portal*, which also includes an online forum for networking with other Sustainable Slopes participants. Scorecards for each of the badges are included in this document. Additional tools and resources regarding badges can be found on the *Collaboration Portal*.

Note that the redesigned Sustainable Slopes program aims to complement, align with, and reinforce myriad other sustainability frameworks and programs. These other frameworks and programs include but are not limited to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and Sports for Climate Action Framework, STOKE Certification, B-Corp Certification, Global Reporting Initiative, CDP, ISO 14001, and Audubon International. Regardless of which sustainability framework or program a ski area is using, the Sustainable Slopes program helps unify ski areas around a common sustainability pledge and skier code and recognizes their sustainability efforts on a topic-based basis so that ski areas of all sizes and from all regions can participate and elevate their sustainability practices.

> "By employing solutions to global warming each of us will be improving and contributing to public health, promoting social justice, preserving natural resources, creating reliable sources of energy and contributing to the society and economy as a whole."
>
> From the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework

SUSTAINABLE SLOPES PLEDGE

By joining Sustainable Slopes, NSAA is asking members to commit to the pledge provided below. Ski areas that have previously endorsed Sustainable Slopes will automatically be enrolled under the updated pledge, unless they choose to opt out. New ski areas looking to join Sustainable Slopes can endorse the pledge on the following NSAA website. All endorsing ski areas will be listed on the NSAA website as well as acknowledged in the annual Sustainable Slopes report, associated press release and media inquiries, and ongoing program communications throughout the year, including social media. As part of the endorsement, ski areas will receive a digital Sustainable Slopes logo that can be displayed on their websites. Ski areas will also receive access to the *Collaboration Portal*, where ski areas can network with all other Sustainable Slopes participants, share ideas and best practices, and apply for Sustainable Slopes badges. Badges are explained in more detail later in this document.

As stewards of the environment, we PLEDGE to:

- *Incorporate sustainability into all aspects of our resorts*
- *Lead by example, and educate employees and guests about sustainability*
- *Place collaboration over competition when it comes to sustainability*
- *Advocate for climate protection*

We will also address the following priorities in our operations:

Climate Change: Action & Advocacy	Track, target, and reduce carbon emissions; support climate policy that will result in broad-scale carbon emission reductions, promote energy innovation, and support the transition to a clean energy economy.
Energy	Implement energy efficiency measures, increase the use of renewable energy, and support decarbonization of the grid to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change impacts.
Waste	Manage waste in a manner that reduces or eliminates greenhouse gas emissions and protects natural resources.
Transportation	Promote transportation initiatives that ease congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including support of electric and low emission vehicles.
Education & Outreach	Take a leadership role in sustainability education and outreach.
Supply Chain	Source energy and materials with low or no carbon footprint and encourage suppliers to decarbonize.
Water	Value water as a natural resource by using it as efficiently and effectively as possible.
Design & Construction	Design and construct facilities and trails to minimize impacts and complement the natural landscape.
Forest Health & Habitat	Be responsible stewards of fish and wildlife habitats and managing the forests and vegetation that support ecosystems, exceptional public recreation opportunities, and carbon sinks for greenhouse gasses.

Skier Code

The following code is intended to help skiers understand their role in sustainability and engage in Sustainable Slopes. See the Education & Outreach section of this document for more information on engaging skiers and riders in Sustainable Slopes.

There are over 10 million skiers and riders in the United States.
Together we have a better chance of fighting climate change.
Be informed. Be part of the solution.

Raise Your Voice.	Engage with your elected officials and ask them to take swift and bold climate action - or thank them if they already have. And most importantly, VOTE!
Green Your Ride.	Shift to more sustainable transportation choices like hybrid and electric cars, public transit, car sharing or carpooling.
Focus on Energy.	Reduce your use in your home and workplace and support renewable energy options. Visit the Energy Saver website for ideas: https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver
Reduce Waste.	Curb waste, especially plastics, by going reusable or bringing your own mug, water bottle, grocery bags and straw. Recycle and compost both on and off the slopes.
Support Green Businesses.	From gear to food choices – support businesses that make sustainability a priority.
Engage your local ski area.	Learn about and support their Sustainable Slopes Pledge© and sustainability initiatives: http://www.nsaa.org/environment/sustainable-slopes/

SUSTAINABLE SLOPES BADGES

The framework for Sustainable Slopes is built around a digital badge program that empowers your ski area to participate at a level that reflects your existing efforts while allowing for ongoing improvement to meet your goals moving forward. You can easily share your ski area's achievements with employees, visitors, and peer ski areas by displaying each badge on your website, through social media, and on the NSAA website. These badges serve as a unifying tool to drive sustainability awareness and action across the ski industry, with an emphasis on climate action.

Beyond pledging to support Sustainable Slopes, NSAA members can achieve recognition for their sustainability achievements by pursuing one or more of the ten Sustainable Slopes Badges:

Pursuit of the badges is optional. Each badge is supported by a scorecard that details what activities lead to badge achievement.

