

Environmental friendly artificial turf pitches



Municipality of Bergen

- Department of Schools, kindergartens and sports affairs.
- Idrettsservice.
- 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.









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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.
- 20-25 mill. Nok. investment every year. Sometimes more.
- This year or next – Large non infill pitch.
- For existing pitches – systems to keep the microplastics under control.



Thank you!

