

**NATATION  
ARTISTIQUE  
CANADA  
ARTISTIC  
SWIMMING**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

**2026-2030**

## **Leading Sustainable Sport by Swimming Together**



December 2025



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# INTRODUCTION

Canada Artistic Swimming (CAS) recognizes that climate change is more than just an environmental issue. It is a systemic challenge that intersects with how we support athletes, host events, and build a stronger sport ecosystem. With increasingly unpredictable weather patterns and rising operational costs, sport is already feeling the impacts of a changing climate. At the same time, sport contributes to global emissions and must be part of the solution.

Guided by our values of excellence, collaboration, and safety, and informed by international leadership from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), and World Aquatics (WA), Canada Artistic Swimming is committed to playing an active role in climate action. This strategy outlines a clear and achievable path to reducing our environmental impact while supporting our long-term vision of growth, excellence, and system sustainability.

Our success depends on shared commitment both nationally and internationally, working with athletes, coaches, clubs, partners, and communities to lead by example and ensure that our sport thrives for generations to come. We will lead sustainable sport by swimming together!



# MESSAGE FROM CEO

*Canada Artistic Swimming is proud to launch our first sustainability strategy, a strategic decision that reflects our commitment to leadership, collaboration, and effective governance.*

*This work directly supports the goals outlined in our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, particularly our commitment to strengthening organizational excellence and leading by example. Sustainability enhances how we engage communities and partners, how we execute and promote our events, and how we foster inclusivity within our sport. It also creates new opportunities for education and awareness that we believe can elevate our brand and deepen our impact.*

*We also recognize that aquatic sports face unique and shared environmental challenges. As we move ahead, collaboration with our counterparts across aquatic sports, both nationally and internationally, will be critical to delivering meaningful results.*

*A sincere thank you to Racing to Zero and the Canadian Olympic Committee for their support through the NSO Sustainability Pilot Project, which helped bring this strategy to life. We're also grateful to our staff, volunteers, and extended community who continue to champion this important work.*

*As we implement this strategy, we will ensure it remains embedded in our operations and fully integrated into future strategic decisions, supporting a future for artistic swimming that is both inspiring and sustainable.*

*We will lead sustainable sport by swimming together!*

**- Steve Wallace, CEO**

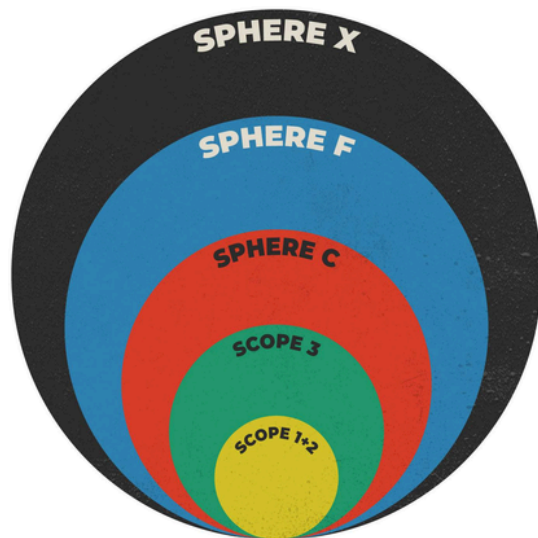
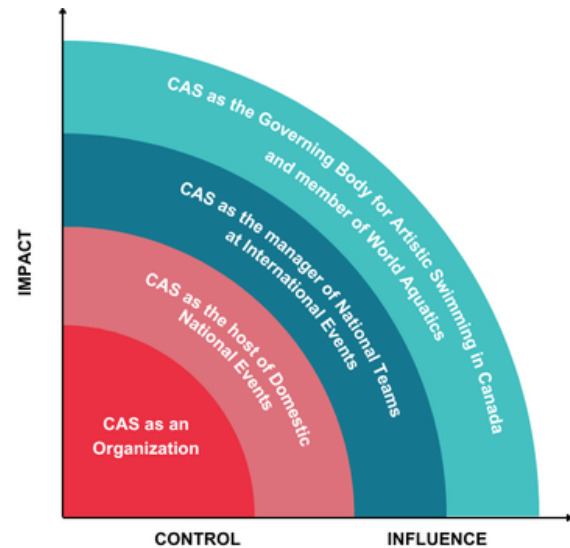


# OUR IMPACT

When considering Canada Artistic Swimming’s environmental impact, it is important to differentiate between levels of control and influence. To maximize the positive impact we can create, we must take into account the direct emissions from our operations, the indirect emissions from our value chain, and the various spheres of influence we have.

