



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



1. SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

Northampton Rugby Football Club aims to be a socially and environmentally responsible company. NRFC are committed to making positive changes to reduce our environmental impact across all activities at the club.

NRFC continues to investigate new opportunities and technologies to help us achieve our goals of being a leading organisation within Premiership Rugby.

NRFC has signed up to the UN's Sports for Climate Action Framework. The Sports for Climate Action initiative calls on sporting organisations to acknowledge the contribution of the sports sector to climate change and a collective responsibility to strive towards climate neutrality for a safer planet.

Participants in the UN Sports for Global Climate Action Framework commit to adhere to five key principles:

- Principle 1: Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
- Principle 2: Reduce overall climate impact;
- Principle 3: Educate for climate action;
- Principle 4: Promote sustainable and responsible consumption;
- Principle 5: Advocate for climate action through communication.

We are also a member of the British Association for Sustainable Sport (BASIS), the sustainability hub for sport in the UK.

Through our membership we can access help and support to achieve our sustainability goals.

2. RECYCLING

Waste products are recycled where possible to reduce the amount being burnt or going into landfill. In 2020 we changed our waste collection service to help enable us to do this. We can monitor our progress and work towards improving every year, with an eventual target of zero waste to landfill or incineration.

Recycling bins allowing the separation of food waste, glass, cardboard and general recycling are available both on match days and through the week. We encourage all members of staff and the public to use the appropriate bins for their waste.

3. WATER USE

An irrigation system linked to our lake ensures that the pitch is watered only using a sustainable source. Equally excess rainwater from our pitch drains back into our lake ready to be recycled again.

Some of our toilet blocks have waterless urinals to reduce the amount of water usage.

4. CLEAN/RENEWABLE ENERGY

Working with Solivus we now have solar panels on three out of four of our stands with the fourth being unsuitable due to levels of sunlight.

Through our energy broker we have signed up to a tariff ensuring our power is sourced through zero carbon energy sources.





5. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As items reach the end of their lifespan, we strive to ensure that we make energy efficient choices for their replacement. For example, replacing all lights with LEDs.

We also encourage energy saving behaviour changes from staff and customers such as switching off lights and appliances, and managing our heating and cooling systems more efficiently.

6. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

We encourage our fans to travel in groups by offering free parking to minibus and coach parties. There are also bike rack storage points at the ground which are free to use. We encourage staff and players to lift share where appropriate and travel together by coach for away matches.

7. LOCAL HABITATS

When making alterations to our venue we will ensure that this is not detrimental to the natural environment. We will ensure areas of our site are left undisturbed for the benefit of wildlife, and to encourage a diversity of plant, animal and birdlife.

We will ensure our site is kept tidy and litter-free at all times, and clean up promptly after matches and events to prevent litter encroaching on local areas and waterways.

8. FOOD AND DRINK

We work with a catering provider – Levy Restaurants – that has published their own commitments to the environment, the Levy Cares Charter. This includes reducing food waste, sourcing British seasonal products, and reducing the consumption of beef.

We have increased the proportion, quality and range of plant-based and plant-forward meals on our menus.

9. SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

We are working towards the elimination of single use plastic, aided by the use of EcoCups on a deposit return scheme, or the deposit can be donated to the Northampton Saints Foundation.

Water refill points are located at various points around the stadium allowing visitors to refill their own bottles. We use post-mix soft drinks where the bar infrastructure allows, and all bottled drinks are in Recycled PET.

Our catering outlets do not use plastic cutlery, sauce sachets, straws, stirrers or food containers.

Our retail store uses recycled plastic bags which are re-usable and recyclable.

