



MEASURING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



INTRODUCTION

Every football Club has a carbon footprint. Whether travelling to matches, heating the clubhouse, mowing pitches, purchasing equipment or organising events, these activities all create greenhouse gas emissions.

Understanding your Club's carbon footprint is an important first step towards reducing it. You cannot effectively manage what you do not measure!

The good news is that measuring your carbon footprint does not need to be complicated. This resource introduces the basics, explains the different types of emissions, highlights what Clubs should measure, and signposts practical tools to help you get started.

Measuring emissions is not about being perfect. It is about understanding where your biggest impacts are, making informed decisions and demonstrating your Club's commitment to building a more sustainable future.

This resource will help your Club to:

- Understand what a carbon footprint is.
- Learn the difference between Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions.
- Identify the main sources of emissions within football Clubs.
- Prioritise the areas where the biggest reductions can be achieved.
- Begin measuring emissions using recognised methods.
- Understand how the UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator can support your Club.
- Link carbon measurement to your Sustainability Strategy, Carbon Reduction Plan and Together Greener Action Plans.
- Track progress over time and celebrate improvements.





BENEFITS

Why Measure Your Carbon Footprint?

Every action your Club takes has an environmental impact. By measuring your emissions, your Club can move beyond assumptions and make evidence-based decisions that reduce costs, improve efficiency and support long-term sustainability.

Many Clubs discover that the largest opportunities to reduce emissions are also opportunities to save money, improve operations and strengthen community reputation.

Carbon measurement should therefore be viewed as a practical management tool rather than simply an environmental exercise.

Measuring your carbon footprint can help your Club:

- Identify where emissions are coming from.
- Prioritise the actions that will have the greatest impact.
- Reduce energy, fuel and travel costs.
- Demonstrate leadership within Welsh football.
- Support funding and grant applications.
- Monitor progress year after year.
- Engage members around shared sustainability goals.

Remember:

The objective is not simply to measure emissions. The objective is to reduce them.



CARBON FOOTPRINT

What Is a Carbon Footprint?

A carbon footprint is the total greenhouse gas emissions created directly and indirectly by your Club's activities.

These emissions are measured in Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e).

This combines different greenhouse gases into one standard measurement.

For most football Clubs, emissions come from activities such as:

- Electricity use.
- Gas or heating fuel.
- Vehicle fuel.
- Team travel.
- Supporter travel.
- Waste disposal.
- Purchasing equipment.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Water use.
- Construction and refurbishment projects.

Every Club is different. The aim is to understand your own footprint so you can make informed improvements.



