



CARBON REDUCTION PLAN



INTRODUCTION

Every football Club has a role to play in tackling climate change. From travelling to matches and training, to using energy, managing facilities and purchasing equipment, Clubs produce greenhouse gas emissions, often referred to as their carbon footprint.

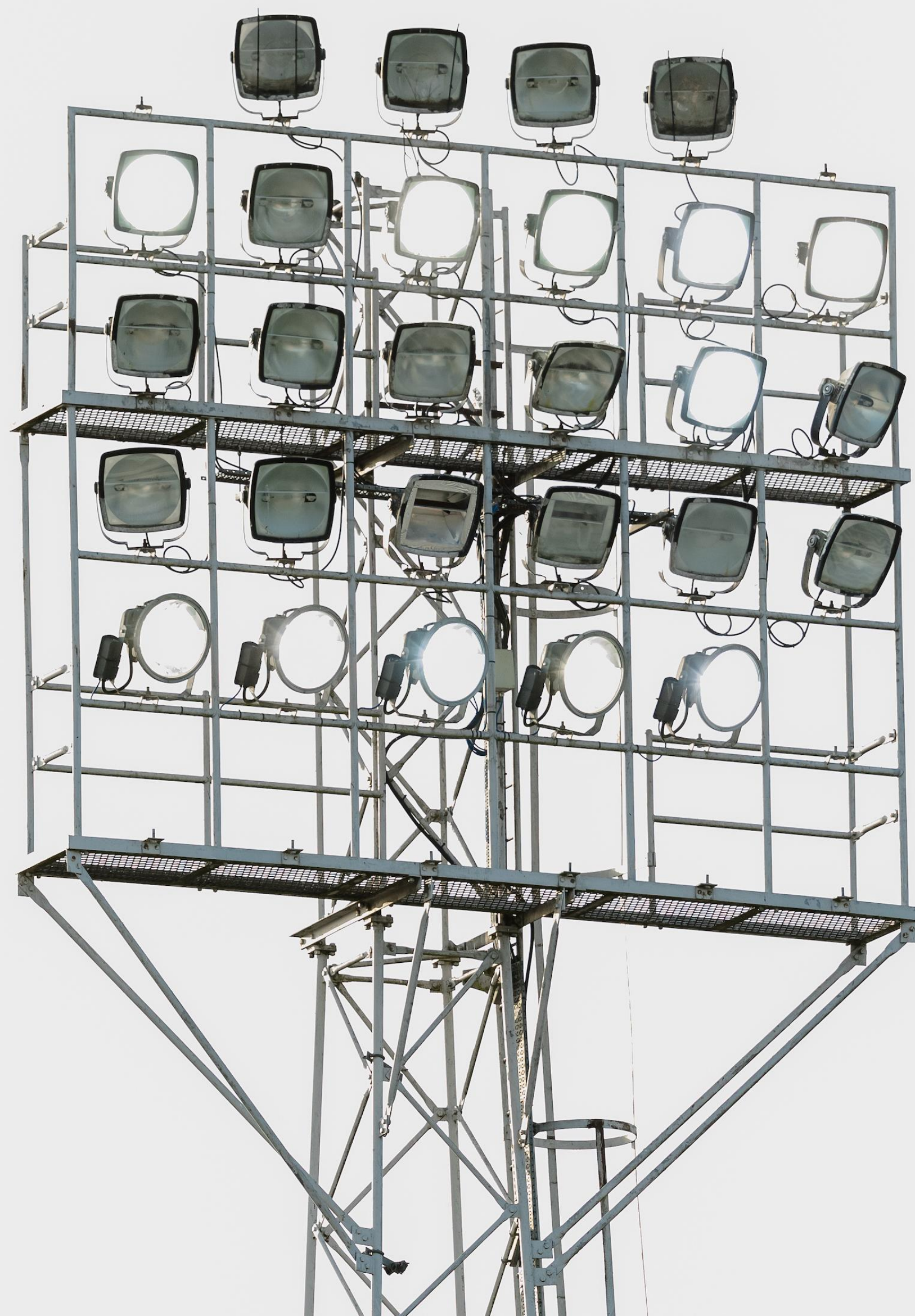
Developing a Carbon Reduction Plan helps your Club understand where emissions are generated and identify practical actions to reduce them over time. It provides a clear roadmap for prioritising improvements, setting realistic targets and measuring progress, while supporting long-term sustainability and resilience.