How to Earn A Badge

1. Ensure your NSAA membership is up to date. Renew or join if needed.
2. Sign the Sustainable Slopes pledge and share your commitment with guests.
3. Review the available badges and the respective activities for each category.
4. Complete activities to earn points. The criteria for each badge is worth at least 10 points and requires 7 or more points to achieve.
5. Upload badge documentation through the *Collaboration Portal.* Some credits offer the ability to take credit for previous years' activities and are noted within the badge criteria. To complete a badge form, you must have signature authority for your ski area and be prepared to upload the necessary documentation for each badge. Visit the form page to review documentation requirements.
6. Receive your digital badge and start using and displaying.
7. Review and update biennially.
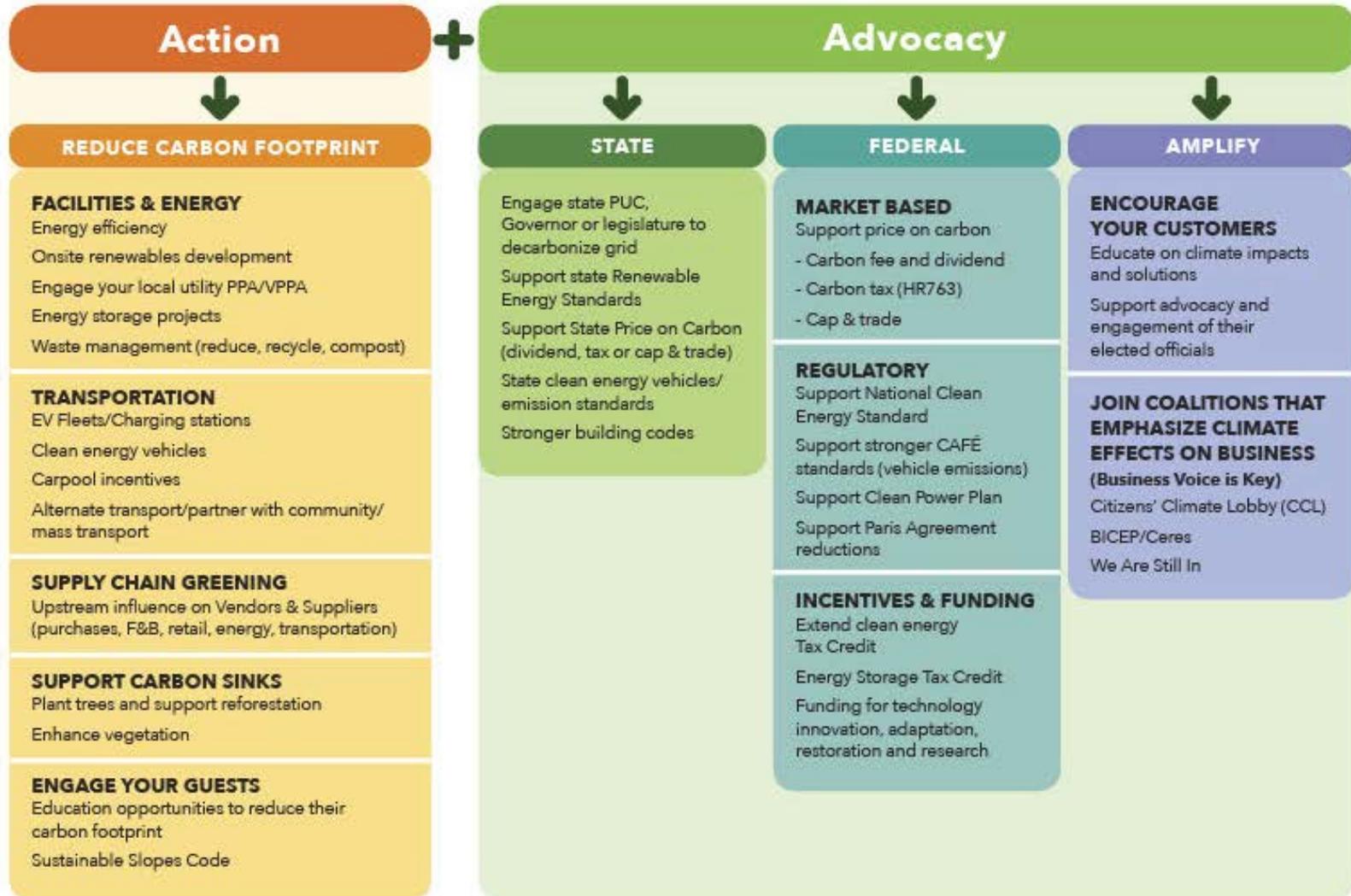
Other Important Badge Details

Badges are awarded through a self-certification process, meaning that each ski area is responsible for pursuing the applicable requirements on the scorecard and submitting acceptable documentation on the *Collaboration Portal*. Documentation should provide evidence of commonly accepted professional standards, and ski areas should consider how their activities stand up to recognized industry best practices. Ski areas are encouraged to share their achievements with peer resorts and benchmark against one another as applicable.

The companion Microsoft Excel-based Badge Scorecard Tool is an optional resource to support your ski area's record keeping. Badge submittals will be completed online but the Scorecard Tool can be used to track which points and badge(s) the ski area may be able to achieve and which one(s) it plans to pursue. It is recommended that ski areas revisit this tool annually to plan their badge pursuits.

Each badge is valid for a period of up to two years. Ski areas can pursue badges on a rolling basis during each badge period, and then can display that badge for a period of up to two years following the badge achievement. After the two-year badge period, badges must be refreshed by submitting new documentation per the latest badge requirements.

