

ENVIRONMENT review

SUSTAINABILITY is paying off

more than 75% of US ski resorts have some kind of sustainability program

Excerpted from saminfo.com

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) today released its Sustainable Slopes Annual Report detailing the ski industry's progress in implementing the principles of its Environmental Charter during the 2012-13 season.

Among the Highlights

115 ski areas endorsed the Climate Declaration. The Declaration calls upon federal policy makers to take action to address climate change, and states that addressing climate change is one of the greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century.

The Climate Challenge Program asks for resorts to inventory, target and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

Participating resorts include Alta Ski Area, Arapahoe Basin, Boreal Mountain

Resort, Canyons Resort, Copper, Grand Targhee, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort, Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort, Mt. Bachelor, Park City Mountain Resort and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort.



photo courtesy NSAA

Overall, these areas reported approximately 115,000 MTCO₂e of emissions in 2012; by 2020, they are committed to reducing emissions by at least 38,500 MTCO₂e—about 34 percent.

The report also highlights the latest environmental projects and programs

at ski areas across the country including lighting improvements, electric vehicle use, composting, local purchasing programs, water conservation efforts, and employee and guest education as it relates to sustainability.

More than 190 resorts now endorse the association's Environmental Charter, and those resorts represent about 75 percent of the ski industry's annual skier and snowboarder visits.

The report also notes that to further environmental goals, the 2014 NSAA Winter Conferences in Steamboat, Colo., and Mount Snow Vt., will feature a two-day environmental education track.

Green fans can access the 2013 Sustainable Slopes Annual Report at <http://www.nsa.org/media/175283/FinalAR2013101013.pdf>. ♦

PARALYMPICS sochi

I caught much of the Paralympic ski action on TV. It was absolutely amazing to see what these athletes were able to accomplish.

There are only 5 categories of games— Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheel chair Curling. Alpine skiing has three sub-categories— blind, standing, sitting.

Host Russia finished strong with 80 medals (a record) and 30 golds. The next highest nation was Ukraine with 25 medals and nine golds. The U.S. (in third) totaled 18 medals (its most at a Winter Games since 2002) and two golds.

Additionally, Russian skier Roman Petushkov won the most individual gold medals in Winter Paralympic history, with six golds across skiing and biathlon events. ♦



USA Sledge Hockey team brings home the gold.



Stephanie Jallen is jubilant after competing in the Super-G.



Tatyana McFadden (L) Norway's Birgit Skarstein (R).



Tyler Walker took the most spectacular crash in downhill.