



Scoring the next century

A nature and climate plan for cricket

**The Next Test and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club coproduced this plan
with members and fans of cricket in the region**



Introduction

The climate and nature crises are not just about the environment – they are a social crisis too, and it is vital to tackle them together. There is a huge opportunity for bold, transformative climate and nature action to reduce, rather than exacerbate inequalities, and to improve the quality of life for people locally and globally. This requires ensuring that diverse communities and those most affected by climate and nature breakdown are able to shape our response.

Bristol has a goal of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. The One City Environment Board published the One City Climate Strategy in February 2020, setting out a pathway of action on how Bristol can become carbon neutral and climate resilient.

Achieving Bristol's mammoth goal of being carbon neutral and climate resilient, whilst also improving the lives of its residents, especially those most disadvantaged, will require the collective skills, knowledge and energy of the whole city. This community climate action plan for the region's cricket community responds directly to this need. It centres the role of communities and community anchor organisations in this.

This plan has been developed as part of the [Bristol Community Climate Action Project](#), which enables communities in Bristol to reduce their carbon footprints, support nature recovery and bring social benefits to local people.



The project aims to contribute to three significant impacts:

- A reduced risk of catastrophic climate change
- A just and inclusive transition to net zero
- Improved quality of life for local people. For example, improved health and wellbeing, economic opportunity, resilience, social cohesion and improved biodiversity.

Who



The Community Climate Action Project is a partnership of community organisations across the city: Ambition Lawrence Weston, Ashley Community Housing, Eastside Community Trust, Heart of BS13, and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, supported by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Council (Sustainable City & Climate Change Service). This partnership sees Bristol's communities stepping into a leadership role in the city, demonstrating their ability to respond to the challenges of climate change with effective, community-led action.

The five core organisations involved in the project represent communities experiencing multiple disadvantages who have traditionally been excluded from the climate change debate and responses to it. Across the city, it is also disadvantaged communities like these that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, disruption to critical services which they rely on, instability in living costs, and so on. Any city simply looking to reduce its emissions as rapidly as possible would not prioritise starting with disadvantaged and excluded communities, as households in these communities typically have the lowest emissions and environmental footprints in a city.

However, if our strategic response to climate change and nature breakdown is not informed by the critical insights and lived experiences of the diverse communities which make up our city, we risk designing solutions which further compound disadvantage; failing to respond to important social needs; creating new unintended barriers; and entrenching social and political division and which aren't fit for purpose.

The project's learning and mentoring programme was launched in 2023, with the aim of supporting more, and more diverse, community organisations across Bristol with their climate action journeys.



Since then 11 community groups of place, demography and interest have joined the programme and have been working with their local communities to co-produce climate action plans:

Cohort 2: Southmead Development Trust, Knowle West Media Centre, Windmill Hill City Farm, Hillfields Community Garden, and BRICKS (at St Annes House)

Cohort 3: Bristol Older People's Forum, The Next Test & Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association, One Green Kitchen, Rising Arts Agency, and Shirehampton Action



What

During 2021, the core community partners, along with Bristol Disability Equality Forum, coproduced community climate action plans with the communities they represent, having done significant engagement with residents. They are now leading on local demonstrator projects, which respond to key priorities identified in their plans, and contributing to the city's new Community Leadership Panel on Climate and Just Transition. The project also includes a climate and disability strand, which centres Bristol's community of Disabled people in climate and nature action.

In 2024 five more community groups launched their climate action plans having participated in the learning and mentoring programme, with a further six community groups launching their plans in June 2025. These organisations have received a participation bursary but have had less financial resource from the project than the first round of partners. These cohorts are helping to identify a feasible level of resource needed to develop a community climate action plan process which can be replicated beyond Bristol.

This community climate action plan, and the approach to developing it, has been guided by the principle of a just transition to net zero which improves the quality of life and life chances of citizens, especially those experiencing disadvantage and inequality. Climate projects are often well intentioned, but are frequently extractive of disadvantaged groups by expecting time for free to help them become "more inclusive"; and whilst some climate actions and solutions provide social and economic benefits, others risk making life worse for communities who are already experiencing disadvantage.