In addition to using the badge scorecards on the following pages, reference the Trail Map to Climate Change Solutions graphic below as a comprehensive guide to inspire climate action and advocacy activities at your ski area.

TRAIL MAP TO CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS

Action + Advocacy

REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

FACILITIES & ENERGY
Energy efficiency
Onsite renewables development
Engage your local utility PPA/VPPA
Energy storage projects
Waste management (reduce, recycle, compost)

TRANSPORTATION
EV Fleets/Charging stations
Clean energy vehicles
Carpool incentives
Alternate transport/partner with community/ mass transport

SUPPLY CHAIN GREENING
Upstream influence on Vendors & Suppliers (purchases, F&B, retail, energy, transportation)

SUPPORT CARBON SINKS
Plant trees and support reforestation
Enhance vegetation

ENGAGE YOUR GUESTS
Education opportunities to reduce their carbon footprint
Sustainable Slopes Code

STATE

Engage state PUC, Governor or legislature to decarbonize grid
Support state Renewable Energy Standards
Support State Price on Carbon (dividend, tax or cap & trade)
State clean energy vehicles/ emission standards
Stronger building codes

FEDERAL

MARKET BASED
Support price on carbon
- Carbon fee and dividend
- Carbon tax (HR763)
- Cap & trade

REGULATORY
Support National Clean Energy Standard
Support stronger CAFÉ standards (vehicle emissions)
Support Clean Power Plan
Support Paris Agreement reductions

INCENTIVES & FUNDING
Extend clean energy Tax Credit
Energy Storage Tax Credit
Funding for technology innovation, adaptation, restoration and research

AMPLIFY

ENCOURAGE YOUR CUSTOMERS
Educate on climate impacts and solutions
Support advocacy and engagement of their elected officials

JOIN COALITIONS THAT EMPHASIZE CLIMATE EFFECTS ON BUSINESS
(Business Voice is Key)
Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)
BICEP/Ceres
We Are Still In

BADGE SCORECARDS

Climate Change Action & Advocacy

Note that Climate Challengers receive the Climate Change Action and Climate Change Advocacy badge automatically through their participation in the program.

Pledge

Track, target, and reduce carbon emissions; support climate policy that will result in broad-scale carbon emission reductions, promote energy innovation and support the transition to a clean energy economy.

Overview

Two badges are included as part of the pledge above: Climate Change Action and Climate Change Advocacy. The Climate Action badge is intended to give recognition to ski areas that are committed to developing greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and tracking them annually. The badge not only requires ski areas to complete a GHG inventory, but also to set goals for carbon reduction, to implement at least one reduction strategy per year, and to report on their results and activities.

The Climate Action Advocacy badge gives recognition to ski areas that advocate for climate change solutions at the federal, state or local level. Endorsing broader climate solutions campaigns, engaging lawmakers, utilities, your local community and your guests can all support movement in policy to help solve climate change.

There are two ways to achieve these badges. The first is to participate in NSAA's Climate Challenge. By participating in NSAA's Climate Challenge, your ski area receives formal training and support to complete all necessary requirements. Climate Challenge participants are also offered a how-to guide for conducting a vulnerability assessment, better access to Sustainable Slopes grants, and more. Visit NSAA's Climate Challenge webpage to learn more.

Alternatively, ski areas may work on their own or with an external partner to complete the requirements of one or both badges using the alternative path. The criteria for achieving the Climate Change Action badge through the alternative path require ski areas to follow the *GHG Protocol Standard* and the *GHG Protocol Project Quantification Standard*, or the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards for reporting. The alternative path for achieving the Climate Change Advocacy Badge requires the ski area to complete the alternative path reporting documentation on the *Collaboration Portal*. The *Collaboration Portal* will include sample letters and links to Congressional contact information as well as additional resources for actively achieving these credits.

Criteria

To achieve the Climate Change Action and/or the Climate Change Advocacy badges your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** per badge from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

CC: Climate Change Action & Advocacy	Points Available
Climate Challenger	
CC1: Climate Challenge Participation Participate in the Climate Challenge and receive both the Climate Action and Climate Advocacy Badges.	**20**
Alternative Path for Climate Change Action	*10*
CC2: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Complete an independently verified greenhouse gas inventory of your ski area's operations. The inventory procedures should follow the guidance included in the *GHG Protocol Standard* which requires reporting on a minimum of scope 1 and 2 emissions. Inventories must be updated on an annual basis to receive points towards the Climate Change Action badge in subsequent years. Documentation requirements include a report of total emissions by source.	**3**
CC3: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target Establish an emission reduction target for your ski area following the process outlined in the *GHG Protocol Standard*. As an example, Climate Challengers are given two options for framing their emissions target: absolute and percent reduction from your identified. The ski area must report on their progress towards the target on an annual basis to receive points towards the Climate Change Action badge in subsequent years. Documentation for this credit requires the ski area to publish its reduction target language.	**2**
CC4: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Project Implement an emission reduction program or project at your ski area that aligns with the guidance documented in Chapter 11 of the *GHG Protocol Project Quantification Standard.* The ski area must complete one new program or project annually to receive points towards a Climate Change Action badge. They must also demonstrate how the projects/programs help with progress towards meeting their target on an annual basis**.** Documentation requirements include a description of the project and the estimated emissions reduction.	**2**
CC5: Vulnerability/Resiliency Assessment Conduct a vulnerability assessment for your resort to identify the impacts of climate change. This includes identifying resort-specific hazards (i.e. reduced snowpack, wildfire, and more intense winter storms) and assessing the adaptive capacity of your buildings and operational equipment. Documentation requirements include identification of the climate change impacts and hazards, an assessment of capacity of the ski area to adapt to these impacts or hazards, and summary of strategies to reduce climate-related vulnerabilities and risks.	**3**
Alternative Path for Climate Change Advocacy	*10*
CC6: Endorse a Climate Solutions Campaign or Letter Endorse an energy/climate change advocacy letter circulated by NSAA or others (e.g., We Are Still In, Citizens Climate Lobby). A ski area may only receive a single point for this credit, however, ski areas are encouraged to complete as many advocacy letters as they wish. Documentation requirements include posting a version of the endorsed campaign or letter.	**1**

