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## **Environmental Achievements of the Sydney Olympic Games**

People have always polluted their surroundings. But until now pollution was not such a serious problem.

The International Olympic Committee recognizes that a healthy global and local environment is fundamental to sport. It has made environment the third pillar of Olympism, along with sport and culture.

Sport and the environment are connected in three ways:

1. Large sporting events can contribute to environmental degradation due to pollution; waste products, and excessive consumption of materials, energy and water.
2. Athletes need a healthy environment in which they can be trained.
3. Sport originated in the natural environment and many sports are still played in a natural environment.

Sydney was the first host city to include a comprehensive commitment to the environment as part of its bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Environmental considerations were integrated into all aspects of planning and staging of the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games, including design, cleaning, land management, construction, transport, waste recycling.

Significant achievements have been recorded in the key performance areas of energy conservation, water conservation, waste minimization, pollution avoidance; and protection of significant natural and cultural environments.

All venues were powered by 100 per cent Green Energy from renewable sources. The Novotel Hotel at Olympic Park has the largest solar hot water system in the southern hemisphere. The Athletes Village is one of the World's largest solar powered suburbs.

All materials for use in construction underwent a life-cycle analysis. Materials with the least impact were chosen for Olympic venues.

The waterways and wetlands of Homebush Bay were in a sorry state before remedial works began.

There are both saltwater and freshwater wetlands in the Millennium Parklands that surround Olympic Park. The wetlands areas form one of Sydney's most significant habitat for migrant birds.

All buses in the Olympic Village were powered by compressed natural Gas.

Games organizers were aiming to recycle or compost as much as 80% of Games waste.

The problems that Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games faced and endeavored to overcome are common around the world.