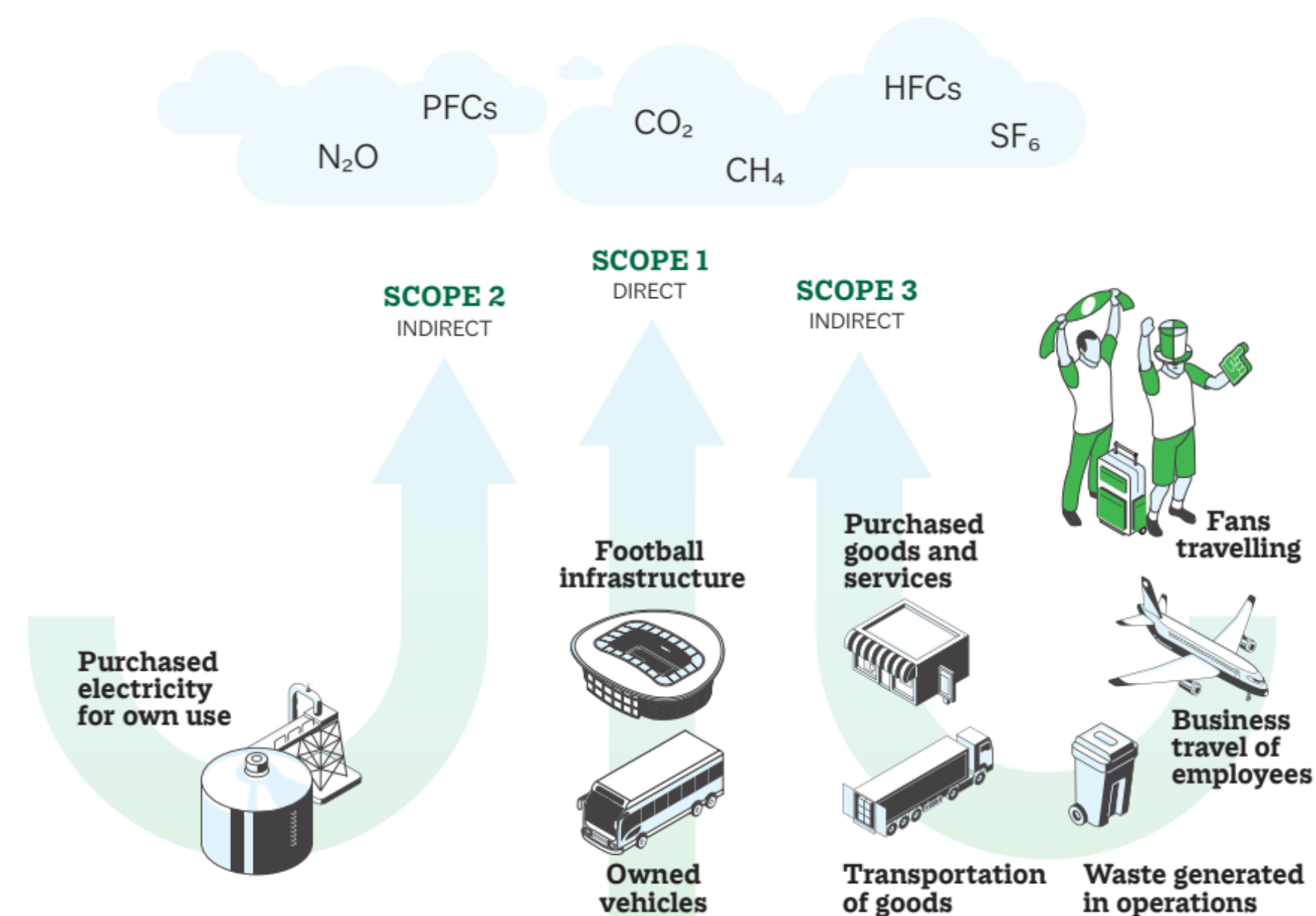


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SCOPES

Understanding Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 Emissions

To make carbon measurement consistent around the world, emissions are grouped into three categories known as Scopes.





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Scope 1 – Direct Emissions

These are emissions created directly by your Club.

Examples include:

- Gas boilers.
- Heating oil.
- Club-owned vehicles,
- Petrol or diesel used in machinery.
- Ride-on mowers.
- Grounds maintenance equipment.
- Generators.

These are usually the emissions your Club has the greatest direct control over.

Scope 2 – Purchased Energy

These emissions come from indirect emissions from the electricity your Club purchases.

Examples include:

- Clubhouse electricity.
- Floodlights.
- Heating systems powered by electricity.
- Kitchen facilities.
- Refrigeration.
- Office equipment.
- EV charging points.

Although the emissions occur when electricity is generated elsewhere, your Club influences them through how much electricity it uses and where that electricity comes from.

Choosing renewable electricity can significantly reduce Scope 2 emissions.





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Scope 3 – Indirect Emissions

Scope 3 emissions are usually the largest source of emissions for football clubs.

These come from activities that your Club influences but does not directly control.

Examples include:

Travel

Players travelling to training.
Away matches.
Supporter travel.
Volunteer travel.
Referee travel.

Purchased Goods

Football kit.
Equipment.
Office supplies.
Catering.
Merchandise.

Water

Water treatment.
Wastewater.

Construction

Building materials.
New facilities.
Pitch developments.
Refurbishments.

Waste

Waste disposal.
Recycling.
Food waste.

Services

Contractors.
Maintenance companies.
Cleaning services.

Although these emissions can be harder to measure, they often provide the greatest opportunities for long-term carbon reduction.



WHAT TO MEASURE?

What Should Your Club Measure?

You do not need to measure everything immediately. Start with the information that is easiest to collect.

Examples include:

Energy

Electricity bills.
Gas bills.
Heating oil.
Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

Travel

Team travel.
Staff travel.
Volunteer travel.
Matchday travel.
Coach travel.
Club vehicles.

Water

Annual water.
Consumption.
Water meter readings.

Waste

General waste.
Recycling.
Food waste.

