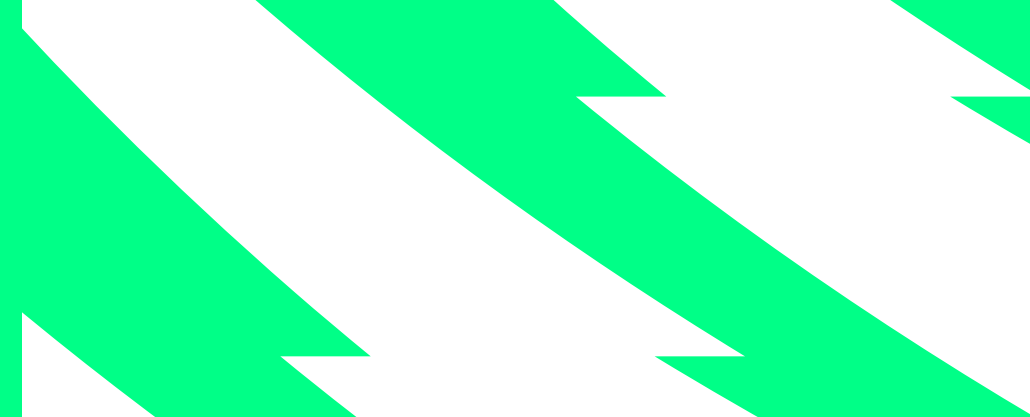




Premier  
League

# Environmental Sustainability Strategy





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**“Our mission is to accelerate positive environmental change across the League and through engagement with fans and community participants.”**

# Foreword

**At the Premier League, we understand the importance of addressing environmental issues. Alongside our clubs, this is an area we have been involved in for some time, and we are committed to building on existing work to support long-term change.**

As sports at all levels experience the impacts of climate change, our Environmental Sustainability Strategy outlines initiatives that are in place and sets out objectives we will work towards to support the future of our game, as well as playing our part educating others.

Premier League football is enjoyed by hundreds of millions of fans around the world. We therefore have the ability to reach and influence a significant global audience, raising awareness of climate change issues and helping to inspire positive behaviour change.

As well as working towards our own ambitions as an organisation, we are committed to supporting our clubs in pursuit of positive environmental outcomes. This includes the creation of a club working group to share best practice, and the introduction of the Premier League Environmental Sustainability Commitment in

2024, which established a minimum standard of action across the League and our clubs.

Our mission is to accelerate positive environmental change across the League and through engagement with fans and community participants. To achieve this, we have set out three core pillars of work:

1. Adapting our business, with the aim of becoming net zero by 2040
2. Future-proofing the game by supporting decarbonisation across the Premier League
3. Engaging and inspiring fans by encouraging action through our programmes and platforms

We will regularly review our programme of work, to keep our strategy up to date as our business and the wider industry continues to evolve.

We know there is much work to do, but we are fully committed to this strategy.

**Richard Masters**  
Premier League Chief Executive

# Our approach

To deliver on our environmental sustainability mission, we will work in different ways according to the level of control we have over outcomes.

## 1. Direct control

Integrating sustainability principles into the day-to-day operations of our business. This includes working to reduce our scope 1, 2 and 3 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (page 12).

## 2. Collaborate

Acting as a convener of Premier League clubs (who have their own environmental programmes) and a funder of projects and community programmes throughout the domestic football pyramid. This also involves the work we do with other leagues and football governing bodies to align on environmental issues.

## 3. Influence

Using the Premier League's reach to raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues, supporting our stakeholders, fans and those engaged in our community activity to take action.

### Direct control

**Our  
business**

### Collaborate

**Football partners  
Premier League Clubs  
English Football Pyramid**

### Influence

**Coaches      Players      Officials  
Community participants      Fans  
Suppliers      Volunteers**



# Our focus areas

**We will focus on the environmental issues that are most relevant to our business and the broader football industry.**

These issues were identified following extensive engagement with clubs, wider stakeholders and sustainability experts and will be reviewed as our strategy progresses.

