

Climate Change and Cricket Fact Sheet

“OF ALL THE MAJOR PITCH SPORTS, CRICKET WILL BE HARDEST HIT BY CLIMATE CHANGE.”

The Climate Coalition, 2018

The West Indies and large parts of the Caribbean are still suffering the impacts of the devastating 2017 storm season, which left many pitches unplayable.

In 2019, the European mean annual temperature reached 1.9 °C above pre-industrial levels, resulting in many adverse impacts on cricket pitches.

In 2017, a Test Match in Delhi was repeatedly interrupted as players were faced with pollution levels 15 times the WHO limits.

In the 2017/18 Ashes, Joe Root was hospitalised after suffering the effects of dehydration as temperatures in Sydney rose above 43°C.

What does this look like for European Members?

- **89%** of European Members saw an increase in average July temperature between 2000 and 2016, with 33% of those seeing an increase greater than 3°C.
- **73%** of European Members strongly agreed or agreed that climate change would impact Cricket within the next 5 years.
- **84%** of European Members strongly agreed or agreed that Cricket Federations can play a role in mitigating the negative impact of sports on the environment.
- From rising temperatures and drought to increased rainfall and flooding, the impacts of climate change on Cricket will be widespread and all Members should take action to mitigate the risks.

Where Can You **LEARN** More?

- The Hit For Six Report - <https://basis.org.uk/hit-for-six>
- The Sustainability Report - <https://sustainabilityreport.com/>
- NASA Global Climate Change - <https://climate.nasa.gov/>

What Can You **DO**?

- Commit to learning more about the impact of climate change on the planet and on sport.
- Start a conversation within your organisation and share your learnings with those around you.
- Speak with your National Sports Federation to learn more about any ongoing initiatives or policies.

7 Steps to Sustainable Events

In Europe, 25.6 million spectators travel to attend large-scale sporting events, generating 210,000 tons of CO₂ emissions (8 kg CO₂ / individual).

Sustainable event management takes into account environmental and social responsibilities when planning events. It considers how to reduce the negative impact of events (eg. water/ energy use and waste production) and seeks to use the event as an opportunity to have a positive impact.

7 Steps to Sustainable Events:

1. Rethink Waste
2. Go Digital
3. Energy Saving
4. Transport
5. Support Local
6. Water Saving
7. Start the Conversation

Sustainable Events Case Study: Lord's Cricket Ground



- ✓ Electricity consumption is 100% wind generated
- ✓ 30 water bottle refill stations installed since 2017
- ✓ No waste sent to landfill since 2010
- ✓ Food waste is dewatered and used for low carbon energy and soil improvement produces
- ✓ Spectators' use of public transport increased by 16% to 67% between 2010 and 2020

Where Can You **LEARN** More?

- "Winning Sports Events!" – ENGSO Guiding Principles for Sustainable Events - <https://www.engso.eu/post/winning-sports-events-guiding-principles-for-sustainable-events>
- ISO 20121 – A Practical Tool for Managing Sustainable Events – <https://www.iso.org/iso-20121-sustainable-events.html> (£)

What Can You **DO**?

Use the steps outlined above and the examples included overleaf to consider what action you can take to reduce the impact of events on the environment.

7 Steps to Sustainable Events

The steps outlined below are a starting point that can be used to generate ideas and action. Some may require an initial financial investment, however there are a number of steps that can be taken that don't require initial capital and may provide financial benefits in the long-term.

1. Rethink Waste

- ✓ Clearly signposted waste management and recycling facilities
- ✓ Avoid single-use options (use recyclable/ compostable materials instead)
- ✓ Zero waste to landfill (partner with a local food donation charity/ compost food waste)

2. Go Digital

- ✓ Use social media platforms as a paperless way to promote the event and engage spectators

3. Energy Saving

- ✓ Use energy saving measures in changing rooms and toilet facilities (lights on timers/ energy saving light bulbs)
- ✓ Use a green energy provider
- ✓ Use electric ground maintenance equipment

4. Transport

- ✓ Encourage workforce and supporters to travel to the event using public transport
- ✓ Install bike racks at the venue
- ✓ Encourage competing teams to travel to events in the most sustainable way possible (use cars/ buses/ trains where possible and avoid unnecessary flying)

5. Support Local

- ✓ Use local vendors and suppliers where possible and ask questions about where their products are sourced from

6. Water Saving

- ✓ Use water saving taps, flushes and shower heads in changing rooms and toilet facilities
- ✓ Install rainwater harvesting tanks

7. Start the Conversation

- ✓ Use social media platforms to showcase the efforts being made to make the event more sustainable
- ✓ Encourage supporters to think more about the impact of their actions on the environment and the impact that climate change will have on cricket in the future

Guide to Sustainable Kit and Equipment

Plastic material, often used for packaging and protecting sports equipment, can take up to 20 years to break down.

Cricket is a sport that requires lots of kit and equipment, with a variety of technical requirements, from lightweight and breathable whites to durable and shock-resistant bats. The production and disposal of sports kit and equipment has a big environmental impact.

What Can You **DO**...?