The Community Climate Action Project seeks to do things differently, and believes the transition to net zero can and should be a once in a generation opportunity to challenge systemic inequality and improve the quality of life for local people. The project aims to build the knowledge, capacity and confidence of local community organisations, harness their knowledge and insights, and enable them to become leaders in the city's climate action.

The launch in 2023 of Bristol's Just Transition Declaration has created a strategic framework which further supports and guides the just transition ambitions of the community climate action plans and wider project activities. The Declaration sets out 10 principles that everyone working on climate change and nature loss in the city can use to make their plans as fair as possible.



Photo credit: Eastside Community Trust

Why community led climate action?

Climate action requires collective action. By working together we can take powerful community climate action which reduces carbon and improves lives.

The action we take as individuals and households is critically important. And the actions of businesses and organisations, too. But we can't solve the climate crisis without community.

In Bristol, community has been key to so much the city has achieved. It's people working together that makes real change happen. With community we can achieve great things.

During the Covid crisis, community organisations in Bristol showed significant leadership, demonstrating the critical role communities can play in responding to a crisis. The climate and nature crises are no exception.

Community organisations are also experts of their place and the lived experience of their community. They are trusted by people, and so are well equipped to develop pragmatic and targeted solutions which work for their specific communities, rather than imposed from outside. Alongside governmental, business and individual action, community level climate action is a critical piece of the jigsaw if we are to meet the city's ambitious 2030 zero carbon ambitions and with a social mandate whilst also building resilience.



Statement from CEO of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club recognises the critical importance of addressing climate change and its profound impact on our sport, our community, and the world. Like any part of the community, we have a responsibility to act sustainably. This is something we are committed to being at the forefront of in climate action within cricket, Gloucestershire and Bristol.

We firmly believe that integrating environmental practices is not only the right thing to do but can also contribute to long-term resilience and efficiency. We aspire to show leadership in implementing practical, cost-effective solutions, learning from best practices, and fostering a culture of sustainability across our operations.

Cricket teaches us many lessons, one of them is how to balance multiple situations in order for a collective target. Alongside the prosperity of the club on and off the pitch, environmental sustainability matters a great deal to this club.

Despite being a club that is 155 years old, there is still so much to learn. Over the next few years we are determined to embed sustainability as a core value, striving for a balance between our environmental responsibilities, the needs of Gloucestershire's brilliant fans, and the economic realities we face.

We are eager to collaborate with partners, our community, and the wider cricketing world to collectively build a sustainable future for our game and our planet.



Neil Priscott, CEO of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club

Statement from Co-Founder and Chair of The Next Test

We are delighted to present this pioneering work and are grateful to everyone who has helped us. We thank especially our teammates at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club and Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership.

The most important thing that springs from this work is the cricket community's desire and drive to make a difference for the future, inspired by a love of the game.

This plan is a starting point, a jogged single early in the innings. We hope that it will grow alongside the aspirations of cricket lovers, in the face of the undoubted challenges ahead. Ours is a game of resilience, a game of impossible comebacks and of hope against the odds. We must embrace all of these to empower the cricket community to reshape our future.



Tanya Aldred, Co-Founder and Chair of The Next Test

Our ambition

Of all the field sports, cricket faces a unique vulnerability to the impacts of a changing climate, deeply intertwined with the natural environment which shapes the game. From Mumbai to Manchester, Melbourne to Multan, cricket players and fans are seeing the game they love change in front of their eyes due to the damage done by extreme heat, unprecedented rainfall, drought, wildfires, flooding or hurricanes.

Our ambition is to see the cricket community overcome these challenges against ever increasing odds. We want to harness the power within the game. A better future is in our collective hands. Through educational insights, the cricket community can take positive actions to serve our game for many generations to come, bequeathing a sustainable legacy for all. We know change is never easy, but a healthy, supportive and ambitious team structure can produce unparalleled results. Now is the time to act for a better future; cricket is a global sport being adversely affected at every level. We want to celebrate heroes who embed sustainable practices within club structures from grassroots to the highest authorities, allowing cricket to thrive for future generations. While our community climate action plan is focused on Bristol, our city is just one of many with hundreds of cricket clubs in the community, thus we hope our actions become catalysts for others to follow.

