

WINTER GAMES, GREEN GAMES



Lillehammer, surrounded by nature it means to cherish.

Environmental considerations play a key role in the planning and holding of the Olympic Winter Games. In Lillehammer, the XVII Winter Games will be a really “green” event.

The Olympic facilities under construction or undergoing renovation have been designed in such a way as to minimize damage to the countryside and environment of a region of Norway which is still practically

intact. This policy is based on a series of environmental objectives defined by LOOC (the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Lillehammer) in the context of its overall planning for the Games in 1994.

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Indeed, protection of the environment and the very source of life is totally in keeping with the ideals of the international Olympic Movement. But at the same time, the importance given to the ecological aspects of the Games in Lillehammer also reflects the environmental concerns of the Norwegian government and population as a whole.

The current prime minister of Norway, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, chaired the UN World Commission on the Environment and Development which presented a

report in 1987. Entitled "Our Common Future", this report listed a number of ecological challenges which the international community must face up to in order to preserve the planet and promote lasting development. It stressed the need to set up an international system of agreements and rules of conduct to protect the ecosphere, and called for major commitment in this domain.

Norway adopted these conclusions, and the political authorities insist that ecological issues play a predominant role in the organization of the Games in 1994. The government wants the 17th Olympic Winter Games to offer a perfect illustration of the environmental policies which both Norway and the rest of the world should adopt.

The "green" objectives set by LOOC stress the need to heighten awareness of the environment, safeguard regional interests and promote sustained economic development in the region. All the sponsors, firms and suppliers of goods and services are called upon to satisfy LOOC's environmental criteria by placing emphasis on ecological solutions and products. On a regional level, LOOC is co-operating with the local authorities to ensure that the Olympic facilities have the least possible impact on their surroundings.

Nor will LOOC be slow in making educational use of the experience gained in 1994. It intends to ensure that schools, industry and the community at large have access to the knowledge acquired on this occasion.

During the Games themselves, the emphasis will be on safe and environment-friendly transport, efficient handling of waste products and use of ecological products and packaging materials. All the staff employed for the 1994 Winter Games and everyone else involved will be encouraged to adopt a constructive attitude towards the environment and the protection of it.

The overall aim is to organize a sports event which respects the environment and points the way towards a truly common future.