...If you are looking for new kit:

- ✓ Consider applying to receive kit from organisations, such as Lord's Taverners, who run a kit recycling programme
- ✓ Talk to your current kit and equipment suppliers about sustainability and ask them questions about the green credentials of their supply chain
- ✓ Invest in durable kits that are designed to last a period of years, not just for one season
- ✓ Consider partnering with a sustainable sports clothing supplier for the National Team kit

...If you have spare/ old/ unused kit:

- ✓ Encourage National Team players to donate their unused kit and equipment to schools
- ✓ Partner with organisations, such as Bat For A Chance, to give old and unused kit a second life and allow others around the world to play cricket

Sustainable Kit Case Study: Forest Green Rovers Football Club

'The greenest football club in the world', FGR, have taken lots of action to improve their sustainability credentials; including becoming the world's first vegan and carbon neutral football club and have plans to build a new stadium made entirely out of wood.



In efforts to make the club even greener, they have decided to make their kits (previously made from sustainable bamboo sources) out of a combination of coffee waste and recyclable plastic bottles, so everything in them is recycled or organic.

Kit Donation Case Study: Bat For A Chance

A charitable initiative that aims to "help underprivileged children experience the joy of cricket."

They collect new and second-hand clothing and equipment, and distribute them to schools, clubs and academies around the world, most recently in Sri Lanka, with the help of Kumar Sangakkara.

<https://www.batforachance.org.uk/>

Low-Cost Sustainable Initiatives

All cricket clubs across Europe have a part to play in securing a greener future. The projects outlined below are a few examples of initiatives that local clubs could engage with to promote environmentally friendly efforts at a club level.

What Can You **DO**?

- ✓ Support local clubs to engage with low-cost sustainability initiatives by **sharing this resource** with them, as well as encouraging them to come up with their own ideas
- ✓ Start a **social media campaign** (eg. *#ClimateConsciousCricket*), encouraging clubs to share their efforts online and provide inspiration for other clubs looking to take action
- ✓ **Incentivise** (financially or otherwise) clubs to take action and organise projects such as the examples provided

Project 1: Eco-Teas Initiatives

In 2018, an average of 174 kg of packaging waste was generated per individual in the EU.



Food production, packaging and waste has a big impact on the environment. Encourage clubs to improve the sustainability of teas by:

- ✓ Shopping locally
- ✓ Encouraging homemade, instead of shop bought
- ✓ Avoiding single-use plastic packaging
- ✓ Supplying meat-free options
- ✓ Taking leftovers home to minimise food waste

Project 2: Tree Planting Projects

A football pitch sized area of rainforest is destroyed every second.



Option 1: Host a tree planting day, encouraging members to come along and get involved with greening the ground and promoting biodiversity.

Option 2: Partner with a tree planting organisation, such as Federazione Cricket Italiana and TREEDOM, to offset emissions and support the planting of trees in another part of the world.

<https://www.treedom.net/it/organization/federazione-italiana-cricket>

Project 3: Reusable Water Bottles

Plastic water bottles take approximately 450 years to break down.



Encourage club members to ditch single-use plastic bottles by including a reusable bottle as part of the membership package.

Where possible, install water fountains around the ground or encourage members to avail of refill stations, such as sinks in clubhouses.

Guide to Getting Started



Sustainability in sport is high on the agenda for many major institutions, such as the EU Commission. One of the key priority areas of the **EU Work Plan for Sport 2021 - 2024** is the “socio-economic and environmental dimensions of sport” and in November 2020, they announced an investment of €280 million into environment, nature and climate action projects.

The steps below are designed to provide suggestions for how best to begin integrating environmental sustainability into your operations.

STEP 1: EDUCATE

Educating the cricket community on the impact of climate change on cricket is the first step in promoting a greener future for cricket.

1. Read the ‘[Cricket and Climate Change Fact Sheet](#)’ and share with the wider cricket community to educate others on the consequences that climate change will have on cricket in the coming years.
2. Learn more about the impact that climate change will have specifically on your country and whether there are any national policies to tackle this.
3. Use Social Media channels to raise awareness, share resources and show followers where they can learn more. Use these platforms to show your community that you are aware of the impact of climate change on cricket and that you are committed to taking action.

STEP 2: ACT

Action can be taken in all aspects of operations and clubs should be equipped, empowered and encouraged to take action where they can.

1. Use the ‘[Guide to Sustainable Kit and Equipment](#)’ resource to learn more about what actions can be taken to improve the sustainability of kit/ equipment at a national and local level.
2. Support, encourage and perhaps incentivise local clubs to start taking action, organising projects and initiatives such as those outlined in the ‘[Low-Cost Sustainable Initiatives](#)’ resource.
3. Start a Social Media campaign (e.g. [#ClimateConsciousCricket](#)) to highlight any efforts or initiatives being undertaken, at a national or local level, to inspire others to do the same.

STEP 3: PLAN AHEAD

Think long-term about the impact that climate change is going to have on cricket in the next 5 – 10 years, not just on the upcoming season.

1. Speak with your National Sports Federation/ Olympic Committee to build partnerships and learn about any ongoing policies/ initiatives or support that they might be able to provide.
2. Use the ‘[7 Steps to Sustainable Events](#)’ to design a policy for hosting sustainable tournaments and events.
3. Design a [Sustainability Strategy](#) and set goals. For example:
 - i) Plant trees to offset the CO₂ emissions from National Team travel.
 - ii) Equip local clubs with appropriate waste management and recycling facilities.
 - iii) Launch a green energy campaign for clubhouses.