The Next Test

We want this action plan to act as a springboard for change in our cricket community. We hope this plan will both act as a reference point and inspire clubs to begin or continue their own sustainability journeys. We want it to help people open up conversations, exchange ideas, to try things, fail, and try again.

This is not a prescriptive plan. Every club is unique, with its own strengths and quirks, but the most important asset of every club is the people. They enrich our community, bound together with a love of the game whether win, lose or draw. This is cricket's super-power.



Gloucestershire County Cricket Club

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club aspires to embed sustainable practices across all facets of our operations, from energy consumption and waste management to food sourcing and biodiversity enhancement. Our approach will be one of continuous improvement, learning from best practices within and outside the sporting world, and fostering a collaborative spirit with local partners, other cricket clubs, and our engaged community.

We are committed to taking meaningful steps towards reducing our environmental footprint and leveraging our platform to raise awareness and inspire action among our stakeholders. While financial constraints may limit the scale of our initial investments, our ambition is to cultivate a long-term vision where sustainability is intrinsically linked to the success and resilience of Gloucestershire Cricket.





Context: Our community

The Next Test is a not-for-profit organisation with a broad reach, giving the community a voice at all levels of our game, through education, ideas and solutions. [Our website](#) and resources are free to access for everyone, and we have worked with organisations nationally and internationally, from local clubs like Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, Australia's Cricket for Climate and India's Health Spark. We work to raise awareness of the climate and biodiversity crisis amongst cricket players and fans to join the dots between cricket, climate and sustainable practices.

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club is deeply embedded within its local community, serving as a sporting hub and a significant part of the region's identity. We recognise that our actions have an impact that extends beyond the boundary rope, influencing our supporters, members, local residents, and the broader business community.

The Next Test and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club worked on this plan in partnership in order to reach a wide range of the regions' cricket community.



There is a growing interest in environmental issues from those in the sport, a desire to live, work and play in a more sustainable way and to find ways to embed this into the core structures of our game, community and society.

Our community climate action plan focuses on Bristol and the South West, but we also brought together a handful of voices from the cricket community further afield.

We heard from players, clubs and fans, from Cricket Foundation staff, league cricket organisers, cricket stakeholders, England and Wales Cricket Board representatives, county club employees, ground staff, cricket writers, academics, cricket journalists, Chief Executive Officers of sustainability organisations, university students, old hat cricket voices and those who are new to the game.

Despite the perception that climate change is a divisive subject to talk about, we found people eager to voice their concerns. Players and fans want to have open and frank conversations about the changing climate and how it is affecting them and the game, but aren't sure where to start. We hope this plan is the first run on the board.

The cricket community in this country stretches far and wide. It embraces a huge number of people: from international players to those who turn up for occasional friendlies in borrowed kit. It includes groups of young people playing tape ball in supermarket car parks at night, older men and women who keep fit with walking cricket sessions in the leisure centre, young children taking their first tentative steps in the All Stars programme, and refugees desperately looking for something familiar in unfamiliar surroundings.

Away from the middle, a huge number of other people work hard behind the scenes. Coaches and physios, umpires and ground staff, parents and grandparents who shuttle kids to games and practice, tea-makers and the many dedicated club chairs, all put in hours of their time. This huge and varied community certainly has its differences, and we acknowledge that the game has a long way to go to become more equitable. But a love for cricket brings us together, and as a team we prepare a pitch for the future.

We have been lucky enough to learn about grassroots clubs doing amazing things. Clubs planting trees and wildflowers to attract pollinators and birds. Clubs installing bird and bat boxes, leaving areas of land wild for nature. We have seen them install solar panels, LED lights, swap a diesel mower for an electric one. We've seen them reduce their water consumption, measure their carbon footprints, car share, introduce recycling, get rid of plastics from their bar. We've seen them grow hops for local beer, fruit for the local community, host environmental events in their clubhouse. We've seen them face flooding, cancelled practices and matches, with rising insurance costs, or the prospect of no rain at all resulting in dangerously hard pitches.

