



## STATEMENT

ESTC is the industry association for the region Europe Middle East and Africa and seeks to engage with all stakeholders in the synthetic turf industry, including members, end-users, sports governing bodies, landscape design and builder associations, and legislators. The strategy of ESTC is based on, and driven by, the four pillars of Advocacy, Knowledge, Marketing and Networking. As a high-tech, innovative industry, we are moving towards circularity and, as we develop this circular strategy, we consider sustainability implications across the entire synthetic turf supply chain.

ESTC has placed sustainability at the core of its strategy and is bringing together all levels of the supply chain of the synthetic turf industry to become part of a circular economy and to progress in the area of environmental care. Taking care of the environment is no longer just an option; we feel it as our obligation and a responsibility for all. It is clear that synthetic turf has tremendous social economic benefits. It allows society to play sports and other social activities all year round and under all weather circumstances and in places with high population and a lack of space. It also helps withstand the impact of climatic change by saving water on one hand and perform water-harvesting on the other.

At the same time, we have to think about any potential side effects on the environment and do our utmost to neutralize these.

- \* ESTC is strongly pushing for proper separation and recycling of synthetic turf at the end of its life time in dedicated facilities. End-of-life turf becomes a valuable resource and will form a raw material for a new production process.
- \* ESTC is recommending field owners to ensure that proper maintenance is being performed and prevent that any unwanted particles can end up in the environment
- \* ESTC members are committed to only use safe materials and strictly adhere to the REACH regulations
- \* ESTC and its members are doing the utmost to minimize CO2 emissions. A major project here is the PEFCR project, which is being done under guidance of the European Commission. It is an LCA for the entire industry, which will enable to compare different turf systems on their environmental sustainability. The end result will be a classification, comparable to the energy labels for houses and household appliances.

The industry is going through an impressive transition period with a significant increase in innovation that will result in new products being brought to the market in the coming years. At FSB, a number of those new innovations will be shown by the industry participants. We welcome everybody who is interested to come see us at the ESTC stand.

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