The diagrams on this page are adapted from methodologies defined by the IOC and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). They are intended to showcase how Canada Artistic Swimming can have a greater impact on reducing climate-related impacts beyond changes to our own internal operations.

Collective action is the only way to make meaningful change.



## Sphere X

Leveraging the global influence of sports to change public perception and drive climate action through compelling storytelling, as well as policy engagement.

## Sphere F

Engaging fans and participants around the world to co-design plans and develop their own climate measures.

## Sphere C

Climate action and engagement with communities and cities where sports organizations are active.

## Scope 3

Indirect emissions from the organization’s value chain

## Scopes 1 & 2

Direct & indirect emissions from the organization’s operations



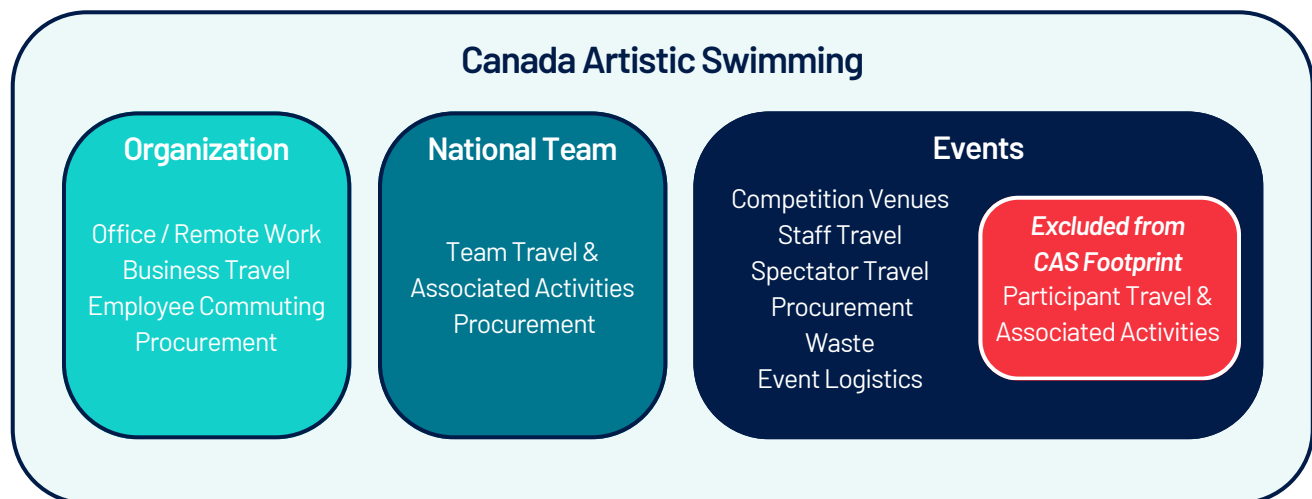
# OUR EMISSIONS

An emissions baseline was calculated for the 2025 Calendar Year with the help of sport sustainability consultancy, Racing to Zero. Following methodologies defined by the IOC, the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework (UNS4CAF), World Aquatics (WA) and other International Federations (IFs), the scope boundaries for Canada Artistic Swimming can be defined as the following three categories:

Organization

National Teams

Hosted Events



Based on international best practices, emissions from the travel of participants to hosted events are not the responsibility of the event host, but instead the Organization or Club who those athletes are representing. However, to fully understand the impacts of events, convey this information to external stakeholders, and track year-over-year progress, the whole event must be measured and reported, with clear allocations of responsibility internally to avoid the double counting of emissions<sup>1</sup>.

While the travel of spectators is also not the responsibility of the event host, as they do not represent a single organization, these emissions must still be captured, and were therefore accounted for by CAS.