Like cricket, facing up to the climate crisis takes courage, resilience and hard work. It is not always easy. But we are inspired by miraculous moments of drama that unfold in our game. We recall Gloucestershire's game with Glamorgan at Cheltenham in July 2024, No11 caught behind the off the last ball to tie the match. We too can be game changers.





Our baseline community carbon footprint

Why is a community carbon footprint useful ?

Some people express concern or scepticism about the value of carbon footprints – and it is reasonable to be cautious. Individualised carbon footprints were popularised by British Petroleum in the early 2000s, to push responsibility for tackling climate change on the individual and away from that of the oil industry. However, there is also a history of ecological footprinting which came before this, which was driven by ecologists in the US who were increasingly concerned about the rapid depletion of natural resources. They were motivated by the belief that humanity needed a shared understanding of its environmental impact to inspire collective action. And that footprinting created an opportunity to translate complex environmental data into something more accessible, which everyone could understand and use.

Bristol's citizens care and want to take positive action, and footprinting can empower them by guiding them to the actions which they have power to take, and which will bring the greatest carbon reduction. They can also reveal where systemic changes are needed to enable individuals to take positive action.

The Community Climate Action Project focuses on taking action at the community scale, and so the project aims to develop community carbon footprints for each neighbourhood or community in order to understand the scale of carbon emissions associated with that community.



What did it tell us?

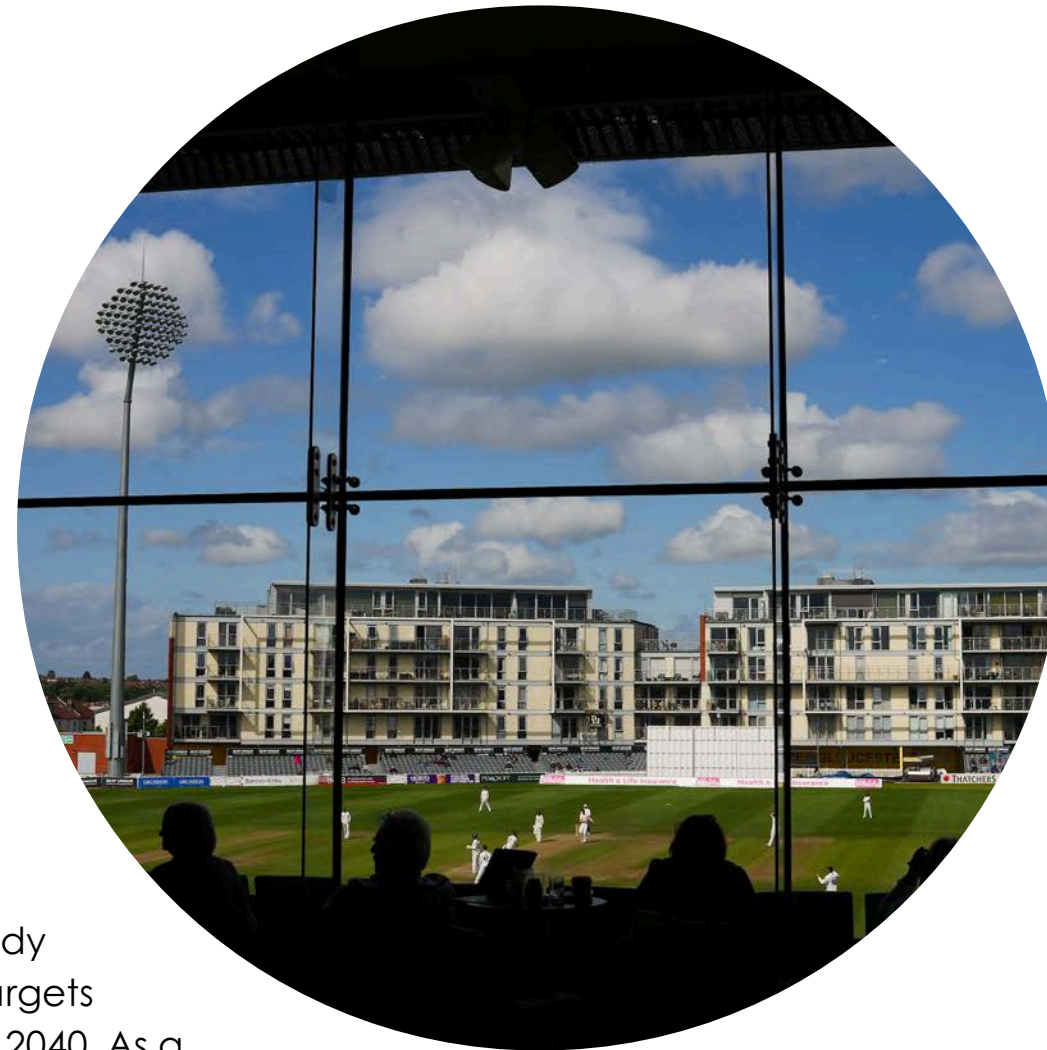
Cricket, like many major sports, has a wide range of associated emissions that contribute to its environmental footprint in England – from the energy used by club buildings and in the management of grounds, to the travel emissions of players and fans (local, national and international), the impact of waste produced at events, and the resource required for producing equipment. It's a varied picture!