- 1. Climate action**  
Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause climate change, and supporting climate adaptation and resilience measures.
- 2. Resource efficiency**  
Minimising waste and embracing the circular economy.
- 3. Biodiversity and nature**  
Protecting and supporting biodiversity and access to nature.

**Our work on environmental sustainability contributes to several UN Sustainable Development Goals, as outlined below.**

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global blueprint of 17 interconnected goals set by the UN to address social, economic and environmental challenges, aiming for a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

# Our strategic priorities

Our mission: to accelerate positive environmental change across the League and through engagement with fans and community participants.

1. Adapt our business



Becoming Net zero by 2040

2. Future-proof the game



Supporting decarbonisation across the League

3. Engage and inspire



Raising awareness through our programmes and platforms

# 1. Adapt our business

## Net zero by 2040

We will adapt the way we do business, focusing action on the environmental issues that are most relevant to our business (page 5). We will take a management system-led approach to help organise our work. This means creating structured policies, tracking progress and continuously improving practices to ensure that we integrate our environmental objectives across all the work that we do.

Our overarching objective is to become net zero by 2040 at the latest. As the Premier League continues to undergo significant change, including establishing a new in-house media operations business (superseding Premier League Productions) for the start of Season 2026/27, we will review our interim decarbonisation target (50 per cent reduction in scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 2030) to assess its feasibility and robustness.

Objectives	Ambitions	How we will succeed
<b>Embed environmental sustainability into business processes and decision-making</b>   	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) and obtain external certification by the end of Season 2026/27</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formally incorporate environmental sustainability into our governance and decision-making structures</li> <li>• Provide relevant environmental training to all our staff</li> <li>• Include environmental considerations in supplier due diligence and risk management frameworks</li> </ul>
<b>Take a robust approach to reducing our environmental impact</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Report progress towards our net-zero ambition on our website, on an annual basis</li> <li>3. Develop a Climate Transition Plan by the end of Season 2026/27</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continually improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of our emissions data</li> <li>• Implement sustainable sourcing requirements for the products and services we buy</li> <li>• Implement best-practice sustainable event management guidelines</li> </ul>

\*In line with the Science Based Targets initiative Corporate Net-Zero Standard, we define net zero as the reduction of all possible scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions (by at least 90 per cent) against our baseline year (Season 2018/19), with remaining emissions that cannot be abated neutralised through permanent carbon removal and storage.

## UN commitment

### UN Sports for Climate Action

In 2021, the Premier League signed up to the UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action Framework (S4CA), which brings together sports organisations from across the globe to achieve climate change goals. As part of this commitment, the Premier League aims to achieve net-zero status by 2040.



United Nations Climate Change

### Making sustainability business as usual

As part of the Premier League's Elite Coaching Plan, the coaching team deliver individualised development programmes to the 20 Premier League and 72 EFL clubs across the country.

During Season 2023/24, the team set out to benchmark the environmental impact of hosting and delivering 28 coaching events across different sites. This included an analysis of travel data and hotel stays for all event attendees and the delivery of both carbon emissions and waste baselines. The team were able to identify carbon emission 'hotspots' and have since recorded a reduction in the use of petrol and diesel vehicles and an increase in rail travel and electric vehicle journeys for the people attending their events in Season 2024/25.



Premier League coaching workshop held in 2024

# 2. Future-proof the game

## Supporting decarbonisation across the League

Many Premier League clubs have their own environmental programmes in place. The Premier League’s role is to drive consistency and collaboration among our 20 clubs and to help unlock new opportunities through collective scale.

In 2024, the Premier League Environmental Sustainability Commitment was established, creating a minimum standard of action on environmental issues across clubs and the League. The Commitment contains four operational measures to achieve by

the end of Season 2025/26, at which point our collective approach will be reviewed and updated. More information on the Commitment [can be found on our website](#).

