

UEFA CARBON REDUCTION PLAN



This Carbon Reduction Plan will be regularly updated in order to stay abreast of initiatives, legislation, best practices and innovations in this domain with the objective to accelerate the implementation of this Plan, thereby further reducing emissions.



The transition to a thriving, sustainable economy is imperative. Through the implementation of this Carbon Reduction Plan, UEFA wants to undertake tangible actions - implementing measurement, reduction and mitigation measures, in addition to leveraging the reach of the football platform to raise awareness and catalyse action.

Commitment to reduction

UEFA is pursuing a “Road to Zero”, with an aspirational target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.

UEFA's Environmental Commitment, issued in 2021, articulates the desire of UEFA to play its part in addressing environmental challenges through targeted measures and investments laid out in the UEFA Football Sustainability Strategy 2030, “Strength through Unity”. The latter details the strategic intent on addressing climate action and advocacy as one of the 11 Policies pursued by UEFA across the areas of action of the UEFA Internal Organisation and UEFA Events, alongside the desire to be a credible reference partner for organisations working on climate protection.

Context

This Carbon Reduction Plan applies to two areas of action:



UEFA Internal Organisation



UEFA Events

The Plan cuts across four environmental policies, all of them interconnected to drive the reduction ambitions: climate and advocacy, circular economy, infrastructure sustainability, and event sustainability.

The carbon footprint of UEFA events depends on the number of events organised each season, which varies according to the football cycle. Events occur either annually or cyclically. For instance, the UEFA Champions League Final takes place every year, while the Nations League finals occur every two years.

To accelerate action on this journey, UEFA has invested in the development of a third-party certified Carbon Footprint Calculator, in the release of dedicated guidelines in the area of waste, infrastructure, and catering, as well as the establishment of an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matrix for each one of our 23 competitions. All of these inputs contribute to the reduction of emissions within our operations.

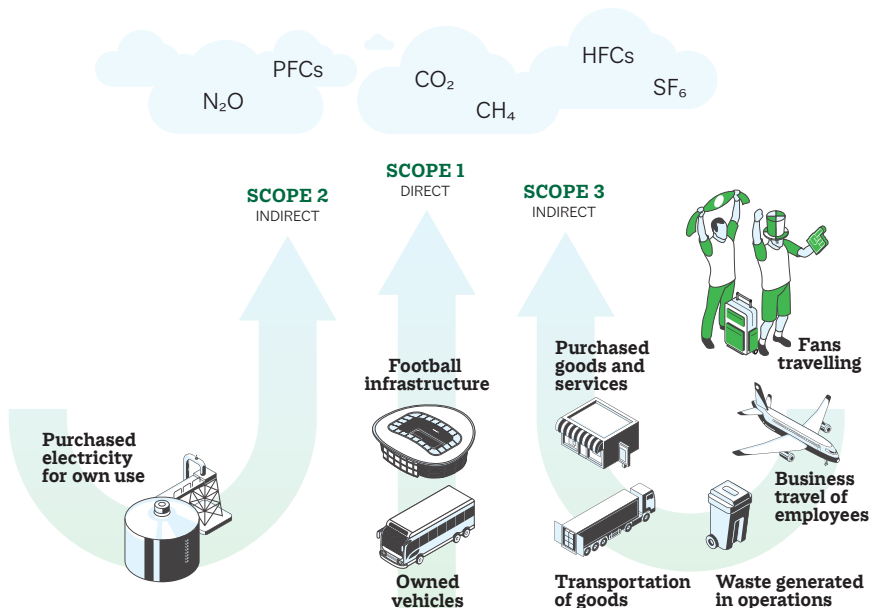
In parallel, we embed environmental criteria in UEFA regulations, policies and guidelines, continuously raising the bar for the delivery of sustainable goals.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

As part of its efforts to European football stakeholders behind the climate agenda, UEFA has invested in the development of a [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#). Certified by a third party and publicly available, the calculator is based on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, the most widely used international accounting methodology to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.

GHG emissions are categorised into three groups or 'Scopes' by the GHG Protocol. Aligned with our materiality assessment, we have narrowed the emissions related to football activities:

- **Scope 1** covers direct emissions generated by energy use for infrastructure (natural gas, diesel, coal) as well as from fuel of vehicles owned (cars, buses).
- **Scope 2** covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed.
- **Scope 3** includes all other indirect emissions that occur through purchased goods & services, transportation of goods (logistics), waste & water, business travel of organisers (employees), and the travel of fans.



TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Aligned with international standards and methodologies, UEFA uses the most highly recognised databases for conversion factors, which are regularly updated in the Carbon Footprint Calculator upon revisions. The conversion factors employed are as follows:

- **Scope 1**

Energy stationary and mobile combustion, refrigerants: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) - [Greenhouse gas reporting: Conversion factors 2024](#)

- **Scope 2**

Electricity generation from International European Agency (IEA) - [Emissions Factors 2024](#)

- **Scope 3 category 1**

Purchased goods and services. Considering the amount of data sources, a mix between activity primary data and spent-based the following databases are used based on most pertinent:

- [Agence De l'Environnement et de la Maitrise de l'Energie \(ADEME\)](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency \(US EPA\)](#)

- **Scope 3 category 2**

Capital goods: DEFRA and US EPA

- **Scope 3 category 4 and 9**

Logistics: DEFRA

- **Scope 3 category 5**

Waste: ADEME and DEFRA

- **Scope 3 category 6 and 7**

Business travel and commuting: DEFRA

BASELINE EMISSIONS

We implemented the Carbon Footprint Calculator for our own Internal Organisation and UEFA Events to set a baseline that will serve as a reference for today and future efforts toward carbon emissions reduction. The 2022/23 season was initially set as the baseline for UEFA. however, the inclusion of Purchased Goods and Services data and the new club competition format required a reset of the baseline. In accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, in light of those substantial changes impacting the baseline, the new reference timepoint against which assessments are benchmarked and disclosed in the seasonal UEFA Respect Report is season 2024/25.