There isn't a single source of data on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the sport, so it is difficult to quantify the scale of impact. However, many of the professionalised clubs across the country have taken steps to understand their own carbon footprints, and adopted sustainability plans and targets to tackle their impact – with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club being key amongst them.

At the national level, the England Cricket Board (the national governing body for cricket in England) has committed to the UN Sports for Climate Action targets of halving greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and being Net Zero by 2040. As a first key step on this journey, they have quantified the emissions resulting from their activities. In 2022 this totalled 25,280 tCO_{2e} – with the largest chunk of this coming from the goods and services that they consume, including air travel, and a much smaller proportion coming from the energy they use. For regional and amateur clubs, it is likely that direct emissions will mostly be from the energy used by their buildings and grounds, with indirect emissions largely attributed to the transport of fans and players to events. Whilst this might be relatively small on an individual club basis, the combined impact aggregates to something much more significant.

Key activities that clubs have taken across England include: increasing the proportion of energy coming from sustainable sources, including on-site generation; decarbonising transport fleets; and tackling waste production and use of single-use plastic at events.

Gloucestershire Country Cricket Club is currently in the process of developing a detailed carbon footprint for the club, and [further information can be found here](#).





Bristol climate context

The science on the climate emergency is clear: we need urgent action to reduce our carbon emissions to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C, and to prevent disastrous impacts. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, homes, food security, the environment, our flora and fauna, raw materials, water supply and economic growth will continue to increase in severity. Even if we manage to limit change to 1.5°C (which now looks unlikely), the impacts will be felt differently in different regions. Populations most at risk are marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable. In Bristol, some of our most deprived wards will be the most exposed to the physical impacts of climate change.

The potential impacts of climate change on our city and its residents are significant and wide ranging.

“Sport can offer a beacon of hope and be a powerful catalyst for change...the unifying power of sport and its potential to mobilise communities and resources for environmental action.”

**Steve Simpson, Professor,
School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol**

In the Bristol One City Climate Strategy (Preliminary Climate Resilience Assessment), evidence was gathered on physical climate risk to the city. Under a high emissions scenario, by 2080, Bristol's coastline is projected to increase by up to 72cm, winter rainfall is projected to increase by up to 48%, summer maximum temperature is projected to increase by over +9°C, and summer rainfall is projected to decrease by up to 68%.

This milestone is the age today's primary school children will retire. These climate hazards present serious risks to Bristol's homes, businesses, schools, community assets, and critical infrastructure, causing negative impacts to livelihoods, disruptions to our daily lives and a risk to life. These impacts will get progressively worse up to 2080.

Climate change is a complex challenge. We recognise the interconnected and global nature of the world, which exposes Bristol to potentially catastrophic climate risks arising well beyond the city's boundary. We also acknowledge our local, national and global responsibility to take bold and immediate climate action as a city, to increase the city's resilience in the face of these risks, and to share our successes and challenges openly and generously.

