Environmental friendly artificial turf pitches
Municipality of Bergen

- Department of Schools, kindergartens and sports affairs.
- Idrettservice.
- 140 employees.
- Sport halls, Public swimming pools, ice hockey arenas, football pitches, athletic track and fields and cross country tracks.
- 78 artificial turf pitches.
Why?

- Artificial turf and environment.
- Rubber infill and toxics.
- Rubber infill as a health issue.
- Microplastic.
- Artificial turf as a waste problem.
Before microplastics.

- 2012 Network for artificial turf. 6 cities and NFF.
- 2013 Old turf to be recycled.
- 2013 No SBR rubber in new pitches.
Microplastic

• 2016/2017 increased focus on microplastics.
• Artificial turf pitches named as a big contributor.
• Politicians and media.
• City Council in Bergen orders an action plan.
Action plan for more environmental friendly pitches.

• Consists of 3 parts.
• Maintenance.
• Construction.
• Clubs and player guidelines.
Main goal.

- Bergen municipality must be at the forefront with regard to environmental measures when establishing, rehabilitating and operating artificial turf pitches, while at the same time facilitating a high level of activity by offering good and functional football facilities.
Operating and maintenance.

• Annual effort in cooperation with the clubs.
• Logging.
• Collection of granules - sent for recycling.
• Plowing - No snow outside the artificial turf surface.
• Only priority pitches are plowed.
Operating and maintenance.

• No winter maintenance on pitches that are in close proximity to water.
• Cleaning of maintenance equipment before leaving the pitch.
• Follow-up of any future regulations from the climate and environmental departments.
Structural measures

- Environmentally friendly infill in new fields and in the rehabilitation of pitches.
- All new fields must be established with e-layer/shock absorbing layer.
- Establishment of grids and granule traps.
- Establishment of filter in sand trap sump.
Structural measures

• Walls of concrete, granite or other solutions 30 cm high around the pitch.
• On new pitches.
• On existing pitches in close proximity to water.
• Two new pitches without rubber.
• Pilot project.
Clubs and player guidelines.

- Awareness raising and attitude-building in collaboration with clubs and NFF Hordaland.
- Development of user instructions in collaboration with NFF Hordaland.
- User Meetings.
- Prize for the best club.
Research Study.

- Research on existing pitches.
- Performed by Norce research company.
- Pilot study finished.
The future?

• Non infill systems that meets the requirements of the players.
• Infill systems that are environmental friendly and meets the requirements of the players and the official test requirements.
• No rubber.
The future?

- Completely recyclable system with low impact on the environment.
- Better and cheaper systems for keeping control of the microplastics on existing pitches.
Tenders to come.

- 1 - 2 new pitches each year.
- 2 - 4 rehabilitations every year.
- This year or next – Large non infill pitch.
- For existing pitches – systems to keep the microplastics under control.
Thank you!