CC: Climate Change Action & Advocacy	Points Available
CC7: Direct Correspondence Directly correspond (letter, email, phone call, meeting) with State, Congressional or Parliamentary representatives on climate change solutions. A ski area may only receive a single point for this credit, however, ski areas are encouraged to regularly correspond with their representatives about sustainability and climate. Documentation requirements include posting a description of the correspondence and topics covered.	1
CC8: Government Meeting Attend a hearing, proceeding or meeting and provide comments to encourage action on climate change solutions at the federal, state or local level. A ski area may only receive two points for this credit, however, ski areas are encouraged to regularly attend public hearings or meetings. Documentation requirements include posting a description of the hearing or meeting and topics covered.	2
CC9: Community Advisory Committee Volunteer a representative from your ski area to sit on a local advisory or stakeholder committee or group that directly impacts your community's action on a climate mitigation or adaptation topic of your choice. Examples may include utility resource planning (e.g., electricity, natural gas, or water), land planning, or wildfire preparedness and prevention. Documentation requirements will be provided on the *Collaboration Portal* and include posting a description of the representative's role and goals for participation.	3
CC10: Customer Engagement on Climate Change Engage with your guests on climate change impacts, mitigation, solutions, adaptation or restoration and encourage them to engage with policy makers on the issue. Documentation requirements include posting a description of the representative's role and goals for participation.	3

Energy Management

Pledge

Implement energy efficiency measures, increase the use of renewable energy, and support decarbonization of the grid to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change impacts

Overview

Ski areas are proving to be leaders in implementing energy efficient techniques and increasing the use of renewable energy within their operations. However, through innovative initiatives, ski areas can support decarbonization of the grid and help reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of their entire community. The energy elements included in this badge expand across all operational activities and encourage ski areas to influence energy sources on a larger scale.

Criteria

To achieve the Energy Management badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

EM: Energy Management	Points Available
Energy Efficiency & Equipment	**5**
EM1: Procurement and Certification Incorporate energy efficiency best practices into to your procurement policy, such as requiring ENERGY STAR® appliances and computers or specifying efficiency standards for pumps, motors, snow guns, air compressors, lighting, etc. Documentation requirements include a summary of energy efficiency best practices in the ski area's procurement policy, and confirmation of annual review of this policy.	1
EM2: Snowmaking Set up a formal energy efficiency program for snowmaking operations. Documentation for these credits requires the ski area report on its baseline, how it tracks with benchmarks, energy and water utility monitoring, and periodic system recommissioning.	2
EM3: Recommissioning Program Establish a formal and ongoing recommissioning program for ski area buildings. Documentation for this credit requires the ski area report on its preventative maintenance schedule, ongoing monitoring method, and how energy savings opportunities are identified and implemented..	1
EM4: Capital Project Demonstrate how your ski area is incorporating energy management through energy conservation or demand reduction into capital projects (e.g., lighting retrofit projects, equipment automation, etc.). Documentation requirements include providing a description of your capital project and estimated energy and emission savings.	1

EM: Energy Management	Points Available
Renewable & Clean Energy	5
EM6: Renewable Energy Percentage Invest in renewable energy through on-site projects, power purchase agreements, or purchasing Renewable Energy Credits that cover a measurable percentage of your ski area's energy use. 20% Renewable Electricity *1 point* 50% Renewable Electricity *2 points* 100% Renewable <u>Electricity</u> *3 points* 100% Renewable <u>Energy</u>* *4 points* In order to receive the points associated with this credit the ski area must retain the renewable energy certificates or have them retired on its behalf. Documentation requirements include sending copies of the verification reports associated with the installation as well as your ski area's annual energy use. *All building energy sources including electricity and renewable heating sources	4
EM7: Renewable Electricity Advocacy Document what steps your ski area is taking to work with your electric utility to transition its energy mix to carbon-free sources. Documentation requirements include annually posting a description of the interactions your ski area has had with the utility and any progress made towards clean energy.	1

Waste and Recycling Management

Pledge

Manage waste in a manner that reduces or eliminates greenhouse gas emissions and protects natural resources.

