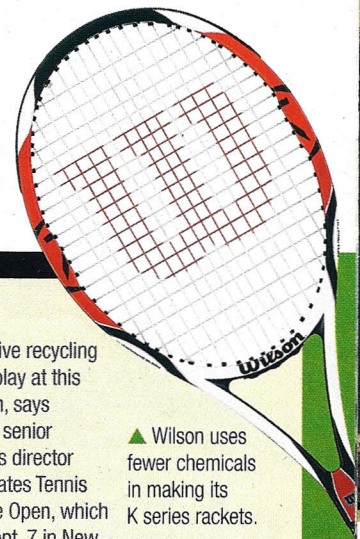


## BE A GOOD SPORT ▶ Products for athletes who want to play green



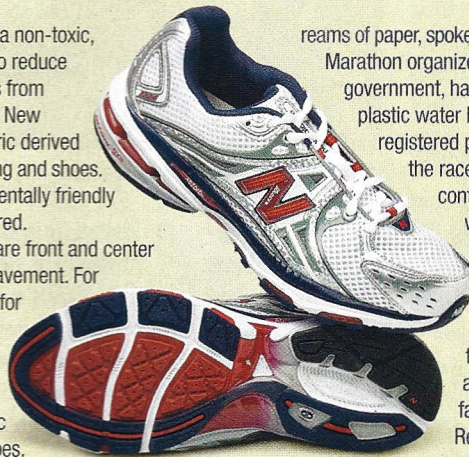
Like most aspects of our world, the recreational sports we hold most dear — running, biking, golf and tennis — are now under the environmental microscope. And manufacturers, sports events, clubs and end users (people like you) are taking steps to be environmentally responsible. Here are some of the efforts and how you can help.

### RUNNING

Brooks' BioMoGo shoe uses a non-toxic, natural additive that is said to reduce biodegrading time in landfills from hundreds of years to just 20. New Balance uses CoCoNa, a fabric derived from coconut shells, in clothing and shoes. And Nike offers an environmentally friendly running shoe called Considered.

Environmental concerns are front and center where the shoes meet the pavement. For the first time, all registration for the Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C., is being done online, saving

▶ New Balance uses a fabric made from coconut in its shoes.



reams of paper, spokeswoman Beth Johnson says. Marathon organizers, in cooperation with local government, have arranged to recycle the plastic water bottles used by the 30,000 registered participants before and after the race as well as the larger containers used for refills at water stops along the route.

#### What you can do:

Recycle your athletic shoes for reuse as a surface for basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields and other recreational facilities through Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program.

### TENNIS

A "comprehensive recycling program" is in play at this year's U.S. Open, says Chris Widmaier, senior communications director at the United States Tennis Association. The Open, which runs through Sept. 7 in New York, will use 100% biodegradable dishes and reusable flatware in restaurants, and menus will feature ingredients grown under sustainable conditions, he says.

Equipment makers Wilson and Penn use recycled materials in some tennis balls. And court surfaces, such as Rebound Ace and Plexicushion, contain materials made from recycled tires and athletic shoes.

▶ Wilson uses fewer chemicals in making its K series rackets.

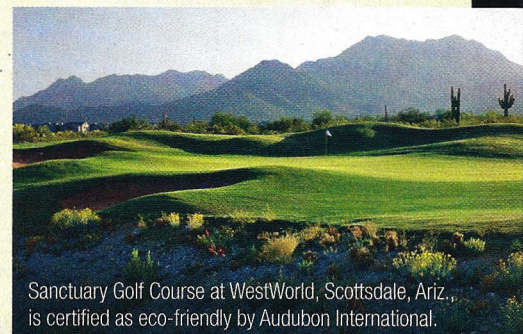
What you can do: Walk or bike to the courts whenever possible. Look for ways to recycle balls: Nursing homes and rehab centers use them as "wheels" on walkers or chairs. Or donate them to an animal shelter for use as dog toys.

### GOLF

For golfers, being green means accepting a little brown. "It's playability and not aesthetics that matters. A course doesn't have to be wall-to-wall green to play well," says Jeff Bollig, communications director for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He says that in the last decade, many courses have made environmentally friendly changes, including installing more efficient irrigation systems, landscaping with native plants, improving wildlife habitats and recycling.

On the product side, EcoGolf sells the Tee2Green eco tee, which has biopolymer materials that, in most cases, will break down in less than 60 days. And the Enviro shoe from Hi-Tec is made of 99% "green" materials, including organic full-grain leather plus a recycled-sock liner.

What you can do: Leave the golf cart parked and walk the course. If you can't carry your own bag, hire a caddy. This environmentally friendly option also will help the local economy. (Or, you can just bring along a friend to do the dirty work.)



Sanctuary Golf Course at WestWorld, Scottsdale, Ariz., is certified as eco-friendly by Audubon International.

### BIKING

At the nation's largest professional biking event, the Commerce Bank Philadelphia International Championship and Liberty Classic, free valet parking is offered to all spectators who arrive on bicycles. As many as 1,000 bikers take advantage of the service, while thousands more ride their bikes and "self-park," according to David Chauner, president of Pro Cycling Tour.

If you're in the market for new wheels and want a sustainable green ride, choose a bike with a hand-built bamboo frame by California's Calfee Design. But don't expect to save money: The bikes, in mountain and racing styles, cost \$3,600 — about what you would pay for a similarly made carbon fiber bike, according to company owner Craig Calfee. The company's new "city bike," available in October, will cost \$1,250.

What you can do: Depending on where you live, try to make biking part of your daily routine in commuting to work or running errands, suggests Chris Linn, a Philadelphia-based environmental planner who bikes to work three times a week. "Then biking becomes recreation and transportation at the same time."

— Robert DiGiacomo

▶ The frame of Calfee Design's mountain bike is handmade from heat-treated bamboo.

