Artificial turf is a polluting, plastic, petrochemical product.
Paper: Old Turf Fields Raise Environmental, Health Concerns

As fields are replaced, billions of pounds of rubber and synthetic fiber are piling up because the U.S. has no plan for disposing of this product.

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content  Nov. 30, 2019

BY CANDY WOODALL, YORK Daily Record

Discarded artificial turf sits in piles near the intersection of Loucks Road and Route 30.
PAUL KUEHNEL, YORK DAILY RECORD
There are currently NO laws or regulations regarding disposal or “recycling” of artificial turf in the US.
ATHLETIC FIELD SURFACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the history of discussion related to installing synthetic turf on Martha’s Vineyard we have researched all the most current and most sustainable trends in the synthetic turf industry. Below is an outline of our goals and objectives in the review of available products to be considered at MVRHS.

Goal: To develop a sustainable synthetic turf specification which addresses concerns related to human health, player safety, heat, water quality and recycling at the end of life.

Objective #1: Specify a turf product that eliminates the polyurethane coating and heavy backing from the synthetic turf carpet.

HAI recommend that MVRHS consider a woven synthetic turf carpet. The woven products eliminate the use of polyurethanes in the backing and simplifies the recycling efforts at the end of the field’s useful life. Presently there are two manufacturers in the United States that make a woven product, ACT Global and Greenfields. Please refer to the product information attached in the appendix.

Objective #2: Identify an alternative infill that is sustainable harvested, containing no heavy metals, FAH, VOC or other chemically based ingredients.

HAI recommends that MVRHS consider a product called BrockFill. Manufactured by Brock USA. This innovative infill product is manufactured from sustainably harvested Loblolly Pine trees from Georgia. The product is 100% organic, recyclable at the end of its useful life, and eliminates the need to use crumb rubber as an infill. The installed cost is also comparable to crumb rubber. Please refer to the product information attached in the appendix.

Objective #3: Identify a resilient shock pad which meets the above criteria, reduces the reliance on infill, and improves player safety and shock attenuation.

HAI Recommends that MVRHS consider the YSR resilient turf underlayment manufactured by Brock USA. The YSR pad is made of recyclable polypropylene, is cradle-to-cradle certified and has a 25-year warranty. The use of a resilient underlayment has been shown to reduce the risk of injuries from head to field contact by as much as 50%. Please refer to the product information attached in the appendix.

Objective #4: Draft a specification that requires end-of-life recycling, including chain of custody certification for all products.

The ability to recycle an entire synthetic turf field, at little to no cost to the owner, is now possible. HAI recommends that MVRHS explore the possibility of requiring that their turf go to a recycling facility at the end of its useful life. This process should be documented through proper chain of custody certification to ensure the products do not get re-purposed or end up in a landfill. One such recycling facility is presently being constructed in Pennsylvania by ReMatch Turf Recycling Inc., and is expected to be fully operational by 2019.
This is NOT grass.
ALL of this is plastic.
Mr. Joseph Lavorgna
MCPS

Re: FieldTurf Recycling Commitment

Dear Mr. Lavorgna,

FieldTurf takes our role in the environment very seriously and our objective is to create a positive environmental impact on the world. Currently, FieldTurf drastically reduces the need for water, pesticides, and CO2 emissions.

Keeping in line with our global objectives, FieldTurf will guarantee that our field products will be 100% recycled after its useful life is finished and will also guarantee that the field does not end up in a landfill.

Regards,

Darren Gill
Director of Marketing

Target Technologies International Inc. regrets that our recycling program in Malaysia has come to an end. Our partner in this endeavor has advised there has not been a sufficient number of fields to recycle to support the economics of operating a plant. As well due to Covid 19, we have had great difficulties obtaining containers and ocean rates in a timely fashion exacerbating the problem.

The good news is that we have been in discussions with a group to have a synthetic turf recycling facility in the USA. This will hopefully come to fruition in 2021. Stay tuned for updates.
MANY QUESTIONS STILL NEED TO BE ANSWERED