Your plan does not need to be complicated. The Together Greener Programme encourages Clubs to focus on achievable actions that can be implemented gradually, helping create lasting environmental, financial and community benefits.

This resource will help your Club to:

- Understand the purpose of a Carbon Reduction Plan.
- Identify the main sources of carbon emissions.
- Prioritise practical carbon reduction actions.
- Set realistic reduction targets.
- Link carbon reduction to your Sustainability Strategy and Action Plans.
- Monitor progress over time.
- Support funding applications and sustainability reporting.
- Contribute to the Football Association of Wales' sustainability ambitions.





BENEFITS

Why Develop a Carbon Reduction Plan?

Reducing carbon emissions is one of the most effective ways football Clubs can contribute to addressing climate change. Many of the actions that reduce emissions also lower operating costs, improve efficiency and create healthier environments for members and local communities.

A Carbon Reduction Plan helps your Club:

- Focus on the activities that generate the greatest emissions.
- Reduce energy and fuel costs.
- Improve operational efficiency.
- Prepare for future environmental expectations and funding requirements.
- Demonstrate leadership within the local community.
- Support climate resilience.
- Measure improvements over time.
- Align with national and international sustainability ambitions.

Importantly, every Club can contribute, regardless of size or resources. Small improvements delivered consistently can collectively make a significant difference.



GETTING STARTED

Before developing your Carbon Reduction Plan, build a clear understanding of where emissions are likely to occur within your Club.

The Together Greener Programme provides several audits that can help identify your biggest opportunities.

Review information gathered through:

- Energy Audits.
- Waste Audits.
- Travel Audits.
- Water Audits.
- Biodiversity Audits.
- Sustainable Club Management Audit.
- Climate Action Readiness Audit.
- Community Engagement & Partnerships Audit.

Also consider:

- Utility bills.
- Fuel usage.
- Travel patterns.
- Purchasing decisions.
- Maintenance activities.
- Facility management.
- Club events.

You do not need to calculate a detailed carbon footprint before developing your first Carbon Reduction Plan. Begin with the information you already have and improve it over time.





EMISSION SOURCES

Understanding Your Main Sources of Emissions

Every Club is different, but carbon emissions generally come from similar activities.

Consider the following areas:

1. Travel

Travel is often the largest contributor to a grassroots Club's carbon footprint.

Examples include:

- Players travelling to training.
- Away fixtures.
- Volunteer journeys.
- Spectator travel.
- Committee meetings.

2. Energy

Electricity and heating contribute significantly to emissions.

Examples include:

- Clubhouse lighting.
- Heating systems.
- Hot water.
- Kitchen equipment.
- Floodlights.





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3. Waste

Waste generates emissions through disposal, transport and the production of replacement materials.

Examples include:

- General waste.
- Food waste.
- Single-use plastics.
- Event waste.

4. Water

Although water itself has a relatively low carbon impact, treating, pumping and heating water requires energy.

Examples include:

- Showers.
- Toilets.
- Irrigation.
- Leaks.
- Hot water use.





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5. Purchasing

Everything your Club purchases has an environmental impact.

Examples include:

- Football equipment.
- Catering supplies.
- Merchandise.
- Cleaning products.
- Office materials.

6. Facilities and Grounds

Maintenance activities also contribute to emissions.

Examples include:

- Grounds maintenance equipment.
- Petrol-powered machinery.
- Construction projects.
- Building maintenance.



OPPORTUNITIES

Identifying and Prioritising Carbon Reduction Opportunities

Once you understand where emissions are likely to occur, identify practical actions that will have the greatest impact.

Prioritise actions using three simple questions:

1. Which actions reduce the most emissions?

Focus first on areas such as:

- Travel.
- Energy use.
- Heating.
- Fuel consumption.

2. Which actions are easiest to implement?

Quick wins help maintain momentum.

Examples include:

- Switching off unused equipment.
- Improving recycling.
- Encouraging car sharing.
- Fixing water leaks.
- Introducing energy awareness campaigns.





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3. Which actions provide multiple benefits?

Some improvements reduce emissions while also saving money, improving biodiversity or increasing community engagement.

Examples include:

- LED lighting.
- Active travel initiatives.
- Rainwater harvesting.
- Tree planting.
- Improved insulation.

Carbon Reduction Hierarchy

Focus on the most effective actions first:

The priority should always be reducing emissions at source before considering offsetting.



Measure: Understand where emissions come from using audits and carbon footprint measurement.