Therefore, it was decided that the entire footprint for our events would be measured, however when considering emissions boundaries and reduction targets, some conditions must apply:

- For long-term reduction targets, particularly those set by the UNS4CAF, **participant travel and associated activities** must be removed, with spectator travel and associated activities being included, to align with international best practices.
- For short-term goals of hosting events that are operationally carbon neutral, **participant and spectator travel and associated activities** are to be considered outside of the event's operational scope and therefore removed in order to maintain a greater focus on efforts within our control.



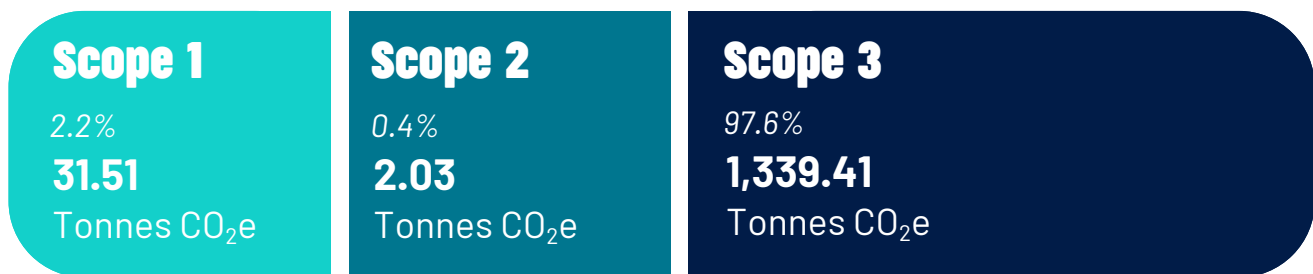
<sup>1</sup>IOC Carbon Footprint Methodology for the Olympic Games

# 2025 EMISSIONS BASELINE

A complete account of our 2025 emissions baseline is detailed in a dedicated Emissions Report compiled by Racing to Zero and is available upon request.

**1,373** Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Attributed Emissions

**76** %  
from Hosted Events

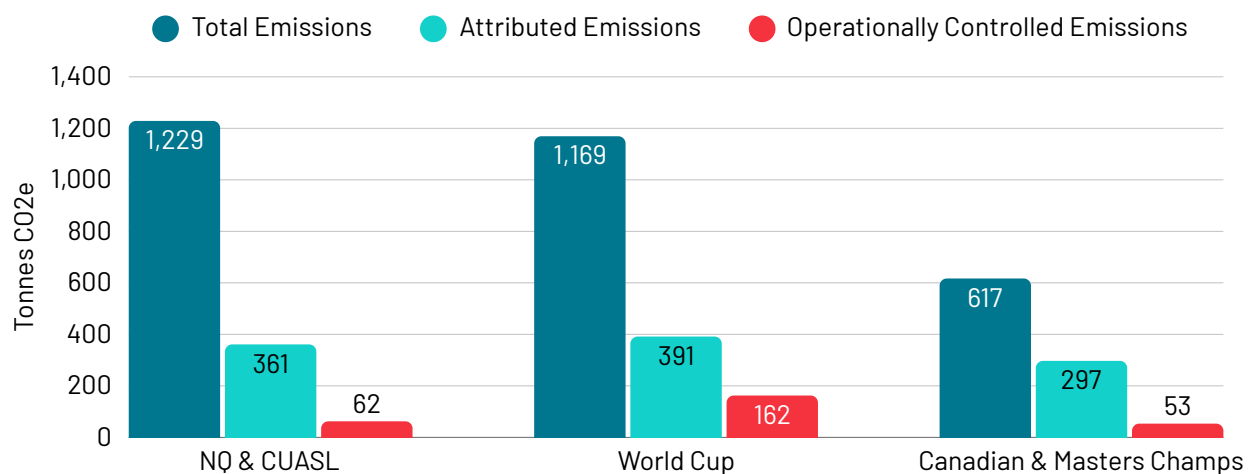


## 2025 HOSTED EVENTS

In 2025 we hosted five events, though two pairs were delivered as combined events as they were concurrent dates and hosted at the same venue. The events were calculated as follows:

- National Qualifier & Canadian University Artistic Swimming League (CUASL) National Championships (March 16-23, Victoria, BC)
- World Aquatics World Cup (May 1-3, Markham, ON)
- Canadian Championships & Masters Championships (May 5-11, Markham, ON)