Taking action in Bristol – One City Climate Strategy

Bristol has committed to reducing its carbon emissions to net zero and becoming climate resilient by 2030. [Bristol's One City Climate Strategy](#) outlines the key changes across the city, and the UK, that will be needed to reach our climate change goals. Therefore, the community climate action plan has been an opportunity to engage members of our community in this important mission of tackling climate change, to explore how they can take the lead on changes in our community, and how we can ensure we maximise the benefits that can come from these changes – warmer and more affordable-to-heat homes, quieter and safer streets, cleaner air.

Our natural environment is critical to our wellbeing and the climate resilience of our city. Preserving and supporting the green spaces of Bristol will decarbonise the air we breathe, and improve our mental and physical health. It will also reduce the risk of flooding and extreme temperatures (the two major climate change risks facing Bristol in the coming years), and act as a carbon 'sink' (absorbing carbon from the atmosphere).



Taking action in Bristol – Ecological Emergency Strategy

In February 2020, Bristol declared an ecological emergency in response to the decline in wildlife in the city. In September 2020, the Ecological Emergency Strategy for Bristol was launched as the city's first coordinated effort to confront the decline in nature. The strategy sets out the key ecological actions we need to take to achieve a carbon neutral and climate resilient city by 2030 and consists of four goals:

- Space for nature - for 30% of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife.
- Pesticides - to reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50%.
- Pollution - for all waterways to have excellent water quality which supports healthy wildlife.
- Our wider footprint- to reduce consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world.

[You can read a full summary of the recommendations from the Bristol's Ecological Emergency Strategy for the city here.](#)

We have given consideration to the ambitions of both these key strategies when developing the priorities of our community climate action plan.

Bristol City Leap

Another development significant to the communities working on community climate action is the Bristol City Leap programme. This is a 20-year joint venture partnership between Bristol City Council, Ameresco and Vattenfall Heat UK. It is designed to enable the delivery of over £1 billion of investment into Bristol's energy system at a time when the UK is struggling to match resources to the scale of change needed to address climate change and the energy/cost of living crisis.

What will City Leap do?

- Significant expansion of Bristol's Heat Network to provide the city with reliable affordable low carbon heat from sustainable sources.
- Solar panels and low carbon heating systems for local schools.
- The council's social housing will be made more energy efficient to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.
- Substantial investment will go into community-owned renewable energy projects.
- Provide funding to communities to support community energy projects.



