



SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING FOR CLUBS



INTRODUCTION

Football clubs regularly purchase a wide range of goods and services, including kit, equipment, food and drink, cleaning products and facility materials. These purchasing decisions can have a significant impact on both the environment and wider society.

Sustainable purchasing means considering not only cost and quality, but also the environmental and social impact of what your Club buys. By making more informed choices, Clubs can reduce waste, lower carbon emissions and support responsible suppliers.

This resource provides practical guidance to help Clubs adopt more sustainable purchasing practices as part of the FAW Together Greener Programme.

This resource will support your Club to:

- Understand what sustainable purchasing means in practice.
- Identify opportunities to reduce environmental impact through procurement.
- Make more informed and responsible purchasing decisions.
- Support waste reduction and circular economy principles.
- Engage suppliers and partners in sustainability.





SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

What is Sustainable Purchasing?

Sustainable purchasing is the process of buying goods and services in a way that considers their full lifecycle impact, from production and transport through to use and disposal.

For Clubs, this means thinking beyond the initial purchase and considering:

- Whether the item is really needed.
- How long will it last.
- Whether it can be reused, repaired or recycled.
- How it is produced and sourced.

This approach helps reduce waste and ensures better long-term value for the Club.





BENEFITS

Why is Sustainable Purchasing Important for Clubs?

Purchasing decisions are one of the most effective ways Clubs can influence their overall environmental impact.

Adopting sustainable purchasing practices can help your Club to:

- Reduce waste and unnecessary spending.
- Lower environmental impact and carbon emissions.
- Support ethical and responsible businesses.
- Improve efficiency and long-term value for money.
- Align with sustainability goals and expectations across football.





KEY PRINCIPLES

Key Principles for Sustainable Purchasing

Buy Less

The most sustainable option is often not to buy at all.

Clubs should:

- Review whether purchases are necessary.
- Avoid duplicate or unnecessary items.
- Plan ahead to reduce last-minute buying.

Choose Durable and Reusable Products

Selecting higher-quality, longer-lasting products reduces waste over time.

Clubs can:

- Invest in durable equipment and materials.
- Avoid single-use items where possible.
- Choose reusable alternatives such as bottles, cups and containers.





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Prioritise Sustainable Materials

Where purchases are required, Clubs should consider the materials used.

Clubs can:

- Choose products made from recycled or sustainable materials.
- Avoid excessive packaging.
- Select items that can be recycled at the end of life.

Consider Whole Life Cost

The cheapest option upfront is not always the most cost-effective in the long term.

Clubs should:

