

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

Yorkshire Sport Foundation Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2025/26

Vision

A sustainable and regenerative sport and physical activity sector across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, supporting a vibrant, healthy and prosperous Yorkshire through everyone moving more.

Mission

Yorkshire Sport Foundation will connect, support and influence partners to prioritise environmental sustainability and enable everyone to enjoy the benefits of an active life, now and in the future.

We recognise that climate change and people's health and wellbeing are closely connected. We aim to promote and develop movement, physical activity and sport through our work with partners, in ways that support environmental sustainability.

Statement of Intent

Our work will be guided by two principles:



To manage our organisational activities in an environmentally sustainable way.



To advocate with partners the value of movement, physical activity and sport in creating a more environmentally sustainable world.

Internal Operations

We will lead by example through action to improve our own environmental performance, to reduce carbon emissions associated with our operations, and to support and inspire staff to take climate action.

Internal Operations

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Governance & Leadership	Embed environmental sustainability within governance and strategic decision-making processes	Environmental Sustainability Action Plan a standing agenda items at Leadership Team and Board meetings	Progress against Environmental Sustainability Action Plan tracked from 2025/26 onwards	From 2025/26 and ongoing
Governance & Leadership	Appoint a YSF Board Champion for environmental sustainability	Level and quality of discussion and advocacy on environmental sustainability	Board Champion appointed at start of 2025/26 financial year	By Q1 2025/26
Reducing Carbon Emissions: Facilities & Travel	Undertake a comprehensive assessment of YSF's carbon emissions to identify a baseline and areas of greatest impact	Baseline and targets established for reducing emissions. Options for reducing the emissions agreed and implementation plans developed	Implement at least two actions to reduce carbon emissions in 2026/27	Begin in 2025/26; carbon reduction actions in 2026/27
Staff Training	Deliver Climate FRESK training for all team members	Number of team members who have completed training. Staff feedback on the quality of training and confidence in the topic	Team complete training as part of standard YSF training offer	Q2 2025/26
Reducing Carbon Emissions: Travel	Develop and implement tools to track and promote sustainable travel decisions by the YSF team (e.g. public transport, lift sharing, active travel)	Staff engagement with the tools. Number of sustainable travel decisions taken	Achieve at least 75% staff engagement within six months of launch. Increase in sustainable travel choices	Q4 2025/26

Internal Operations

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Active Travel Reducing Carbon Emissions: Travel	Deliver an optional adult safe cycling training for team members	Uptake and staff feedback on the quality of training and cycling confidence	Two opportunities provided for team members to complete training by the end of 2026/27	Begin in 2025/26 and deliver 1 training session per year
Staff Volunteering	Provide opportunities for the team to volunteer on environmental sustainability initiatives	Time dedicated at monthly staff activities, staff away days, and use of official volunteering days (e.g. litter picks; gardening; cycling tours; kit recycling schemes etc)	Provide at least 1 volunteering opportunity to environmental sustainability for all team members. Increase YSF volunteering hours linked to environmental sustainability	2025/26 and ongoing

Support and Capability Building

We will support partners to build their understanding, confidence and capability in becoming more environmentally sustainable and influencing others to do the same.

Support and Capability Building

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Continuous Learning & Development	Team members to attend and contribute to relevant events, conferences, training sessions, and workshops	Number of events, conferences, training sessions, and workshops. Learning shared internally and externally on environmental sustainability good practice	Team members to attend at least 3 environmental sustainability related events/sessions/training opportunities, and to share insights and recommendations	From 2025/26 and ongoing
Sharing Tools & Resources	Help partners across our network to access high quality, accessible and practical guidance, support and funding to support environmental sustainability and climate resilience	Number of visits to relevant website pages and social media reach. Partner feedback on quality of support (e.g. through club survey). Movement Fund grants to climate related projects	Partners reporting improved support on environmental sustainability from YSF by 2026/27	2025/26 and ongoing
Capacity & Capability Building Support	Work with partners to offer capacity and capability building support on environmental sustainability to YSF's partner network	Number of organisations benefitting from capacity and capability support (e.g. Buddle; Sport for Good; BASIS). Partner confidence in environmental sustainability issues	Deliver a pilot support offer in 2025/26. Use the learning from this to develop an improved offer to our partner network from 2026/27	2025/26 and ongoing
Circular Economy: Kit & Equipment	Connect, support and influence to increase the impact of sports kit and equipment exchange schemes across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	Number of districts with a community-driven circular economy scheme for sports kit and equipment	At least 1 additional district to establish a kit and equipment recycling scheme in 2025/26 (using learning from Bradford and Leeds models)	Q3 2025/26
Employee Engagement	Gather staff input on their areas of interest regarding environmental sustainability and ideas for climate action	Improve staff awareness and involvement in environmental initiatives and climate action. Number and quality of staff ideas. Staff feedback on confidence in the topic	Feedback gathered in 2025 through Climate FRESK training and team workshop. At least 3 new actions identified 2026/27	Q1 2025/26

Leveraging our Resources

We will use our collective resources, human and financial, to influence investment and innovation to make the sector more environmentally sustainable.