Overview

Managing waste streams is a critical part of working in the tourism industry and is an important aspect of Sustainable Slopes. By reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting materials, the amount of waste being sent to landfills can be significantly decreased. Proper waste management also helps protect natural resources, reduce pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and energy use needed to produce new materials, and minimizes disposal costs. This badge focuses on waste streams ranging from food scraps to unneeded equipment and everything in between.

Criteria

To achieve the Waste & Recycling Management Badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

WR: Waste and Recycling	Points Available
Waste Reduction	**3**
WRM1: Waste Stream Audits Conduct quarterly waste stream audits to track progress towards waste reduction. Documentation requirements include a quarterly summary of total waste by type and disposal method.	1
WRM2: Waste Reduction Plan Develop a waste reduction plan that includes goals and strategies to increase ski area waste-reduction, through activities such as purchasing policies, operational practices, and reuse programs. Documentation requirements include providing a summary of your ski area's waste reduction plan goals and strategies.	1
WRM3: Organic Waste Disposal Compost food scraps and other organic waste materials either on-site or through collaboration with the local community. Documentation requirements include a description of your ski area's composting program and annual progress.	1
Recycling	**7**
WRM4: Waste Diversion Percentage Divert waste from the landfill through reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting. • 20% Waste Diversion: **1 *point*** • 40% Waste Diversion: **2 *points*** • 70% Waste Diversion: **3 *points*** • 90% Waste Diversion: **4 *points*** Documentation requirements include sharing your ski area's annual diversion rate as a percentage of waste diverted from the landfill through other waste management or disposal practices.	4

WR: Waste and Recycling	Points Available
WRM5: Recycling Collaborations/Advocacy Partner with local government and other businesses to increase recycling in remote communities where recycling programs are not readily available. Documentation requirements include a description of the interactions your ski area has had with waste and recycling haulers and any progress made towards the goal of increasing the reach of recycling programs. **–OR-** Support the development of policy to increase waste diversion (i.e. local bans or recycle ordinance) and include documentation of your advocacy efforts.	2
WRM6: Close Loops Use forest thinnings from wildfire mitigation and ecological restoration projects to build and furnish facilities where applicable. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program and annual progress.	1

Transportation Emissions

Pledge

Promote transportation initiatives that ease congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including support of electric and low emission vehicles.

Overview

Travel to, from, and within ski areas has unavoidable impacts on the environment. Ski areas can do their part to reduce fuel use and emissions on fleet vehicles and can support the use of low or zero emission vehicles, carpooling, and mass transportation to decrease on-road congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. The transportation badge helps ski areas address the many facets of ski area mobility and operations.

Criteria

To achieve the Transportation Emissions badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

TE: Transportation Emissions	Points Available
Fleet Vehicles & Equipment	**5**
TE1: Low or Zero Emission Fleet Vehicles and Equipment Integrate fuel efficient (e.g., hybrid), alternative fuel (e.g., compressed natural gas or biodiesel), or zero emission (e.g., electric or renewable natural gas) equipment and vehicles into your ski area fleet. • Pilot the use of low or zero emission fleet vehicles and equipment: **1 *point*** • Upgrade or convert 20% or more of fleet vehicles: **2 *points*** Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's fleet program. For 2 points, also include details about the quantity of qualifying vehicles and equipment as a percentage of all vehicles and equipment.	2
TE2: Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Install at least one privately accessible electric vehicle charging station at your ski area for fleet vehicle and equipment use. Documentation includes providing a description of the charging station type and location.	1
TE3: Efficient Grooming Operations Upgrade a majority of the snow cats at your ski area to models that meet Tier 4 standards and employ GPS or other tracking technology to monitor and improve efficiency of grooming operations. Documentation requirements include a summary of your ski area's grooming efficiency operations and practices.	1
TE4: Employee Commuting Develop or offer a program for employee commuting that includes alternative transportation incentives (e.g., transit passes or discounts, ride share matching services, etc.) to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program and annual participation data as a percentage of overall employee commuting trips.	1

TE: Transportation Emissions	Points Available
Guest Transportation	**5**
TE5: Guest Off-Peak Travel Incentives Offer and promote a non-peak travel incentive program for guests to reduce traffic congestion to and from your ski area, thus reducing emissions from idling vehicles. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's guest travel program and annual participation data.	1
TE6: Carpooling and Parking Management Develop a program that incentivizes guests to carpool to travel to and from your ski area. Specific incentives could include priority parking or discounted lift tickets. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program and an annual participation data.	1
TE7: Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Make Level 2 or Level 3/DC Fast charging infrastructure available for electric vehicle use. • Install at least one electric vehicle charging station publicly accessible to guests and employees: **1 *point*** • Install EV charging stations in 2% or more of all parking spaces at the base area: **2 *points*** Documentation requirements include providing a description about the charging stations and how the public can access them. For 2 points, also include details about and the total number of parking spaces with charging infrastructure as a percentage of all parking spaces.	2
TE8: Increase Transit Ridership Develop or support a program that empowers and incentivizes guests to use transit to travel to, from, and within your ski area. Specific incentives could include discounted transit fares or priority lift tickets. The ski area can also improve multi-modal transportation infrastructure to make transit or other non-vehicular transportation modes easier and more convenient. Multi-modal transportation infrastructure may include sidewalks, transit stops, bike racks, wayfinding or route signage, and other improvements that facilitate walking, cycling, and transit use by employees and guests. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your transit program or improvements and annual participation data.	1

Education & Outreach

Pledge

Take a leadership role in sustainability education and outreach.

