

Sported's Environmental Policy

We want Sported to be proactive when it comes to environmental sustainability and lead by example in our sector.

Amidst a climate change emergency and a global waste crisis, we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and to supporting our members with their efforts to become more environmentally sustainable.

As an organisation whose social outcomes align closely with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we recognise we could be doing more against the environmentally focused SDGs both as an organisation and for our network.

1. How we'll work

Our work in this area, will be guided by the UN's Sports for Climate Action Framework's five principles:

1. Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility – *for Sported and for our network*
2. Reduce overall climate impact – *through the collective efforts of Sported and the community groups in our network*
3. Educate for climate action – *by sharing learning and best practice between Sported and our members*
4. Promote sustainable and responsible consumption – *both internally and to our network*
5. Advocate for climate action through communication – *both internally and to our network*

2. Our commitment

Sported is [Planet Mark certified](#). Planet Mark is a sustainability certification that verifies and measures carbon and social data to reduce emissions and achieve the UN SDGs. We measure and report on our carbon footprint and will commit to an annual minimum carbon reduction.



Initially we will engage employees through a Sustainability Energiser session, delivered by Planet Mark and designed to raise awareness about sustainability, the big picture and brainstorm ideas to cut carbon or increase social value. Following that, staff engagement on this subject will be ongoing.

Sported has become an umbrella member of BASIS (the British Association for Sustainable Sport) to help us in our sustainable journey. This means the groups within our network are also now members of BASIS with access to their website, events and resources.

Sustainability will be a standing agenda item in regular Strategic Leadership Team meetings and we will include sustainability in our decision-making. We will continually check that sustainability is embedded in our values, culture, operations and marketing, and will conduct an annual review with all Sported staff to assess our progress and identify areas for improvement.

3. Our intentions

Through consultation with our members, we've identified 4 SDGs that are the most important to us and our network, around which we have focused our environmental strategy.

Responsible Consumption and Production:



What this goal means to us

We are committed to reducing waste, through reduction, recycling and reuse. We will also make sure that the partners, suppliers and funders we choose to work with are environmentally responsible.

What we'll do in Sported

- Ensure recycling and composting capabilities within offices, and encourage home-based individuals to do the same at home
- Repair, donate or recycle unwanted electrical equipment
- Make better purchasing decisions, for higher quality, longer lasting equipment to reduce waste
- Reduce printed collateral and go paperless where possible
- Eliminate unnecessary use of single-use plastic
- Look to partner with 'green' businesses and organisations
- Review whether current partners are 'green' and consider moving away from partners if they don't plan on improving their credentials

What we'll do to support our members

- Provide support, guidance and resources to our members on how to reduce waste, reuse and recycle
- Empower members to research and choose environmentally responsible suppliers, sponsors and partners

Climate Action:



What this goal means to us

With almost 3,000 community sports groups within our network, we can play a role in raising awareness and improving education on mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction of climate change.

What we'll do in Sported

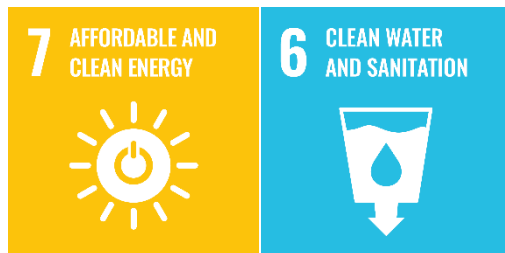
- Assess our contribution to greenhouse gases emissions and reduce our carbon footprint by at least 2.5% annually
- Minimise the impacts of transport and travel by reducing journeys and encouraging responsible travel

What we'll do to support our members

- Share good practice that members are already doing, or will do in the future, and champion members who are leaders in this area
- Educate and raise awareness of climate change to our members

- Encourage members to use free resources to calculate their own carbon footprint to see where they can make reductions
- Refer members to their local council's Active Travel plan, and encourage responsible travel

Affordable and Clean Energy and Clean Water and Sanitation:



What these goals mean to us:

We do not own our own facilities, but we are committed to identifying opportunities to reduce our energy consumption and improve water efficiencies wherever possible.

What we'll do in Sported

- Share energy-saving tips and advice such as switching off lights and electrical equipment
- Promote water efficiencies
- Support Head Office landlord with making their offices more sustainable

What we'll do to support our members

- Provide support, guidance and resources to our members on becoming more energy and water efficient

4. How we'll monitor our progress

We will measure the objectives in this policy and will identify key performance indicators, to be written into our 2023/24 plans, which will be monitored and reported at Senior Leadership and Board level quarterly.

5. How our policy fits with Sported's values

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|-------------------------|---|
| Demonstrate integrity – | We are diligent and committed |
| Commit to inclusion – | We are positive, supportive and approachable |
| Be people led – | We will collaborate and support colleagues, volunteers, and members |
| Drive change – | We strive for continuous improvement |

6. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Barclays for their support in funding this work. We will communicate our intentions to Barclays Community Football Fund applicants.

We would also like to thank Sported volunteer David Cope, and the other experts in this field for their advice and guidance as we developed our policy.