Beyond Bristol

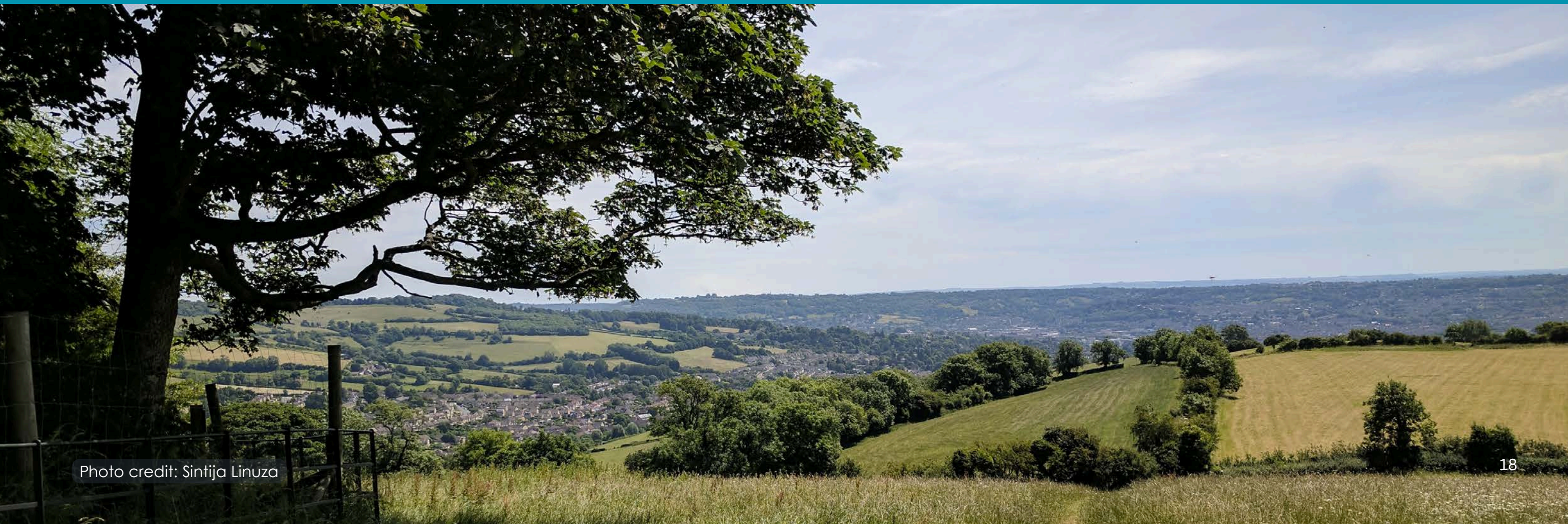
The West of England Combined Authority

The city of Bristol is located within the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) area and some significant climate and nature central government funding and policy comes through WECA and impacts Bristol communities. This includes some aspects of strategic transport, skills and development of major developments along with some aspects of land use planning and the planning of housing. The West of England Combined Authority covers the council areas of South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset, as well as Bristol. It does not have elected councillors, only the Mayor is elected. Similar two-tier arrangements are in place in most of the larger cities and regions across England.

In 2022, the [Climate and Ecological Action Plan](#) for the West of England region was launched, and in 2024 [the West of England Nature Recovery Strategy and Toolkit](#) were launched.

National context

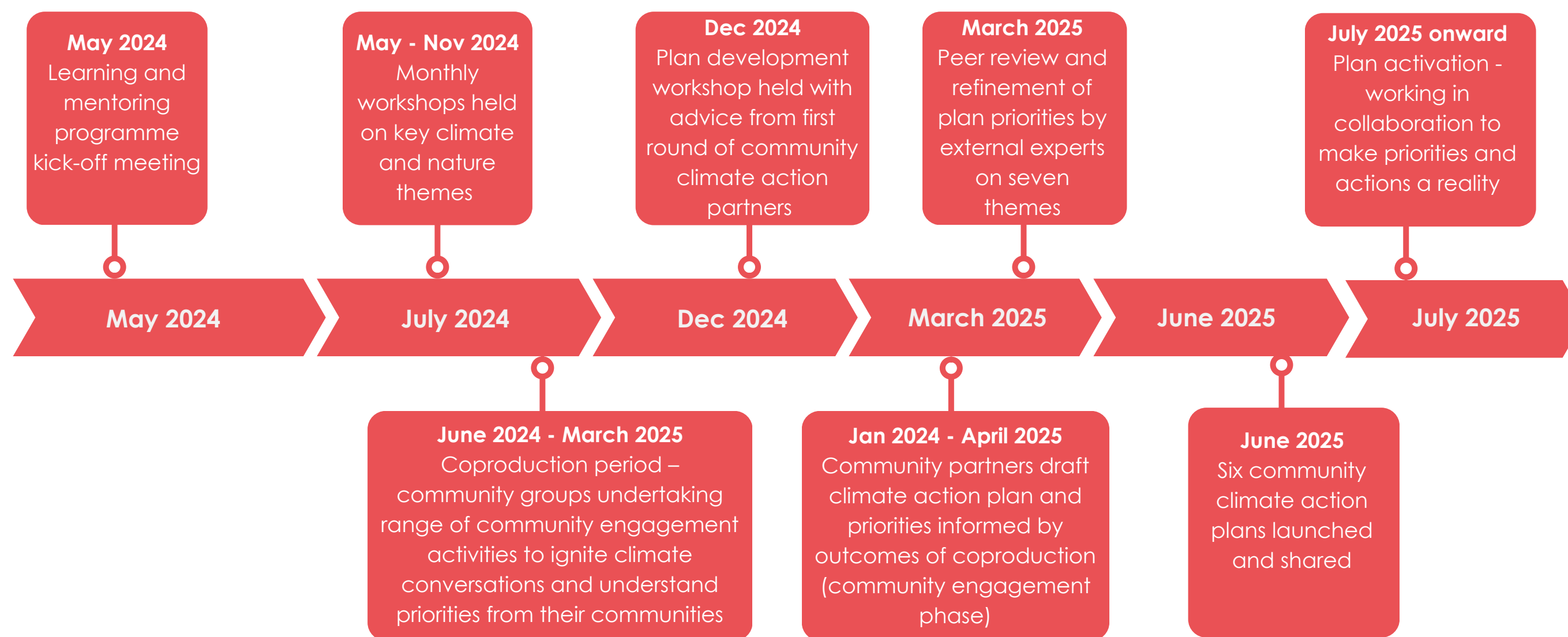
Many of the actions communities want to see are not under the remit of local councils or Combined Authorities. We feel it is important to include these nonetheless - often local authorities can play a role allying with local communities to lobby central government for legislation, funding or policy change. Greater devolution of powers and budget from central government are planned for the coming year.