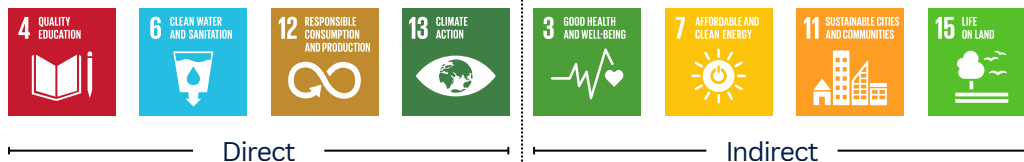
The chart below shows the difference between the total emissions from each event, those attributed to CAS within our footprint, and those that we have operational control over.



# INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT

## UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) represent an urgent call to action for all countries across a range of environmental, social, and governance topics. Through our programs and activities, we aim to address the following SDGs:



## World Aquatics

**“The Blueprint”** is World Aquatics’ (WA) comprehensive sustainability strategy towards 2030. This strategy is focused on reducing WA’s carbon footprint, promoting environmental and social responsibility, and catalyzing a global sustainability movement through aquatic sports. The approach is structured around three key pillars, Organization, Events, and Community, and is strongly aligned with our own strategic objectives.

Alignment with WA’s strategy offers access to shared resources and best practices, creates opportunities for collaboration, and leverages collective advocacy power for policy influence. This will ultimately accelerate climate action in Canadian aquatic sports while positioning us as an influential sustainability leader within the global aquatics community.

## UN Frameworks

The **UN Sports for Climate Action Framework** (UNS4CAF) is a global framework, developed by the UN and the IOC, that unifies and guides the sport sector to display climate leadership. The principles of the UNS4CAF are:

1. Design and implement a net-zero climate strategy;
2. Partner with key stakeholders to deliver joint climate action;
3. Champion transformative climate action through storytelling and communication;
4. Prioritize climate resilience and global solidarity.

**Sport for Nature** is a joint initiative that aims to deliver transformative action for nature across sports, by 2030 and beyond, enabling sports to champion nature and contribute to its protection and restoration. The Sports for Nature principles are:

1. Protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species;
2. Restore and regenerate nature wherever possible;
3. Understand and reduce risks to nature in your supply chains; and
4. Educate and inspire positive action for nature across and beyond sport.



# STRATEGIC FOCUS



## Strengthening Organizational Excellence

*To integrate sustainability into all aspects of our organization and reduce our own emissions*

**Optimizing Internal Operations**

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**Integrating Sustainable Procurement**

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**Establishing Formal Commitments**

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## Hosting Responsible Events

*To systematically measure and reduce emissions and waste generated at all hosted events*

**Reducing Emissions**

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**Adopting Sustainable Operations**

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**Advancing Waste & Procurement**

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## Leading By Example

*To educate, promote, and be an active voice for sustainability initiatives to the community*

**Sharing Guidelines & Best Practices**

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**Improving Communication & Awareness**

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**Promoting Advocacy**

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# Strategic Pillar 1

# STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**Guiding Principle** *To integrate sustainability into all aspects of our organization and reduce our own emissions*

## Optimizing Internal Operations

Embed sustainability into our day-to-day operations and National Team activities by tracking emissions and adopting more eco-friendly practices.

## Integrating Sustainable Procurement

Reevaluate our purchasing and procurement policies, and create new value-aligned partnerships to advance sustainability efforts.

## Establishing Formal Commitments

Create accountability for our actions through formal commitments to leading international frameworks.