Avoid: Eliminate unnecessary travel, waste and energy use.

Reduce: Improve efficiency through behaviour change and operational improvements.

Replace: Switch to lower-carbon alternatives such as LED lighting, renewable electricity or electric equipment when practical.

Offset: Only consider high-quality carbon offsetting after reducing emissions as far as reasonably possible.



SETTING TARGETS

Setting Achievable Carbon Reduction Targets

Targets help your Club measure progress and maintain focus.

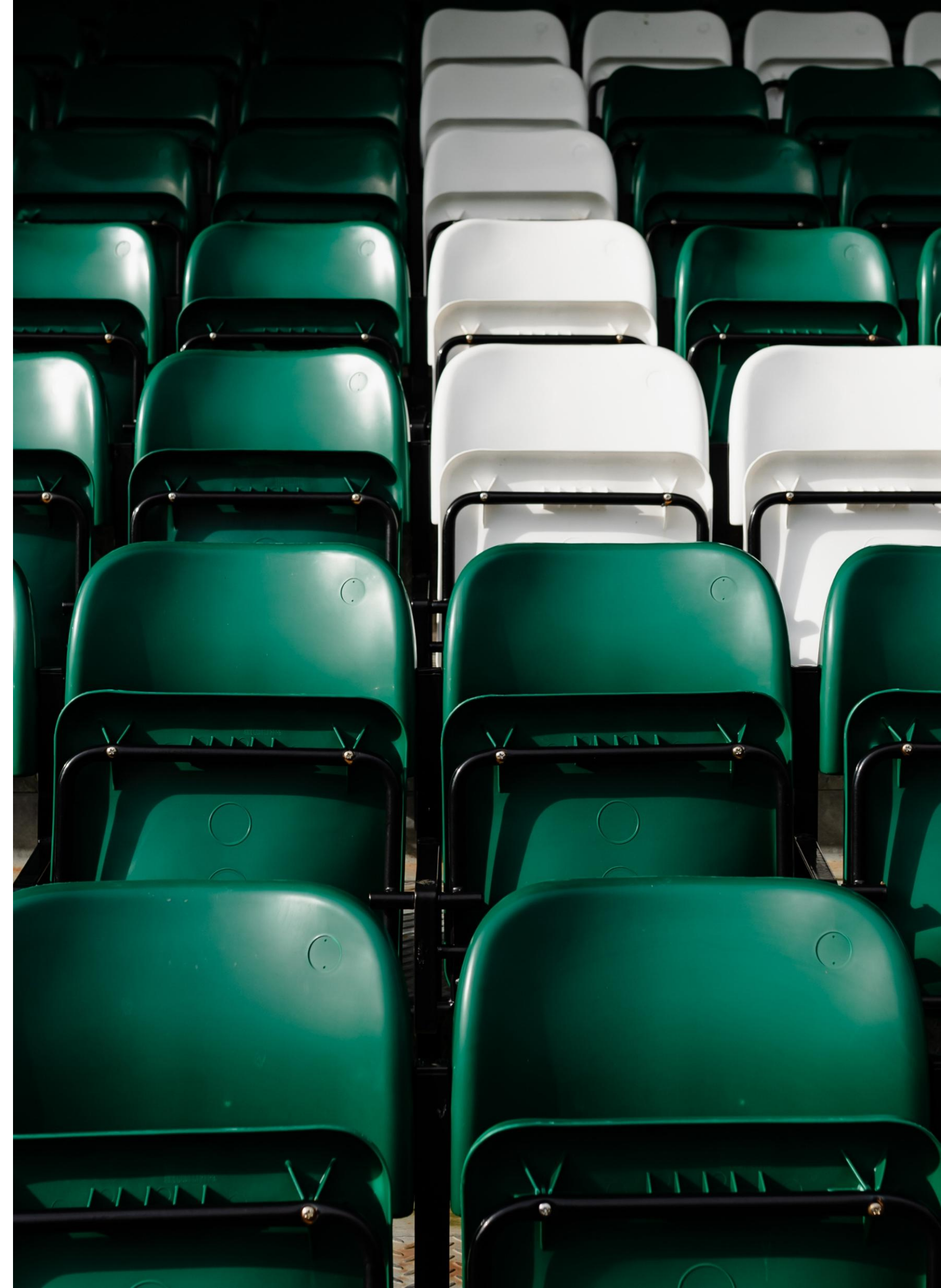
Your targets should be realistic, achievable and appropriate to the size of your Club.