Overview

Educating employees and visitors about sustainable practices and sharing the efforts and strategies of the ski area are essential components of Sustainable Slopes. This badge focuses on encouraging involvement in sustainable solutions through learning opportunities and sharing progress. Sustainability is not a one-time activity but a lifestyle.

Criteria

To achieve the Education and Outreach Badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

EO: Education & Outreach	Points Available
Employee Education	**4**
EO1: External Sustainability Training Incentivize employees to pursue outside courses in sustainability through tuition reimbursement or supporting your employee's application for a Mountain Foundation grant. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program to support education and annual progress.	2
EO2: Internal Sustainability Training Host internal training activities that educate employees about your sustainability initiatives and empower them to implement and devise creative solutions for future action such as a field trip for employees to a peer business or other sustainability site in your area to learn how others are approaching sustainability. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program and annual progress.	1
EO3: Green Team Tap employee interest, educational backgrounds, and expertise in sustainability by forming a green team for learning from and sharing with others within the ski area. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's program and annual progress.	1
Visitor Education	**2**
EO4: Demonstration Amenity Develop a demonstration amenity for visitors to learn about an important element, program, or project implemented through your sustainability initiatives. Examples might include waste diversion stations or forest health interpretive areas. Documentation requirements include providing a description of your ski area's demonstration area(s) and estimated annual engagement with the amenity.	1

EO: Education & Outreach	Points Available
EO5: Sustainability Initiatives Signage Post educational signage about your sustainability initiatives and encourage visitors to participate. Specific areas to consider include: high-efficiency lifts, buildings, and other ski area infrastructure and may include expected emission savings. Documentation requirements include providing a description of the signage and estimated annual views.	1
Communication & Outreach	**4**
EO6: Annual Data Reporting Issue an annual sustainability report or release annual sustainability data on your ski area's website. Documentation requirements include providing a copy of and publicly accessible link to your annual report or summary data.	2
EO7: Programming and Events Design and implement a program or event to engage employees, guests, your local community or other stakeholders about any of the ten topics addressed in the Sustainable Slopes Pledge. Documentation requirements include providing a description of the program or event and total participation.	2

Supply Chain

Pledge

Source energy and materials with low or no carbon footprint and encourage suppliers to decarbonize.

Overview

Many greenhouse gas protocols are now requiring the inclusion of supply chain initiatives due to the high impact related to all stages of supply management. By making active decisions on where and how a ski area gets its supplies such as sourcing locally, buying sustainable packaging, and right-sizing product orders, ski areas can significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, and waste production. This badge focuses on sourcing products and materials in an environmentally responsible manner.

Criteria

In order to earn the Supply Chain Badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

SC: Supply Chain	Points Available
Purchasing and Sourcing	**7**
SC1: Supply Chain Redundancies and Waste Establish a centralized purchasing department that manages all purchases of goods and services to reduce supply chain redundancies and waste. Ensure that the centralized purchasing department focuses on environmentally preferable procurement. Documentation requirements include uploading documentation of your centralized purchasing department.	2
SC2: Supplier Partnerships and Certifications Develop a partnership with a supplier to increase availability, reliability, and quality of products and to promote sustainable practices within their company as well. Resources such as the Higg Index and the Outdoor Industry Association's (OIA) sustainability resources and community (**https://outdoorindustry.org/sustainable-business/**) can help suppliers achieve sustainable certifications. Documentation requirements include submitting copies of correspondence with suppliers that establish partnerships and promote sustainable practices, and including a description of your ski area's program and annual progress.	2
SC3: Green Purchasing Policy Adopt a green purchasing policy that favors sustainable materials and right-sized orders to reduce waste and unnecessary long-term storage. This could include using reusable lift tickets and season passes that are made of recycled material, purchasing items in bulk when applicable to minimize packaging and shipping materials, and prioritizing environmentally friendly supplies such as hydraulic fluids, equipment fuel, and cleaning supplies. Documentation requirements include submitting the green purchasing policy language.	2
SC4: Local Sourcing Maximize locally sourced food supplies and other products from less than 150 miles from your ski area. Documentation requirements include providing a summary of your ski area's local sourcing initiatives and annual progress.	1

SC: Supply Chain	Points Available
End-of-life Disposal	**3**
SC7: Vendor Take-Back Request vendors provide a "take-back" service for used products. Documentation requirements include submitting documentation of correspondence with vendors promoting take-back services and including a description of your ski area's annual progress.	1
SC8: Material Repurposing Repurpose, donate, or recycle old/broken skis and boards and uniforms. Documentation requirements include detailing the quantity of materials retired at the end of the year and their respective disposal methods, and including a description of your ski area's repurposing program and annual progress.	1
SC9: Reclaimed and Salvaged Materials Reclaim or salvage materials in place of purchasing new products where possible. Documentation requirements include providing a description of how your ski area reclaimed or salvaged materials instead of purchasing new products.	1

Water Management

Pledge

Value water as a natural resource by using it as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Overview

From precipitation to drinking water to surface runoff, water is core to the ski industry and is an important factor of Sustainable Slopes. By implementing best management practices, both water quality and quantity can be improved. Protecting this precious resource is the responsibility of all those who use it. This badge focuses on quality and quantity of water and wastewater use in and around the ski area.

