

Dear Reynold Hoover,

Thank you for committing to an “eco-friendly approach”¹ for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. This dedication is crucial and demonstrates that L.A. is eager to set a global standard in sustainability. Therefore, we are reaching out to share how L.A. can achieve its eco-friendly goals and show true leadership in sustainability by hosting a vegan Olympics. The 2024 Olympic Games in Paris set a strong precedent, with 60% of the meals on offer being vegan. However, we believe Los Angeles can do even better.

Animal agriculture is one of the top three contributors to climate change,² alongside the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, and is responsible for 14.5-18% of greenhouse gas emissions globally. Research from the University of Colorado indicates that animal agriculture produces 65% of the world’s nitrous oxide emissions, which has a global warming impact 296 times greater than carbon dioxide. Additionally, animal agriculture is also the world’s leading driver of deforestation.³

In September 2024, L.A. held its inaugural Climate Week which featured hundreds of events by local organizations and citizens who are taking action to combat climate change. Acknowledging the detrimental impact that animal agriculture has on the planet, the catering for the week’s events was 100% vegan. We see no alternative for an influential event that aims to inspire people to take action to protect our planet, and that’s why we are asking the same of the upcoming 2028 Olympics.

A vegan Olympics is the next logical step to continue the innovative initiatives for the planet that have come out of L.A. In July 2024, West Hollywood announced its policy to provide plant-based food by default at all council-run events.⁴ In March 2024, Los Angeles County passed a motion that requires all departmental food procurement to be plant-based by default, too.⁵ Let’s follow this up with a vegan Olympics.

Time is of the essence if we are to effectively combat climate change. We are already experiencing its effects through record-breaking heat waves, extreme wildfires and severely

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<https://www.plasticreimagined.org/articles/sustainable-olympic-season-los-angeles-2028s-eco-friendly-approach>

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https://climate.ec.europa.eu/climate-change/causes-climate-change_en#:~:text=Burning%20fossil%20fuel%20cutting%20down,climate%20and%20the%20earth's%20temperature.

³ <https://earth.org/how-animal-agriculture-is-accelerating-global-deforestation/>

4

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/west-hollywood-goes-vegan-requiring-plant-based-dishes-at-all-city-events/>

⁵ <https://plantbasedfoods.org/latest/plant-based-by-default-wins-in-la-county>

destructive hurricanes, to name a few. With the world's attention on Los Angeles for the 2028 Olympics, this is a unique opportunity to lead the way in creating a better future for the environment and animals by making the Games fully vegan.

For this reason, we, the undersigned, urge you, as Chief Executive Officer of the L.A. 2028 Olympics, to demonstrate that L.A. is going for gold in sustainability by hosting the world's first vegan Olympics.

Signed:

Patrik Baboumian, former "Strongest Man of Germany" and powerlifter

Sarah Bofinger, Paralympic Swimming (5 x Para-American Record holder 2019-2024, 1x Para Pan American Games Bronze Medalist 2023)

Angeline Berva, Strongwoman U73/U82 and France's strongest woman

Vanessa Espinoza, 3-time Golden Gloves champion boxer

Kendrick Farris, Olympic Weightlifter

Simon Geschke, Olympic Road Cyclist

Georges Laraque, Former NHL Player

Alexander Megos, Olympic Rock Climber

Fiona Oakes, World-Record Marathon Runner

Amanda Schott, Olympic Weightlifter