Examples include:

- Reduce electricity consumption by 15% within three years.
- Increase car sharing for away fixtures.
- Reduce general waste sent to landfill.
- Replace petrol-powered equipment where practical.
- Increase recycling rates.
- Improve sustainable travel participation.

If possible, include target dates and review progress annually.

Remember that improving year-on-year is more important than setting overly ambitious targets that cannot be achieved.





TEMPLATE GUIDE

Using the Carbon Reduction Plan Template

The Together Greener Programme includes a downloadable Carbon Reduction Plan template that can be adapted for Clubs of all sizes.

The template includes the following sections:

- Carbon Source.
- Current Position.
- Action.
- Priority.
- Responsible Lead.
- Timescale.
- Expected Benefit.
- Progress Tracker.

The template is designed to complement your Sustainability Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan.





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CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

Club Name:

Date:

CARBON SOURCE	CURRENT POSITION	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY LEAD	TIMESCALE	BENEFIT	PROGRESS TRACKER



CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

CARBON SOURCE	CURRENT POSITION	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY LEAD	TIMESCALE	BENEFIT	PROGRESS TRACKER
Travel	Most players travel individually	Introduce car sharing for away fixtures and promote walking and cycling for local training	High	Team Managers	Season 2026/27	Reduced travel emissions and lower travel costs	
Energy	Older clubhouse lighting	Replace lighting with LED units	High	Facilities Manager	Spring 2027	Lower electricity use and reduced running costs	
Water	High shower water use	Launch Five-Minute Shower Challenge	Medium	Coaches	Autumn 2026	Reduced water and energy consumption	
Waste	Low recycling rates	Introduce improved recycling stations and signage	Medium	Green Team	Autumn 2026	Reduced landfill waste	
Energy	Petrol-powered maintenance equipment	Replace equipment with electric alternatives as existing equipment reaches end of life	Medium	Facilities Manager	Ongoing	Lower fuel use and emissions	
Energy	Old gas boiler in clubhouse	Replace gas boiler with heat pump	High	Facilities Manager	Spring 2027	Reduced gas and energy consumption	



ALIGNMENT

Linking to Your Sustainability Action Plans

Your Carbon Reduction Plan should not sit separately from your wider sustainability planning.

Many carbon reduction actions will already appear within your Together Greener topic Action Plans, including:

- Energy Action Plan.
- Travel Action Plan.
- Waste Action Plan.
- Water Action Plan.
- Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Sustainable Club Management Action Plan.

Rather than creating duplicate actions, use your Carbon Reduction Plan to identify which actions contribute most to reducing emissions and monitor their overall impact.





REPORTING PROGRESS

Monitoring Progress

Reducing carbon emissions is an ongoing process rather than a one-off project.

Review your plan at least annually by asking:

- Which actions have been completed?
- Have emissions likely reduced?
- Have priorities changed?
- Are there new opportunities?
- Can targets be updated?

Progress should be reviewed alongside your Sustainability Action Plan and Sustainability Progress Tracker.

Where possible, use evidence such as:

- Energy bills.
- Fuel consumption.
- Water use.
- Travel surveys.
- Waste data.
- Equipment replacement records.