Criteria

In order to complete the Water Badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

WM: Water Management	Points Available
Landscaping and Summer Activities	**2**
WM1: Outdoor Water Audit Conduct a water audit of your ski area's irrigated landscape, which may include golf courses. Prioritize opportunities and target areas for outdoor water savings. Documentation requirements include submitting the audit report and providing a description of your ski area's annual progress.	1
WM2: Regionally Appropriate Landscaping Materials Use native, drought-tolerant, and/or other climate-appropriate plant materials for ski area landscape materials to align with your ski area's plant hardiness zone and reduce the need for irrigation. Documentation requirements include reporting your ski area's plant hardiness zone (available from the USDA), and a summary of landscaping materials and quantities by hardiness zone(s).	1
Snowmaking	**2**
WM3: Upgrade Snow Guns Upgrade to automated high efficiency snow guns for snowmaking operations. Documentation requirements include a summary narrative that describes the upgraded equipment, provides a comparison to previous equipment in terms of water efficiency, and describes disposal methods of retired equipment.	1
WM4: Pre-Form Slopes and Terrain Maximize use of dirt or other materials to pre-form slopes and terrain to minimize the amount of snow needed. Documentation requirements include a summary of the terrain specifications and improvements.	1
Runoff and Stormwater Management	**3**
WM5: On-site Water Collection Collect precipitation (if permitted under state law) in dedicated storage areas for use in snowmaking, irrigation, and other ski area activities. Documentation requirements include a summary of on-site water collection and reuse activities, including estimated annual water collection and reuse data.	1

WM: Water Management	Points Available
WM6: Stormwater Best Management Practices Invest in a new projects or improvements to integrate stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to improve runoff quality. Documentation requirements include providing a summary of your ski area's stormwater BMP improvements.	1
WM7: Water Quality Monitoring Conduct seasonal tests of surrounding surface water quality to monitor runoff pollutants. Documentation requirements include submitting a description of your ski area's plan or program for monitoring water quality, as well as annual the monitoring results.	1
Facility Water Use	3
WM8: Indoor Water Audit Conduct water audits of all your ski area's indoor facilities and operations. Prioritize opportunities and target areas for water savings. Documentation requirements include submitting the audit report and providing a description of your ski area's annual progress.	1
WM9: Water Efficiency Improvements Demonstrate how your ski area is incorporating water efficiency and conservation into facility improvement projects (e.g., commercial kitchen equipment, laundry facilities, lavatory fixtures, etc.). Documentation requirements include providing a description of your capital project and estimated water efficiency impacts.	1
WM10: Water and Wastewater Management Plan Lead or participate in the development of a water and/or wastewater management plan with water and wastewater providers and/or adjacent communities. Documentation requirements include submitting a copy of the plan, and summarizing the goals and strategies related to your ski area's operations.	1

Design & Construction

Pledge

Design and construct facilities and trails to minimize impacts and complement the natural landscape.

Overview

Ski areas offer employees and visitors an opportunity to experience recreation within unique landscapes. In order to preserve, protect, and maintain the natural beauty that ski areas offer, design and construction efforts should minimize impacts on natural resources before, during, and after construction is completed. This badge encourages ski areas to adopt sustainability practices during design and construction of new facilities or major redevelopment of existing buildings and trail development.

This badge allows a ski area to pursue green building certification (Option 1) for new construction or major renovation projects or incorporate elements of green building practices into its construction projects. Partial credit may be awarded for older projects that have achieved green building certification. Ski areas may also receive points toward the Design & Construction badge by demonstrating best practices in trail design and development.

Criteria

To achieve the Design & Construction badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

DC: Design & Construction	Points Available
Design & Construction (Option 1)	**10**
DC1: New Green Building Certification Achieve a national recognized green building certification (e.g. LEED, Envision, Green Globes, WELL Building etc.) for a major construction or renovation project at the ski area. Project must be completed within the past 2 years to be eligible for this option. Documentation requirements include submitting a copy of the certificate (including award date) as well as a summary of the project and its green building features.	10
Design & Construction (Option 2)	**10**
DC2: Previous Green Building Certification Earn credit for past completion of a national recognized green building certification (e.g. LEED, Envision, Green Globes, WELL Building etc.) for an older project (more than 2 years ago). A maximum of 2 points are available for this credit, regardless of how many green buildings are certified at the ski area. Documentation requirements include submitting a copy of the certificate (including award date) as well as a summary of the project and its green building features.	2
DC3: Sustainable Design and Construction Plan Develop a sustainable design and construction plan to communicate goals and expectations to architects and general contractors. This could also be accomplished by integrating sustainability into construction specifications during design of buildings and trails. Documentation requirements include submitting a copy of your ski area's sustainable design goals and construction and communications practices.	1