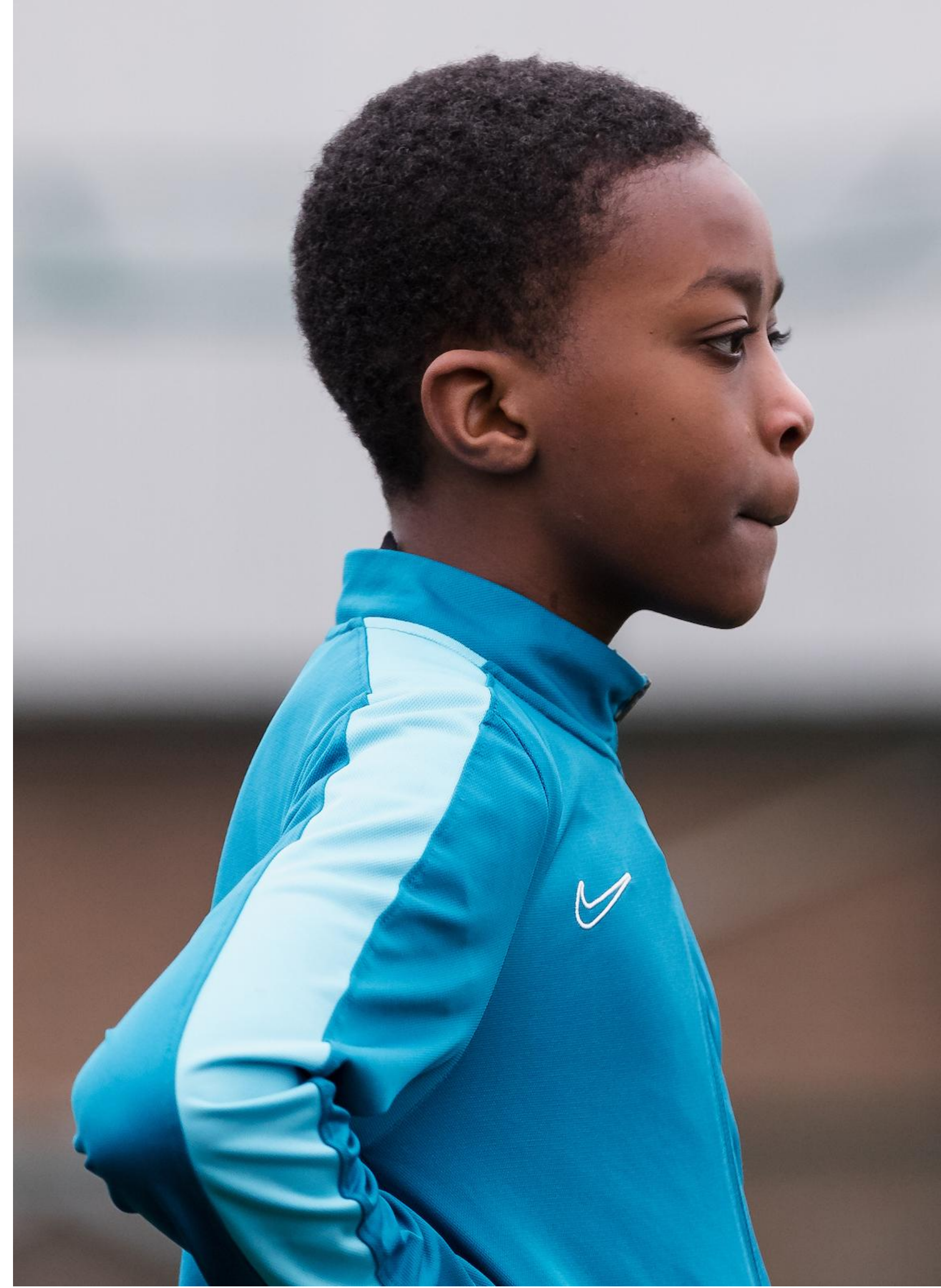
- Consider maintenance, lifespan and replacement costs.
- Choose products that offer better value over time.
- Factor in disposal costs where relevant.

Work with Responsible Suppliers

Suppliers play a key role in supporting sustainable purchasing.

Clubs can:

- Engage suppliers on their sustainability practices.
- Choose local suppliers where possible to reduce transport impact.
- Ask about packaging, sourcing and environmental commitments.





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NEXT STEPS

Embedding Sustainable Purchasing in Your Club

Even small changes in purchasing habits can have a significant cumulative impact.

To make sustainable purchasing part of everyday practice, Clubs should:

- Assign responsibility to a committee member or the Green Team.
- Develop simple purchasing guidelines.
- Communicate expectations to volunteers and staff.
- Review purchasing decisions regularly.

Starting Small and Building Over Time

Clubs do not need to change everything at once. Start by identifying a few key areas where improvements can be made.

Examples include:

- Switching to reusable products.
- Reducing single use plastics.
- Choosing more sustainable suppliers.
- Avoiding unnecessary purchases.

These actions can be expanded over time as your Club builds confidence and experience.



FURTHER SUPPORT

Sustainable purchasing is a practical and impactful way for your Club to reduce its environmental impact while improving efficiency and long-term value. By making more informed choices about what you buy, you can reduce waste, support responsible suppliers and contribute to a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

You do not need to change all purchasing decisions immediately. Start with a small number of priority areas and build your approach over time.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Inform one of your two Green Goals.
- Review and improve your Club's purchasing practices.
- Support your Waste Action Plan and wider sustainability goals.
- Engage suppliers, volunteers and members in sustainable decision making.

Even simple actions, such as choosing reusable products or reducing unnecessary purchases, can make a meaningful difference over the course of a season.

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

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