MEASUREMENT

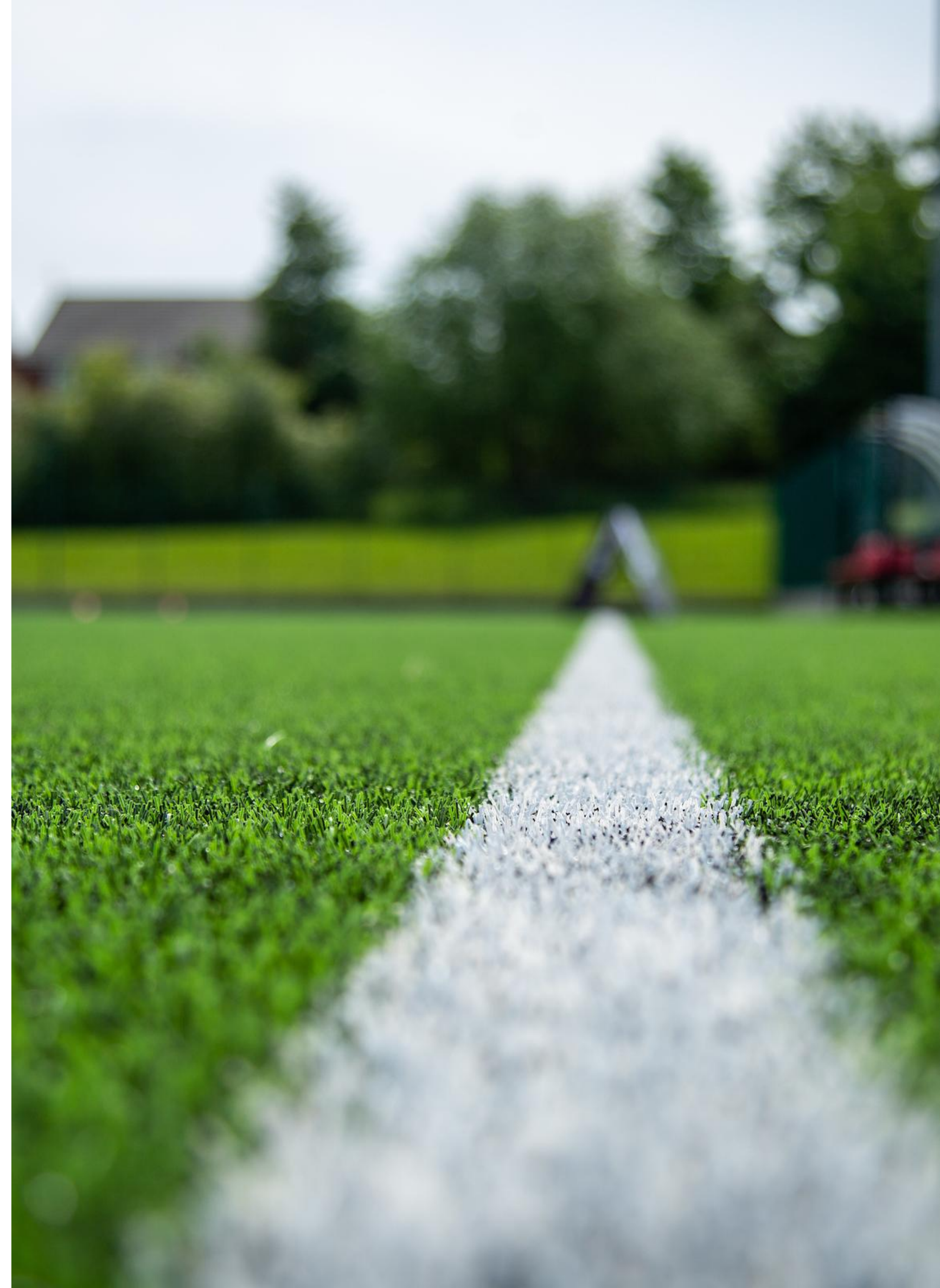
Measuring Your Carbon Footprint

As your Club's sustainability journey develops, you may wish to calculate your overall carbon footprint.

The Together Greener [Carbon Footprint Measurement](#) resource provides guidance on:

- Understanding greenhouse gas emissions.
- Collecting activity data.
- Estimating your Club's emissions.
- Identifying the largest sources.
- Monitoring reductions over time.

Your Carbon Reduction Plan should evolve alongside your carbon footprint measurements, becoming more detailed as better information becomes available.





REVIEW

Reviewing Your Plan

Review your Carbon Reduction Plan each year alongside your Sustainability Strategy and Sustainability Progress Tracker.

Consider:

- Have targets been achieved?
- Which actions delivered the greatest impact?
- Which actions should become priorities next year?
- What new opportunities have emerged?
- How can members become more involved?

Carbon reduction is a journey of continuous improvement, and every action contributes to creating a more sustainable future for football in Wales.





FURTHER SUPPORT

Developing a Carbon Reduction Plan is an important step towards embedding climate action within your Club. Remember that reducing emissions does not always require major investment; many of the most effective actions involve changing behaviours, improving efficiency and making sustainability part of everyday decision-making.

Use what you have learned in this resource to:

- Identify the main sources of carbon emissions within your Club.
- Prioritise practical actions that will reduce emissions over time.
- Develop a Carbon Reduction Plan linked to your Sustainability Strategy.
- Set realistic carbon reduction targets.
- Integrate carbon reduction actions into your Together Greener Action Plans.
- Monitor progress using the Carbon Footprint Measurement and Sustainability Progress Tracker resources.
- Continuously review and improve your Club's contribution to tackling climate change and creating a more sustainable future for football in Wales.

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