Objective	KPI	Target	Actions
<b>Internal Operations</b> - Embed sustainability in our organization & measure, track, report, and reduce our emissions each year			
Ensure staff & athletes are well educated on sustainability topics to make more informed decisions	% of staff & athletes who have completed formal courses on sustainability	Staff and National Team athletes complete UNS4CAF e-learning by 2027	Require UN Sports for Climate Action training for staff, include sustainability in onboarding, and encourage athlete participation
Measure and report organizational GHG emissions annually	GHG inventory and emissions report frequency	Publish annual emissions starting in 2025	Track annual emissions, conduct GHG inventory aligned with the GHG Protocol, and report key metrics annually
Reduce emissions from operations	% reduction in total organizational emissions	50% reduction by 2030 Net-Zero by 2040	Identify high-emission areas, set reduction targets, secure sponsorships to offset unavoidable emissions
<b>National Team</b> - Reduce emissions and waste associated with our National Team's training and competitions			
Optimize travel for the National Team to reduce emissions	% of travel plans that have considered emissions impact	Consider emissions with 100% of travel planning by 2028	Include emissions impact in travel planning, track team travel annually to identify optimization opportunities
Minimize waste and emissions during National Team travel	Make an internal guide for waste and emissions decisions	Internal guide implemented by 2027	Establish a policy to reduce travel emissions and review team travel annually
<b>Procurement Policies &amp; Supplier Engagement</b> - Update policies and work with suppliers to ensure responsible purchasing of goods and services			
Review suppliers and align procurement with IOC, World Aquatics, international best practices	Suppliers aligned with IOC, World Aquatics, & international procurement best practices	Apply IOC and World Aquatics procurement guidance to new contracts by 2028	Embed IOC and World Aquatics sustainable procurement principles and promote reuse and donation of materials
Engage suppliers and provide clear sustainability guidelines	# of suppliers engaged and % of domestic suppliers	> 50% of suppliers engaged in sustainable practices by 2028 and 25% domestic by 2030	Engage suppliers on sustainable practices, review performance annually, and explore domestic sourcing alternatives
Build sponsor partnerships aligned with sustainability values	# of sustainability-related activations with sponsors & partners	At least one sustainability activation with sponsors or partners annually by 2027	Prioritize sustainability in sponsorships, collaborate on joint initiatives, and highlight partner contributions
<b>Signatories</b> - Create accountability for our actions through formal commitments			
Become a signatory to UNS4CAF and Sports for Nature (S4N) and embed their principles	Signatory status	Become a signatory to the UNS4CAF and S4N in 2026	Complete signatory process, review practices against principles, and report progress annually



## Strategic Pillar 2

# HOSTING RESPONSIBLE EVENTS

**Guiding Principle** *To systematically measure and reduce emissions and waste generated at all hosted events*

### Reducing Emissions

Minimize the environmental impact of our hosted events by measuring emissions and implementing sustainability initiatives.

### Adopting Sustainable Operations

Integrate requirements and certifications into hosted event guidelines to support our sustainability efforts.

### Advancing Waste & Procurement

Divert waste from landfills and integrate more sustainable procurement practices at all of our hosted events.

Objective	KPI	Target	Actions
<b>Emissions - Reduce emissions and increase adoption of sustainability initiatives across all hosted events</b>			
Measure and reduce emissions to achieve operational carbon neutrality at all hosted events	% of events measuring emissions and total emissions from hosted events	Events are operationally carbon neutral by 2026, 50% reduction in overall emissions by 2030	Conduct event GHG inventories, follow sustainable event frameworks and guidelines* Explore sponsorships or fees to offset unavoidable emissions
Support low-carbon transportation to reduce spectator travel emissions	% of spectators using low-carbon transportation	> 50% of spectators using low-carbon transportation by 2027	Map sustainable travel routes, collect spectator travel data, promote low-carbon transport in event comms
<b>Requirement &amp; Certifications - Ensure ongoing tracking and responsibility of hosted events</b>			
Ensure hosted events follow sustainability frameworks and best practices	Percentage of hosted events following approved sustainability frameworks*	Hosted events follow approved sustainability frameworks by 2028	Approve sustainability frameworks for events, include them in post-event reporting, and explore future event certification
Integrate sustainability criteria into all event hosting bids	# of hosting bids include sustainability criteria	100% of hosting bids include sustainability criteria by 2027	Include standardized sustainability criteria in hosting bids and share recognized frameworks* with LOCs
Encourage sustainable behaviours at events thru gamification/incentives	# of sustainability initiatives implemented at hosted events	One new sustainability initiative at each hosted event annually	Implement sustainability initiatives at events, Work with LOCs and sponsors on engagement, Track outcomes
<b>Waste &amp; Procurement - Reduce waste to landfill and integrate more sustainable procurement practices at all hosted events</b>			
Reduce waste going to landfill at hosted events	% of events with waste mgt plans and waste diversion rate	Events have waste management plans. 75% waste diversion by '28	Include waste plans in hosting bids, support LOCs with resources, and report post-event waste and diversion
Eliminate single-use plastics at hosted events	Single-use plastics eliminated at hosted events	Eliminate controllable single-use plastics at hosted events by 2027	Provide plastic mgt resources, mandate compostable or reusable products, report on single-use plastics
Adopt low-emissions food practices at hosted events	# of events with food donation partners, % plant-based menu items, % sourced within 150km	Events have food recovery plans, 50% plant-based menus by 2027, 50% locally sourced items by '29	Share low-emission food guidelines*, partner with food recovery organizations, and promote plant-based, locally sourced menus with caterers
Ensure sustainable procurement at hosted events, including local sourcing	% of events with responsible procurement guidelines* and purchases from local vendors	Events follow sustainable procurement guidelines and source over 50% locally by 2028	Include responsible procurement and local sourcing in hosting bids, support LOCs with resources*, and highlight local vendors in event communications

