



Can the Games be Sustainable?

The London 2012 Olympics aims to be a green, low carbon, sustainable Olympics. Is it possible?

Take a look the Sydney Olympics in 2000

The Sydney Olympics were designed from the start to be a 'Green' Olympics.

Sustainability principle	How did the Sydney Games do?
Use 'brownfield', not 'greenfield' sites for development.	Homebush Bay was an industrial area, mostly derelict in 1993 when Sydney won the right to host the 2000 Olympics.
Use or adapt existing materials, rather than build from scratch.	Recycled concrete and masonry were used. During the construction of Sydney Olympic Park, 95 per cent of waste was recycled.
Design environmentally friendly buildings.	Where possible non-toxic materials were used. Air-conditioning was avoided.
Minimise adverse impacts of Olympic events on residents.	Most sports were located on one site, as well as the Olympic Village. The Barcelona Olympics in 1992 brought the city to a standstill, the result of coaches and athletes travelling to venues.
Minimise waste, and recycle wherever possible.	Renewable energy sources were used. Compostable paper plates, packaging, cutlery and bin liners, and recyclable PET plastic beakers, wine 'glasses' and food packaging were used.
Protect native ecosystems, fauna or flora.	Homebush Bay, once labelled 'the southern hemisphere's most polluted site' was cleaned-up. Mangrove and salt-marsh areas near Olympic Park were protected and extended, and habitats were restored.
Make Olympic sites fully accessible by public transport.	A new rail link was built to Olympic Park, and a new ferry terminal at Homebush Bay. Admission tickets included the cost of public



	transport to the Games. Cycle routes and pedestrian ways formed part of the system.
Manage water sustainably.	Using filtering technology, sewage and storm water from Olympic Park and the athletes' village was used in irrigation and toilets.
Use energy efficiently.	All houses at the athletes' village had solar energy - one of the world's largest solar-powered suburbs.
Create a local amenity and access for people.	Next to Olympic Park, 450 hectares was set aside and restored to form a public recreational and ecological area, with salt marsh, mangroves, wetlands and other wildlife habitats.
<i>Source: Bob Digby</i>	