

Wachusett Endorses NSAA Climate Challenge and Sustainable Slopes Programs

As we look toward resuming operations in the weeks and months ahead, we wanted to update you on two important National Ski Areas Association environmental initiatives Wachusett has been actively engaged in:

1) **NSAA Climate Challenge** - Wachusett is one of nearly 50 ski areas across the US participating in this voluntary program dedicated to helping inventory, target & reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The program positions the ski industry as a leader among outdoor recreation industries in taking immediate and effective action to combat the effects of climate change. Key areas of focus include:

- Minimizing impact on the natural environment.
- Saving money through energy-saving projects.
- Participating in advocacy efforts that can have positive and wide-ranging impacts to our communities, including encouraging all our customers to examine how they can help on issues of climate change impacts, mitigation, adaptation, or restoration and engaging with policymakers on these issues.

2) **Sustainable Slopes 2020** - This addresses environmental stewardship within 10 priority topic areas and correlates to 10 badges that can be earned through various sustainable actions.

- Climate Change Action - Track, target and reduce carbon emissions, promote energy innovation.
- Climate Change Advocacy - Support climate policy that will result in broad-scale carbon emission reductions 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, materials and services 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.

Part of the Education and Outreach program is to encourage all our skiers to adopt a **Skier Sustainability Code**:

- 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. Consider buying offsets for your travel.
- Focus on Energy - Reduce your use in your home and workplace and support renewable energy options. Visit the [Energy Saver website](#) for ideas.
- 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 and food choices to everyday services – support businesses that make sustainability a priority.
- Engage your local ski area - Learn about and support their Sustainable Slopes Pledge and other sustainability initiatives: <http://www.nsa.org/environment/sustainable-slopes>