\* Recognized sustainable event frameworks, guidelines, resources, and best practices include IOC Sustainability Essentials, Canada Games Council Sustainable Event Toolkit, and guidance from WA and UNS4CAF, among others

# Strategic Pillar 3



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

**Guiding Principle** *To educate, promote, and be an active voice for sustainability initiatives to the community*

**Sharing Guidelines & Best Practices**  
 Increase community-wide awareness and adoption of sustainable practices by providing actionable resources to our key stakeholders.

**Improving Communication & Awareness**  
 Increase stakeholder communication and awareness about our organization's sustainability initiatives.

**Promoting Advocacy**  
 Actively work with World Aquatics and other NSOs to maximize our impact on climate action initiatives.

Objective	KPI	Target	Actions
<b>Guidelines &amp; Best Practices</b> - <i>Increase community-wide awareness and adoption by providing actionable resources to key stakeholders</i>			
Create and share sustainability resources with PTSOs and clubs	# of resources shared and distributed each year	4 resources shared and distributed each year by 2028	Adapt global best practices, provide resources to PTSOs, and update resources annually
Educate athletes, P/TSOs, and LOCs on sustainability practices	# of educational sessions held (e.g. workshops, webinars, info)	1 educational session annually reaching over 100 participants	Deliver sustainability sessions and share success stories to encourage adoption
<b>Communication &amp; Awareness</b> - <i>Increase communication and awareness of sustainability topics and initiatives undertaken</i>			
Increase awareness of sustainability initiatives through effective communications	# of sustainability communications annually % of events with multi-phase sustainability messaging	2 sustainability communications annually and all events with multi-phase sustainability messaging starting in 2026	Integrate sustainability into comms (website, newsletter, annual report), share outcomes and success stories, and provide event-specific sustainability messaging
<b>Advocacy to World Aquatics &amp; Other Organizations</b> - <i>Work with World Aquatics and other organizations to maximize our impact</i>			
Report sustainability progress to World Aquatics regularly	Submission of annual report to World Aquatics	Annual sustainability report shared with World Aquatics	Develop a standardized reporting template and highlight Canadian innovations in each report
Actively promote sustainability within World Aquatics	# of submissions, proposals, or engagements	One sustainability engagements with World Aquatics annually	Establish communication with World Aquatics, collaborate on initiatives, and share sustainability progress regularly
Collaborate with Canadian aquatic NSOs on sustainability	# of joint initiatives or shared resources developed	Two joint initiatives launched by 2028	Establish a working group with aquatic NSOs, share tools, and support multi-sport training to reduce travel

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Canada Artistic Swimming is grateful to all those who played a role in shaping this Environmental Sustainability Strategy. We especially recognize the support of the International Olympic Committee Olympic Solidarity Programme and the Canadian Olympic Committee through the NSO Sustainability Pilot Project, and we appreciate the expertise and guidance provided by Racing to Zero throughout the entire process.

This strategy has also been strengthened by the contributions of our Board members, athletes, and staff, whose insights identified key areas of impact and opportunities for change. Their continued dedication will be vital as we move forward with the initiatives and commitments outlined here.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

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# THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

**CANADA**  
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**SWIMMING**