Our approach is coordinated through the Premier League’s Club Sustainability Working Group. The Working Group comprises sustainability leads from across clubs and exists to facilitate consensus building, knowledge sharing and to support the delivery of League-wide initiatives.

Objectives	Ambitions	How we will succeed
<b>Unlock opportunities for League-wide decarbonisation</b>  	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Premier League clubs to have a robust environmental policy by the end of Season 2024/25*</li> <li>All Premier League clubs to have developed a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions dataset (scope 1, 2 and 3) by the end of Season 2025/26*</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate collective projects to address our biggest environmental impacts and broader benefits for biodiversity and nature</li> <li>Build consensus on fundamental issues, such as carbon accounting methodologies</li> <li>Regularly convene clubs to facilitate knowledge sharing</li> </ul>
<b>Support the sustainability and resilience of clubs through the Premier League Stadium Fund</b> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for LED floodlights at stadiums across the Men’s and Women’s Football Pyramid (Step 1 to 6 and Tier 1 to 4) by 2030</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote the financial and environmental benefits of LED floodlight systems</li> </ul>

\*The environmental policy and carbon footprint requirements began to apply to all clubs from Season 2023/24 onwards. Timelines will be adjusted for clubs promoted in subsequent seasons.



Non-league Brightlingsea Regent have received new LED floodlights via the Premier League Stadium Fund

### Climate resilience

Through the Premier League Stadium Fund we continue to provide capital grants to help support climate resilience and adaptation measures across the National League System and Women’s Football Pyramid. Grants are directed towards a range of programmes, including initiatives to support energy-efficiency upgrades and recovery from storm damage, benefiting clubs across the country including Brightlingsea Regent (pictured).

**Find out more about Premier League Stadium Fund investment at Brightlingsea Regent [by visiting our website](#).**

# Future-proof the game

## Premier League Stadium Fund: LED floodlights

The Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF) awards capital grants to clubs that play in Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System and the Women's Football Pyramid. Since its inception in 2000, the Fund has awarded more than 5,900 grants to 1,000 clubs, at a total investment of over £207 million.

Through the PLSF's LED Floodlight Fund, the Premier League has committed £9 million to help all clubs across the National League System and Women's Football Pyramid make the 'big switch' to LED floodlights. LED floodlights typically consume 50 per cent less energy compared with older metal halide systems, meaning they last longer, cost less to run and considerably reduce carbon emissions. This helps clubs like Raynes Park Vale (pictured) to reduce both their energy consumption and their bills.



Raynes Park Vale (pictured) were awarded a grant of £115,000 in 2024 for facility upgrades including new LED floodlights

## Tadcaster Albion

Tadcaster Albion, founded in 1892, are one of many non-league clubs to have benefited from the Premier League Stadium Fund. In 2024, the club converted their 25-year-old floodlight bulbs to new LED lighting, made possible by a grant of £16,835. The new floodlights save energy and improve the player and spectator match experience through greater reliability and quality.

Located in a flood plain in the north of England, Tadcaster is prone to flooding, causing significant damage to the stadium infrastructure and threatening the club's continued existence. Through the PLSF, Tadcaster Albion received a further storm relief package of £23,500 to enable effective ground repairs and wider flood resilience.

**"It's a no-brainer, for any club. The benefits [of converting to LED floodlights] are twofold: the club saves money and it's a better viewing and playing experience for everyone involved."**

Andy Charlesworth, Tadcaster Albion Chairman

# 3. Engage and inspire

## Raising awareness of climate change through Premier League programmes and platforms

The continued success of the Premier League enables unprecedented support for all levels of football and club community programmes. The League has committed £1.6 billion of investment into wider football and communities between 2022 and 2025, and more than 2.5 million people have benefited from Premier League community programmes to date.

The reach and influence of the Premier League means we have an opportunity to engage a global audience of fans. We will use our platforms to raise awareness of environmental issues by showcasing the positive actions of the Premier League and our clubs. Additionally, we will continue to integrate environmental themes into Premier League-funded community programmes, aiming to inspire positive behaviour change through our connections with Club Community Organisations (CCOs), the Academy system and schools across the country.