Leveraging our Resources

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Use of Core Resource	Review and update job descriptions, induction process, Trustee adverts, work plans, and the learning and development offer to ensure environmental sustainability is embedded	YSF's environmental sustainability commitments are embedded throughout our plans, processes and operations	Audit of internal processes completed by Q3 2025/26	2025/26 and ongoing
Procurement	Develop a proportional framework and guidance to ensure all YSF purchasing decisions are made through an environmental sustainability lens	Framework and guidance developed and understood by all staff. Increased staff awareness of the environmental impact of purchasing decisions	Framework developed and in use by Q2 2025/26	Q2 2025/26
Influencing Investment	Influence funding programmes and bids embed environmental sustainability and increase investment into climate action	Level of investment in organisations/ projects with an environmental sustainability focus. Number and size of funding bids. Success of funding bids. Number of new strategic connections and partnerships developed	Increase in proportion of successful Movement Fund projects in South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire with an environmental sustainability focus	2025/26 and ongoing
Securing Investment	Support collaborative funding bids and better connect potential funding partners to increase investment into environmental sustainability	Support a joint bid to National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund through the Active Partnerships Network	Success of the funding bid. Number of new strategic connections and partnerships developed	Q2 2025/26

Leveraging our Resources

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Influence Partners	Add a standard environmental sustainability statement to YSF's SLAs and funding agreements to make clear our organisational commitment and expectations	Review existing agreements, draft and finalise wording, and share best practice with partners	All funded partners take measurable positive action. Establish a system to monitor compliance and impact	Q2 2025/26
Convening the Network & Sharing Learning	Connect with a wide range of partners, funders and investors, share learning and influence to make clear the importance of environmental sustainability to our sector and the contribution we can make to this issue	Develop strategic relationship with Yorkshire Funders. Develop strategic relationship with relevant organisations involved in the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission. Convene regional and national partners and funders around environmental sustainability	Deliver an event with an environmental sustainability focus in 2025/26. Present at an external funders network about the links between sport, physical activity and environmental sustainability	By Q4 2025/26

Advocacy and Communications

We will use our collective voice and convening power to advocate for and influence positive progress towards environmental sustainability.

Advocacy and Communications

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Governance & Leadership	Sign up to the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Pledge and the Active Partnerships Environmental Sustainability Commitment. Align YSF's environmental sustainability work with these strategies	Progress towards achieving the Pledge and Action Plan targets. YSF's external commitments on environmental sustainability are well publicised and widely understood	- Sign up to the external Pledges in Q1 2025/26 - Regularly monitor progress against actions and targets within the pledges	2025/26 and ongoing
Leadership & Influence	YSF continued involvement as founding member of the Active Partnerships National Climate Crew and help shape its national influencing role	YSF involvement in shaping national events, policy and funding bids linked to the environmental sustainability agenda	YSF work featured in the November 2025 Active Partnerships National Environmental Sustainability Summit	2025/26 and ongoing
Internal & External Campaigns	Develop campaign plans that support outcomes in the strategy for identified stakeholder groups. Identify appropriate campaigns across a calendar year and amplify through created or curated content	- As per specific campaign objective - Number of engagements on content across social media, website, newsletters	As per the specific campaign objectives	2025/26 and ongoing
Sharing Good Practice	Identify and celebrate opportunities and good practice in environmental sustainability across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	Number of engagements on created content (e.g. YSF Weekly, YSF Podcast, share and learn sessions, YSF Connect Events, District Activity Partnerships, other events)	Each area of YSF's influencing work to have featured environmental sustainability in some form by the end of 2026	2025/26 and ongoing

Advocacy and Communications

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Just transition: Inequalities, Inclusion & Participation	Establish our voice on climate justice to develop and communicate the narrative around the links between climate change, participation and inequalities	Level of media and social media reach on environmental sustainability (link into YSF Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan)	To double both media and social media reach on environmental sustainability in 2025/26 compared to 2024/2025	Q4 2025/26
Circular Economy: Kit & Equipment	Demonstrate the impact of kit and equipment recycling schemes on physical activity levels. Bring together academic and operational partners to devise a methodology to demonstrate the impact of this work.	Project team established. Impact assessment methodology designed. Impact report produced	Impact of the kit and equipment recycling work to be demonstrated and disseminated by the end of 2026	By Q3 2026/27

Influencing the Natural and Built Environment

We will work with partners to support and influence the creation and protection of high-quality active environments that encourage people to move more, embed active design, reduce emissions and enhance biodiversity.

Influencing the Natural and Built Environment

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Active Design & Built Environment	Provide active design support, guidance and advocacy to a broad partner network across our 9 districts with a focus on creating and adapting sustainable places and spaces for physical activity and sport	Guidance being shared and used by partners. Partner feedback on the quality of guidance and confidence in environmental sustainability issues	All districts across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire make strong reference to active design within key strategies and policies	2025/26 and ongoing
Built environment Blue-green environment quality and use	Work with local authorities, National Governing Body of Sport (NGB) and other partners to embed environmental sustainability within planning for physical activity facilities, places and spaces	Number of strategies/ plans/ policies across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire referencing the importance of environmental sustainability and Active Design	All relevant strategies across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire to include reference to the importance of environmental sustainability and active design	2025/26 and ongoing
Biodiversity & Climate Resilience	Advocate for inclusion of biodiversity and climate resilience within active environments/active design schemes across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	- Number of projects incorporating biodiversity and climate resilience - YSF input into Nature Recovery Strategies across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	YSF to feed into all Nature Recovery Strategy consultations across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	2025/26 and ongoing

Focus Area	Action	Performance Indicator	Target	Timescales
Active Design & Built Environment Blue-green environment quality and use	Convene the partner network and deliver a regional learn and share event focused on active environments, active design and environmental sustainability	Attendance levels and partner feedback on the quality of the event	Deliver event by Q3 2025/26	2025/26
Active Travel	Work with partners to connect, support and influence to increase active travel opportunities across South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire	YSF input into active travel and transport consultations, strategies and policies	Strategic relationship developed with WYCA and SYMCA active travel teams	By Q4 2025/26



We want to see a sustainable and regenerative sport and physical activity sector.

Working with you, we can make a difference and support a vibrant, healthy and prosperous Yorkshire through everyone moving more.

Follow us on 
Yorkshire Sport Foundation

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