



LED FLOOD LIGHTING



INTRODUCTION

Floodlighting is one of the largest energy users in many football Clubs. Traditional metal halide or high intensity discharge floodlights consume significant electricity or diesel, require frequent maintenance and contribute heavily to energy costs and carbon emissions.

Upgrading to LED floodlighting can significantly reduce energy consumption, improve lighting quality and lower long term operational costs. It can also enhance the playing experience and support compliance with competition lighting standards.

This resource has been developed to support Clubs in Wales who are considering upgrading existing floodlights or installing new LED systems as part of their Together Greener journey.

This guide will help your Club to:

- Understand the benefits of LED floodlighting.
- Identify key technical and planning considerations.
- Assess financial and environmental implications.
- Explore funding and grant opportunities.
- Avoid common pitfalls.
- Prepare for discussions with consultants and contractors.

It is designed as an introduction to support early-stage planning. Clubs should always seek professional advice before progressing with major infrastructure projects.





BENEFITS

Why Consider LED Floodlighting?

Energy and Cost Savings

LED floodlights typically use significantly less energy than traditional lighting systems. This can result in meaningful reductions in electricity bills, particularly for Clubs that host regular evening training or matches.

Reduced Maintenance

LED systems have a much longer lifespan, reducing the need for frequent bulb replacements and maintenance costs.

Improved Lighting Quality

LED floodlights provide more consistent, higher quality illumination, improving visibility for players, officials and spectators.

Environmental Benefits

Lower electricity consumption reduces your Club's carbon emissions and supports your Together Greener Energy Goal.





KEY QUESTIONS

What lighting levels do we need?

Lighting requirements depend on the level of football being played. Clubs should review relevant competition and governing body standards to determine required lux levels. Higher competition levels generally require higher lighting standards.

Should we use mains electricity or a generator?

Running floodlights from mains electricity is generally more efficient and environmentally preferable compared to diesel generators.

If moving from generator to mains supply, you should:

- Confirm your electrical capacity.
- Review your Maximum Import Capacity.
- Discuss supply upgrades with your electricity provider.

Do we need planning permission?

- Upgrading existing floodlights to LED usually does not require planning permission unless structural changes are involved.
- Installing new floodlighting systems typically requires planning approval. Always confirm with your local planning authority.





COSTS

What will it cost?

Costs vary depending on:

- Number of lighting columns.
- Height and structural upgrades.
- Civil works and cabling.
- Electrical upgrades.
- Installation and commissioning.

When budgeting, consider both upfront costs and long-term savings from reduced energy use and maintenance.



CONSIDERATIONS

Check Your Electrical Capacity

If running floodlights from the mains:

- Confirm your Maximum Import Capacity.
- Ensure your supply is suitable for the expected load.
- Review your electricity contract.

Incorrect capacity settings can lead to higher charges or penalty costs.

Consider Your Wider Impact

Lighting can affect:

- Neighbouring properties.
- Local biodiversity.
- Night sky visibility.

Clubs should consider light spill, timing controls and responsible usage to minimise impact.

Using timers and smart controls can reduce unnecessary energy use and protect local environments.

Plan for Safety

If hosting evening matches, emergency lighting systems may be required to ensure safe exit routes in the event of power failure.





Together Greener Programme

FUNDING

LED floodlighting upgrades may be eligible for support through:

- Cymru Football Foundation grants.
- Local authority community grants.
- Sport and facility development funding.
- Energy efficiency funding programmes.

Clubs are encouraged to explore funding options early in the planning process.

Further information on available funding is included in the funding section at www.FAW.Cymru/TogetherGreener-Energy



LED FLOODLIGHTING PLANNING CHECKLIST

Before proceeding, confirm that:

CHECKLIST QUESTION	YES/NO	COMMENTS
We understand the lighting levels required for our pitch.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have gathered 12 months of energy data.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have sought independent technical advice.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have calculated full project costs, including civil and electrical works.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have estimated long-term energy savings.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have explored funding opportunities.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have considered the community and environmental impact.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have reviewed the electrical supply capacity.	Yes ☐ No ☐	
We have ensured appropriate insurance and contractor documentation.	Yes ☐ No ☐	



FURTHER SUPPORT

Upgrading to LED floodlighting can be a transformative step for your Club, delivering energy savings, improved facilities and long-term financial benefits.

However, it is a significant infrastructure decision that requires careful planning, professional advice and consideration of technical, financial and environmental factors.

As part of your Together Greener journey, use this guidance to explore whether LED floodlighting is the right step for your Club and integrate it into your wider Energy Action Plan and Green Goals.

An LED floodlighting upgrade may support a Green Goal such as:

- Reduce electricity use from pitch lighting.
- Improve energy efficiency of Club facilities.
- Reduce carbon emissions from evening training.

Detailed project planning should be recorded within your Energy Action Plan.

Further information on energy can be found at www.faw.cymru/TogetherGreener-energy

If you require support, please contact sustainability@faw.cymru