DC: Design & Construction	Points Available
DC4: Light Pollution As part of the design of a new construction project meet the uplight and light trespass requirements of IES TM-15-11, Addendum A. Areas that are used for night skiing may be exempted during hours of operation. Documentation requirements include submitting a summary of how the requirements are achieved with supporting calculations.	1
DC5: Water Meters Install building-level and subsystem-level water meters as part of a new construction project to understand the impact of specific buildings or operations and commit to further reductions. Building level meters should monitor the water use of the entire building and submeters should monitor two additional water uses. These may include: irrigation, indoor water fixtures, domestic hot water, heating hot water, reclaimed water, or other process water uses specific to the building. Documentation requirements include a summary narrative and diagram of the water metering specifications.	1
DC6: Energy Meters Install advanced building-level energy meters as part of a new construction project to understand the impact of specific buildings or operations and commit to further reductions. Building level meters should monitor the energy use of the entire building including electricity and heating energy (e.g. natural gas or propane). Meters should be capable of collecting daily or hourly energy use and electricity demand. Documentation requirements include a summary narrative and diagram of the energy metering specifications.	1
DC7: Building Commissioning Select a commissioning authority to join your project's design team to minimize building operation issues that may occur after occupancy such as poor energy performance and poor thermal comfort. Incorporate commissioning activities your construction specifications that include the guidelines provided by ASHRAE Guideline 0-2013 and ASHRAE Guideline 1.1–2007 for HVAC&R Systems. Documentation requirements include submitting commissioning reports and correspondence.	1
DC8: Sustainable Material Selection Use long-life, low maintenance and locally-sourced building materials to reduce waste and avoid materials with high embedded carbon emissions. Incorporate material procurement specifications that align with LEED v4.1 MRc1, MRc2, MRc3, and/or MRc4. Documentation requirements include a summary of sustainable material specifications and decisions.	1
DC9: Construction Waste Management Develop a construction waste management plan to communicate waste diversion targets and expectations to general contractors. Include a process and log for monitoring construction waste. Documentation requirements include a copy of the construction waste management plan and waste management log.	1

DC: Design & Construction	Points Available
DC10: Indoor Environmental Quality Incorporate indoor environmental quality standards into the construction specifications of a new construction or major renovation project. Typical areas of focus include thermal comfort, appropriate interior and daylighting, low-emitting materials, ambient noise, and indoor air quality. Documentation requirements include a copy of indoor environmental quality specifications.	1

Forest Health & Habitat

Pledge

Be responsible stewards of fish and wildlife habitats and managing the forests and vegetation that support ecosystems, exceptional public recreation opportunities, and carbon sinks for greenhouse gasses.

Overview

Ski areas are reliant on the health and resilience of the surrounding forest and vegetation. Healthy forests and vegetation benefit fish and wildlife habitat, stabilize the mountain slopes, protect water quality, reduce erosion, and are carbon sinks for greenhouse gas emissions. Trees also provide adventure and variety to ski area visitors on runs. This badge focuses on responsibly supporting, maintaining, and protecting vegetation and wildlife.

Criteria

To receive the Forest Health and Habitat Badge, your ski area must earn **at least 7 points** from the following criteria. Detailed documentation requirements are available on the *Collaboration Portal*.

FH: Forest Health & Habitat	Points Available
Fish and Wildlife	**5**
FH1: Noxious Weed Control Develop a plan or strategy to prevent the spread of noxious or invasive weeds in an environmentally-friendly way, without use of pesticides or heavy equipment. Documentation requirements include identifying the targeted weeds(s), and providing summary of the control method(s) and annual progress.	1
FH2: Habitat Protection Implement an improvement project or management strategy to protect, restore, or improve sensitive terrestrial or aquatic habitat at your ski area. Documentation requirements include describing the sensitive habitat and providing a summary of the protection project/strategy and annual progress.	2
FH3: Wildlife Management Plan Develop a comprehensive wildlife management plan or strategy that establishes goals and strategies for protecting wildlife and reducing conflicts with wildlife at the ski area. Documentation requirements include submitting a copy of the wildlife management plan and annual progress.	1
FH4: Partnerships for Habitat Partner with organizations such as Nature Conservancy, National Forest Foundation, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, or other local or regional groups or organizations to support habitat-related improvement or restoration projects at your ski area. Documentation requirements include describing the sensitive habitat and providing a summary of the protection project/strategy and annual progress	1

FH: Forest Health & Habitat	Points Available
Forest Health and Vegetation	**5**
FH5: Forest and Vegetation Audit Conduct a forest and vegetation audit. Prioritize opportunities and target areas to reduce disturbance and/or improve forest health and habitat quality. Documentation requirements include a copy of the audit and a summary of recommended improvements.	1
F65: Minimize Forest Disturbance Minimize forest disturbance in future ski area development plans and/or implement new strategies to decrease forest disturbance within existing operations. Documentation requirements include a summary of the location of the targeted forest area and disturbance minimization techniques implemented.	1
FH7: Plant Trees Plant trees and new regionally-appropriate vegetation in degraded forest or landscapes areas to support habitat, reduce erosion, and act as a carbon sink. Documentation requirements include a summary of the area, the quantity of the trees or landscape material planted, and the installation method(s).	1
FH8: Wildfire Mitigation Collaboration Develop and implement wildfire mitigation and forest management best practices in collaboration with local, state or federal land management agencies, fire departments, and neighboring communities. Documentation requirements include a summary of the wildfire mitigation collaboration activities or practices.	1
FH9: Operational Pollution Management Develop and implement operational plans to reduce light, noise, air, water, and soil pollution. Documentation requirements include a copy of the pollution management plan or operational practices.	1