### Objectives

#### Inspire positive behaviour change



#### Raise awareness of environmental issues across our global audience of fans



### Ambitions

1. Drive greater engagement in our Premier League-funded club and community activity linked to environmental sustainability
2. Amplification of Premier League and club environmental sustainability work and messaging to reach\* 50 million people by the end of Season 2026/27

### How we will succeed

- Increase the number of Academy players that receive sustainability training
- Update and increase the utilisation of Premier League Primary Stars 'Protect the Planet' resources
- Support CCOs to be effective and sustainable through the Capability Code of Practice
- Celebrate sustainability success stories of Premier League clubs through our digital channels

\* Reach measured by cumulative impressions garnered across Premier League owned and third-party channels.

## Academy training programme

The Premier League has invested £2.5 billion across the Academy system (Premier League and EFL) since 2012, offering a range of opportunities tailored to age groups and individuals to support their continued development.

Environmental sustainability training has been made available across the Academy system, as part of the Premier League's Life Skills & Personal Development Programme. Academy players learn about the fundamentals of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and discuss practical solutions that players and clubs can champion.



# Engage and inspire

## Supporting Club Community Organisations

Premier League funding is distributed to 106 Club Community Organisations (CCOs) across the Premier League, EFL and National League by the Premier League Charitable Fund. This supports CCOs to build their infrastructure and deliver Premier League community programmes.

The Capability Code of Practice (CCOP) provides rigorous governance standards that CCOs must meet in order to receive funding via the Premier League Charitable Fund and outlines recommendations for how these funds are used. In 2022, environmental sustainability was introduced as a standard within CCOP. With support from the Premier League Charitable Fund, CCOs are encouraged to formally integrate environmental actions into their governance structures and deliver engagement on environmental themes.



Premier League Inspires Challenge environmental action day at Newcastle United

## Learning about environmental sustainability

Premier League Primary Stars and Premier League Inspires are the League's free education programmes that support young people in primary and secondary school. The programmes feature resources and activity created to help raise awareness of environmental sustainability.

## Premier League Primary Stars

Premier League Primary Stars is the Premier League's primary school education programme. Over 70,000 primary school teachers have been provided with free-to-access environmental sustainability-related teaching resources.

Launched in August 2022, the Protect the Planet resource pack explores the key sustainability topics of transport, food, energy and nature, enabling pupils to learn about simple changes everyone can make to have a positive impact on the planet. To date, the Premier League Primary Stars resources have been delivered in over 19,000 schools across England and Wales since 2017.

[Find out more here.](#)

## Premier League Inspires Challenge

The Premier League Inspires Challenge is an annual social action-led event, which empowers participants to take on a project that will make a positive difference to the world around them.

Through the Challenge, more than 3,900 young people have designed projects to help tackle environmental issues and protect nature in their local communities, from organising litter picks to creating planters out of old footballs.

[Find out more here.](#)

# Greenhouse gas emissions

Season 2022/23 emissions

**36,821** tCO<sub>2</sub>e

## Carbon footprint methodology

Our emissions inventory has been developed in alignment with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and with the assistance of industry experts. [Visit our website](#) for a comprehensive review of our methodology.

**We categorise our emissions into three scopes, as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:**

### Scope 1

Direct emissions from our owned or controlled assets, such as the combustion of natural gas in our offices.

### Scope 2

Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity.

### Scope 3

Indirect emissions from across our value chain - most notably our supply chain, our events, Premier League Productions, and business travel.

Scope 1  
**13 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Natural gas used in our office

Scope 2  
(location based)

**72 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Electricity used in our office

Scope 3  
**36,736 tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

Supply chain

Fuel and energy-related activities

Waste and water

Business travel

Employee commuting

Homeworking





[premierleague.com](http://premierleague.com)

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