Department of Athletics
Sustainability Mission Statement

Finalized:
October 2018

Created by:
Dan Altieri ‘19
**Purpose:**

The purpose of this document is to provide Swarthmore’s Department of Athletics with a mission statement that outlines the department’s goals, initiatives, and challenges regarding sustainability and how athletes, coaches, and administrators can work together to reduce the athletic department’s environmental impact.

**Mission Statement:**

The Swarthmore College Department of Athletics serves as an integral part of the educational experience of students at the College, and supplements and benefits from the lessons learned in the classroom. Students of the College not only use their education to benefit themselves but to also act as ambassadors and leaders in their communities. In August of 2017, President Valerie Smith affirmed the College’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions campus-wide, and to lower the school’s overall environmental footprint. Therefore, the Department of Athletics and the individuals associated have the responsibility to enact meaningful change within the department and the 22 varsity teams to help contribute to reducing the environmental impact of the College.

The Department of Athletics works to:

- Reduce the amount of waste generated by teams and facilities, and to provide the resources to recycle and compost when possible
- Lower the energy usage of the department’s facilities by investing in energy efficient appliances and replacing old infrastructure
- Offset carbon emissions generated by the travel required by varsity teams
- Connect with peer institutions, leagues, and athletic governing bodies to develop networks of other sustainability-focused athletic organizations
- Educate the surrounding community about the benefits of environmentally-friendly practices

The Department of Athletics at Swarthmore College has a storied history of success and continues to be a leader nationwide in both the academic and athletic achievement of student-athletes. Our athletes, coaches, and administrators should not only wear the “S” proudly during competition, but also in the continuing effort to be stewards of the environment.

---

1 https://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/president-valerie-smith-leads-push-carbon-pricing