



# Environmental Commitment

## 1. Introduction

'Environment is one of the pillars of Bala Town Football Club's 'Football & Social Responsibility Strategy', expressing its ambition to preserve and regenerate the environment and leverage the power of football to raise awareness and catalyse action, minimising our negative environmental footprint becoming net zero by 2030. Furthermore, the Club recognises that football can play a key role in actively promoting sustainable development and climate action.

Bala Town Football Club wants to seize all possible opportunities for maximising the positive aspects of the game while mitigating any negative impact making a better future for both football and society. The Club's Environmental Commitment set out in this document supplements Bala Town Football Club's Human Rights Commitment and is based on the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, the Paris Agreement objectives for the sports sector and the European Climate Pact pledge.

The aim is to embed environmental initiatives into the Club's strategic decisions to ensure it generates a tangible impact moving forward. These initiatives are based on Climate and advocacy, Circular economy, Event sustainability & Infrastructure sustainability. We recognise that an integrated and evolving approach is required to balance all aspects of sustainability.

## 2. Scope

Bala Town Football Club has a responsibility to ensure football fits in a sustainable, safe and diverse society. All Club activities can only be implemented when the direct and indirect impact on environments, societies and economies has been acknowledged.

This document sets out Bala Town Football Club Environmental Commitment. It will serve as a foundation for the Football and Social Responsibility (FSR) objectives for environmental issues that are material to football (1). The Football & Social Responsibility Officer will lead on developing and implementing initiatives based upon it in Club operations internally, at its matches/events and at all Club initiatives.

## 3. Objectives

Bala Town Football Club has set out targets to translate its Environmental Commitment into concrete actions. Bala Town Football Club acknowledges these targets may evolve to include future developments and welcomes inputs from stakeholders.

To ensure transparency, progress against objectives will be reported on in the annual Football and Social Responsibility Report, which is available to the general public.

*1 In the context of this document, 'material' issues should be understood as those "that have a direct or indirect impact on an organisation's ability to create, preserve or erode economic, environmental and social value for itself, its stakeholders and society at large," as defined in the Global Reporting Initiative.*

Throughout its operations and match day/events, Bala Town Football Club should optimise the consumption and life cycle of products, most notably food, packaging, branded items and waste. It should embed the 4R approach – reduce, reuse, recycle and recover – in everything it does, to

minimise the impact of our Club and sport on the environment and drive resource efficiency and cost savings.

Bala Town Football Club aims to reduce football's carbon footprint while preventing and reducing the degradation of the environment by the football ecosystem and leveraging its reach and visibility to promote the urgency of action.

Bala Town Football Club intends to become net zero by 2030. To do this, the Club will devise, plan and run programmes and events with the intent of preventing and reducing any negative environmental impacts at the Club and the surrounding communities.

In addition, Bala Town Football Club aspires for football to be a vehicle for environmental protection, engaging society and governments on key topics and providing information and education to raise awareness.

#### **4. Bala Town Football Club's commitment**

Determined to contribute to the human right to a clean environment, Bala Town Football Club strives to ensure that football will leave a positive legacy.

Bala Town Football Club commit to helping preserve and regenerate our environment while empowering others to do likewise. While embedding environmental considerations into strategic decisions, the Club will also use its voice and leverage the power of the football platform to raise environmental awareness and catalyse action in society.

The Club will measure progress to document and communicate how the Club is preventing, minimising and remediating football's impact on the environment.

Responsibility for developing and implementing initiatives based on this commitment lies with the Club's Football and Social Responsibility Officer. The Club will consult with internal and external stakeholders and will commit resources to meet the objectives set out.

#### **5. Environmental references**

Sports for Climate Action Framework (2)

Recognising that:

- the Paris Agreement represents a global response to the scientific consensus that human activity is causing global average temperatures to rise at unprecedented rates;
- the goals agreed in the Paris Agreement translate to reaching climate neutrality in the second half of the twenty-first century. Sports organisations need to take an active part in contributing to the realisation of these goals;

*2 Sports for Climate Action Framework*

- delivering on the climate agenda also contributes to the broader Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- all sports organisations, regardless of size or geography, have opportunities to take actions that will result in a measurable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;

- actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions have multiple synergies and co-benefits with, among other things, expanding economic opportunity and securing livelihoods, using resources more efficiently, driving economic competitiveness and innovation, strengthening environmental, social and economic resilience in the face of increasing climate impacts;
- sports have a unique power to inspire a wider societal change that embraces a low-carbon future and keeps the planet safe for future generations.

Bala Town Football Club supports the goals of the Paris Agreement in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and affirms the Clubs commitment to:

1. undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
2. reduce overall climate impact;
3. educate for climate action;
4. promote sustainable and responsible consumption;
5. advocate for climate action through communication.

### **Paris Agreement on Climate Change (3)**

The Paris Agreement seeks to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future. Its central aim is keeping the global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Acknowledging the sports sector’s contribution to climate change through travel, energy use, construction, catering, etc., Bala Town Football Club aims to play its part in contributing to the goals established in this agreement.

### **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (4)**

As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Bala Town Football Club recognises the SDGs as a “universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve, safeguard and secure the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere”. Bala Town Football Club is committed to “promote the implementation of the SDGs and to raise awareness on how football can play an enabling role. (7)

### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. (5)**

The National Assembly for Wales approved the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 on 29 April 2015, and it came into force in April 2016. The Act establishes the seven national well-being goals for Cymru and expresses Cymru’s commitment to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Acts sustainable development principle commits the Club to take action to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Cymru. This means acting in a manner which ensures that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

*2 Sports for Climate Action Framework*

*3 Paris Agreement on Climate Change*

*4 UN Sustainable Development Goals*

*5 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.*

## **6. Conclusion**

Bala Town Football Club’s Environmental Commitment, with its stated scope and objectives, will be reviewed and updated annually. *Current version was approved by the Clubs Board on 28/02/2023*