Grounds Maintenance

Fuel used in mowers.
Machinery usage
Fertiliser use
Herbicide use

Purchasing

New equipment
Football kit
Office purchases
Catering supplies

Over time your Club can gradually increase the amount of information collected.





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PRIORITY

Focus on Your Biggest Sources First

Not every emission source has the same impact. For many football Clubs, the largest emissions often come from:

- Travel.
- Energy use.
- Purchased goods.
- Construction and maintenance.
- Waste.

Rather than trying to reduce everything at once, identify your biggest sources and focus your efforts there first.

Small improvements across high-impact areas often deliver greater carbon reductions than major effort in low-impact areas.





MEASURING CARBON

Measuring Carbon Through the Together Greener Programme

The Together Greener Programme has been designed to help Clubs reduce emissions across every area of their operations.

Each topic contributes to lowering your Club's overall carbon footprint.

TOGETHER GREENER TOPIC	HELPS REDUCE EMISSIONS THROUGH
Energy	Lower electricity and heating use.
Waste	Reducing waste and increasing recycling.
Travel	Sustainable transport and travel planning.
Biodiversity	Nature-based solutions and carbon storage.
Water	Efficient water use and reduced energy demand.
Club Management	Planning, monitoring and long-term carbon reduction.

Carbon measurement should therefore support, not replace, the actions already being taken across the programme.





UEFA CALCULATOR

Introducing the UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator

To support football organisations across Europe, UEFA has developed a dedicated [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#) specifically for football.

Unlike general carbon calculators, it has been designed around the activities that football Clubs, Leagues and Associations undertake every day.

The calculator helps organisations:

- Measure greenhouse gas emissions.
- Understand where emissions occur.
- Compare performance over time.
- Prioritise reduction actions.
- Support sustainability reporting.

It follows the internationally recognised **Greenhouse Gas Protocol**, has been independently validated and was developed specifically for the football sector.

The calculator includes football-specific areas such as:

- Mobility and travel.
- Energy.
- Waste & Water.
- Purchased goods and services (Food and beverage and materials)
- Logistics.



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ACCESS

Accessing the UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator

Clubs wishing to use the UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator can request access directly from UEFA.

UEFA also provides:

- User guides.
- Tutorial videos.
- Methodology documents.
- Technical support materials.

Useful resources include:

- [UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator User Guide.](#)
- [UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator Methodology.](#)
- [UEFA Embodied Carbon Emissions in Football Infrastructure Methodology.](#)

Access requests can be made by contacting:

carboncalculator@uefa.ch

These resources make it easier for Clubs to begin measuring emissions consistently and accurately.





MEASURE PROGRESS

Measuring Progress Over Time

Carbon measurement is most valuable when carried out consistently.

Consider measuring your footprint:

- Every year.
- Before and after major projects.
- Following facility upgrades.
- After introducing travel initiatives.
- When setting new sustainability targets.

Compare results year on year to identify trends and measure improvements.

Remember that reducing emissions is a long-term journey.

Top Tips

- Start with the information you already have.
- Don't wait for perfect data.
- Focus on your largest emission sources first.
- Measure each year consistently.
- Celebrate progress.
- Share successes with members and the local community.
- Use carbon data to support funding applications.
- Remember that reducing emissions often reduces costs too.





FURTHER SUPPORT

Measuring your Club's carbon footprint is one of the most valuable steps you can take on your sustainability journey. It provides the evidence needed to make better decisions, target investment where it will have the greatest impact and demonstrate your Club's commitment to protecting the future of football and the environment.

Every Club starts from a different place. What matters most is making a start, learning from the data and continuously improving over time. The Together Greener Programme has been designed to support Clubs at every stage of this journey.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Begin measuring your Club's carbon footprint.
- Understand your Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions.
- Identify your biggest sources of carbon emissions.
- Develop a Carbon Reduction Plan.
- Set realistic carbon reduction targets.
- Monitor progress annually using the Sustainability Progress Tracker.
- Use the UEFA Carbon Footprint Calculator to improve measurement and reporting.
- Support your Club's Sustainability Strategy and wider Together Greener Action Plans.
- Inspire members, volunteers and partners to contribute towards a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

Together, small actions across every football Club can create a significant collective impact for Welsh football, our communities and the environment.

Further information on Management can be found at www.faw.cymru/togethergreener-management

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