



Environmental Policy & Commitments

Agreed by the HSP Board on March 10th 2022

Context

Climate Change (and wider environmental degradation as a result of pollution, biodiversity loss and resource consumption) is the biggest challenge facing the planet and is already having a negative impact on sport and physical activity e.g., water shortages, extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, coastal erosion, poor air quality – see Appendix 1. Effective climate action from all sectors, including the sports sector, is therefore needed now to limit the global temperature rise and avoid the worst effects of climate change and protect the sports we love.

“Sustainable Development - Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Our Common Future (the Brundtland Report)

*“Sport is sustainable when it meets the needs of today’s sporting community while contributing to the improvement of future sport opportunities for all and the improvement of the integrity of the natural and social environment on which it depends.”
Chernoschenko, D., 2011.*

As an Active Partnership with a lead role for the development of sport and physical activity across Hertfordshire, it is important that the Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership (HSP) shows leadership and ambition and sets a high standard that will hopefully inspire others and create a ‘multiplier effect’ across the sector.

Alignment with the University of Hertfordshire

UH has an ambition to be Carbon Neutral by 2050 with policy and practice integrated throughout the UH Strategic plan. UH has signed up for the [Race to Zero](#) global campaign and will set KPIs and monitor progress as part of its commitment.

HSP is proud to be hosted and be a business unit of the University of Hertfordshire and will contribute pro-actively to this agenda as outlined in the policy and commitments below.

HSP Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

HSP recognises its responsibility to minimise its impact on the environment and formally commits to being an environmentally responsible organisation and embedding environmentally sustainable principles and practice within our work.



Environmental Sustainability Objectives

We will support environmental sustainability in the following ways:

1. To run our business operations in an environmentally sustainable way in line with UH policy.
2. To integrate an environmentally sustainable approach into our projects, events and commissioned activities.
3. To advocate with partners for environmentally responsible practice and the value of physical activity in creating a more environmentally sustainable world.

HSP Environmentally Sustainable Commitments

To run our business operations in an environmentally sustainable way in line with UH policy.

- The HSP Board will appoint a lead officer and a Board champion to oversee the implementation of the policy and action plan.
- All HSP staff, Board members and volunteers are accountable for using our resources in an environmentally responsible way, aligned to our vision and mission.
- Our Environmental Policy and Commitments will be included in the induction for all new staff and Board members.
- As a minimum, all staff will attend the UH IHASCO 1-hour online course on Environmental Sustainability and read the HSP Environmental Sustainability workshop presentation and be encouraged to further their learning.
- HSP will practice and encourage paper-free meetings.
- We will monitor and review our environmental performance each year and produce a short Annual Impact Report.
- Our Environmental Policy will be posted on our website as will our Annual Impact Report.
- We will comply with UK and International legislation, regulations, and codes of practice on environmental matters relevant to Active Partnerships.
- We will strive to build an environmentally friendly work culture through regular internal communication, staff and Board member engagement and by contributing to UH initiatives.
- We will minimise the environmental impact of road, rail, and air travel by encouraging online meetings / events where appropriate, and the use of travel options / scheduling that minimise environmental impact.
- We will ensure this policy is adequately communicated and understood.
- We will provide appropriate resources to meet the commitments of this policy and action plan.

To integrate an environmentally sustainable approach into our projects, events and commissioned activities.

- In all our projects, programmes, and work areas, we will promote and encourage a greater awareness of the role of physical activity and sport in the reduction of carbon emissions and a more sustainable environment for all.



- All new projects will include an 'environmental impact assessment'.
- We will minimise the consumption and wastage of natural resources as far as reasonably and economically practicable, and we will be proactive in reusing or recycling equipment and materials.
- We will follow the UH procurement procedures and ensure that consideration is given to purchasing environmentally sustainable products and services and by using suppliers that have appropriate environmental standards in place.
- When providing catering we will endeavour to use local suppliers and provide vegan options.
- When we are distributing funding (e.g. Together Fund) we will embed environmental principles into the criteria.

To advocate with partners for environmentally responsible practice and the value of physical activity in creating a more environmentally sustainable world.

- We will use our communication channels, forums, work programmes and contacts to advocate for environmentally responsible practice and the value of physical activity in creating a more environmentally sustainable world.

Monitoring and reviewing our environmental performance

This Policy and Commitments will be reviewed and modified on an ongoing basis and in light of operational experience.

There will be a formal annual review to coincide with the production of an Annual Impact Report, which will be reported to Board and posted on the HSP website.

Appendix 1 – Climate Change Impacts on Sport

Impacts on Sport

Extreme heat,
Changes in rainfall
patterns leading to
flooding &
drought,
Sea level rise,
coastal flooding &
erosion,
Poor air quality.



- **Damage to playing surfaces** due to extreme temperatures, extended periods of drought, flooding, and/or pest species extending their natural range;
- **Damage to buildings** and other infrastructure due to violent storms;
- **Coastal erosion** and sea level rise directly affecting sport and recreation infrastructure in seaside areas;
- Warmer winters and **lack of natural snow threatening ski resorts** at lower altitudes;
- **Unseasonal rainfall forcing cancellation or abandonment of sport matches;**
- **Heat waves forcing changes to timing of sport events and or cancellation;**
- **Increased injuries to players from heat exhaustion** and impact injuries from harder playing surfaces;
- **More potentially harmful algal blooms limiting direct contact outdoor water sports;**
- **Sub-standard fan experience** where high temperatures create potential health risks and detract from the enjoyment of the event;