For more information, please refer page 30 of the [UEFA Respect Report of Season 2024/25](#).

CARBON REDUCTION MEASURES

All of UEFA's measures are categorised into four specific areas, in line with carbon measurement and disclosure standards:

Mobility, Facilities, Purchased Goods & Services, and Logistics.

UEFA INTERNAL ORGANISATION



01. Mobility

- **New travel policy:** Mobility accounts for 66% of UEFA's internal organisation baseline year's carbon footprint. The new travel policy most notably aims to:
i) prioritise train travel over air travel for trips below 4.5 hours, ii) book economy class over business class for trips below 4 hours, iii) appoint officials based on location and hire local workforce to minimise travel distance, iv) prioritise public transport over taxis for ground mobility.
- **Public Transport:** Employees are incentivised to commute by public transport with a 50% fare reduction for all staff.
- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):** Purchase of SAF to directly reduce carbon emissions.

02. Facilities

- **Energy:** 900 m² (620 solar panels) installed on our headquarters building (annual capacity of 203,000 kWh). We implemented energy reduction through voltage optimisation and linearisation (120 batteries) to power 30 electric vehicle charging stations.
- **Waste:** We enhanced recycling stations and processes on the UEFA campus, achieving a 99% reduction in PET usage since 2018. We also implemented an initiative offering unsold products at a 50% discount the following day to reduce food waste.

03. Purchased Goods & Services

- **ICT:** We implemented a recycling program enabling the responsible disposal of old and unused electronic devices.
- **Signage and Brand Production:** We prioritised local suppliers to reduce delivery distances, reduce branding in order to increase the lifespan of products and upcycling of products that couldn't be reused.

04. Logistics

- **Signage materials:** We optimised deliveries to qualified teams in the UEFA club competition.
- **Transportation:** We prioritised road transportation over air freight.

UEFA EVENTS



01. Mobility

- **Staff and accredited suppliers:** i) Free public transport and train ticket, ii) Low-emissions event fleet, iii) Local hiring is the default option in the recruitment process.
- **Ticket holders:** i) Combo ticket or reduced price for public transport within the host city, ii) Dedicated walking routes to the stadium and limited parking availability, iii) promotion of smart mobility with bicycle parking installed.
- **Teams:** recommendations on sustainable travel solutions.

02. Facilities

- **Energy and water reduction:** i) Grid electricity from renewable font used as the main energy source, with state-of-the-art generators as backup when required, ii) Use of LED stadium lighting, iii) Pre-event power needs assessment, iv) Reuse of rain/grey water, v) Water fountains for fans, staff, and volunteers.
- **Waste management:** i) Optimised recycling concepts implemented with stadiums, ii) non-recyclable elements sent to incinerators for energy recovery.

03. Goods & Services

- **Food & Beverage:** i) Reusable packaging available to the general public, ii) availability of vegetarian or vegan options, iii) food donation schemes for leftovers, iv) collaboration with suppliers to collect and report carbon footprint data, v) suppliers and commercial partners engagement through concrete initiatives.
- **Signage:** i) Production established to reuse, recycle or upcycle materials, ii) Donation of unused surplus.
- **Brand Production:** i) Local production and minimal equipment use, ii) further collaboration with suppliers, commercial partners and licensees under development.
- **Furniture & Equipment:** Prioritise the use of items already present in stadium and renting locally, with purchasing as last option.

04. Logistics

- **Local sourcing:** Prioritisation of land and sea freight over air freight.
- **Freight movements:** Centralisation to and from warehouse.
- **Ticketing:** No paper ticket shipment, reliance on e-ticket as the only choice.

INVESTMENTS IN CARBON MITIGATION

In previous seasons, we offset our emissions through Gold Standard certified projects. As of the 2023/24 season, we shifted our focus to investing in:



01.

Beyond Value Chain Mitigation (BVCM)

, with a focus on carbon removal projects that leverage nature-based and technology-based solutions.

02.

The purchase of **Sustainable Aviation Fuel** for UEFA staff travel to further mitigate our emissions.

03.

Climate funds that grant financial support to national associations hosting each season's UEFA events. These funds empower associations to develop strategies and adopt innovative solutions related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, or smart mobility.

The funding is directly tied to the emissions generated by the respective event, ensuring that we take measurable steps toward a sustainable future.

UEFA MATERIALS

SUPPORTING CARBON REDUCTION MEASURES ACROSS FOOTBALL ORGANISATIONS



UEFA Carbon
Footprint Calculator



UEFA Sustainable
Infrastructure
Guidelines



UEFA Circular
Economy Guidelines
& Event Checklist



UEFA Sustainable
Catering Guidelines for
Hospitality Caterers and
Concessioners

CALL TO ACTION

This carbon reduction plan, while specifically tailored for UEFA, aims to inspire, activate and accelerate tangible reduction efforts across the entire European football ecosystem. We invite National Associations, Leagues, and Clubs to adopt and implement similar carbon reduction initiatives, in the spirit of collective action and leadership led by football.



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www.uefa.com/carboncalculator



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