How we developed this plan

This plan was developed as part of the learning and mentoring programme, delivered by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, as part of the Community Climate Action Project. The six partners involved in the learning and mentoring programme (cohort 3) met monthly for themed workshops on climate and nature issues, and engaged with their communities from summer 2024 to spring 2025. The flowchart below captures the main elements of the methodology to create Bristol's third round of community climate action plans:



Throughout:

Connecting city partners through monthly workshops with city experts, and support from Bristol City Council and Centre for Sustainable Energy

Our methodology



The engagement was delivered jointly by The Next Test and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, with the two partners leading on different elements. The engagement had three parts:

Outreach sessions at match days and with local clubs

The Next Test held a number of outreach sessions in the summer of 2024, hosted by our team of dedicated volunteers. We invited interested spectators to tell us about their concerns for cricket, the planet and biodiversity. People we spoke to had much to contribute, as they see their local clubs adversely affected by heat or rain.

Our stall was made up of information boards, conversation prompts, including some useful studies, reports and examples of good practice from The Next Test resource pages. There was a roadmap activity - prompting people to see beyond the problems and think about solutions. People were drawn to our sticker wicket quickfire survey, a roving quiz and, of course, tea and cake. The quiz, designed by volunteer Dan, was particularly popular. Fans could interact and start thinking outside the box, both about how the climate affects the game, and also the negative impacts a game like cricket has on the environment.

We soon realised that if we just concentrated on those attending matches at Gloucestershire's County Ground, we wouldn't reach a diversity of voices. So we altered our approach to reach those who were missing, including women's squads and global majority clubs. This more accessible approach, via telephone conversations with players and club representatives, allowed them to share their opinions and concerns openly.

We hope these conversations continue after the climate action plan is published, indeed we have already begun supporting a women's squad to access funding for solar panels at their club.



The Greener Games Conference October 2024

The Next Test and Gloucestershire County Cricket Club organised and hosted the Greener Games Conference, a groundbreaking event for the community. This brought together people from different backgrounds or professions, all with a common goal of seeing positive change in Bristol and beyond.

This brought around 60 people to the pavilion at the County Ground, for an evening of short talks from a panel of three experts, followed by round-table sessions.

The format of the Greener Games conference was designed to foster open discussion and gather valuable feedback from a diverse range of stakeholders. The event featured:

- Inspiring keynote speakers such as Asif Rehmanwala, CEO at Ecotricity; Tanya Aldred, climate journalist and Guardian writer; and Professor Steve Simpson from the University of Bristol, who shared their expertise and insights on climate action within sport and the wider community.
- Round table discussions that provided delegates with the opportunity to engage directly with climate-related topics, share their concerns, and suggest potential solutions relevant to the cricket community. These discussions covered a range of themes, including transport, energy, waste, and nature.

It was a fantastic event, full of productive conversations around sustainability in cricket. We heard from amazing speakers with a broad range of experience, who gave us plenty of reasons for optimism despite the challenges that climate change poses for the sport.



The event received wonderful feedback, and the suggestions gathered at the Greener Games conference have been instrumental in shaping our understanding of the priorities and concerns within our community.

The Talks are now available on [The Next Test website](#) in our [Resources section of the website](#).

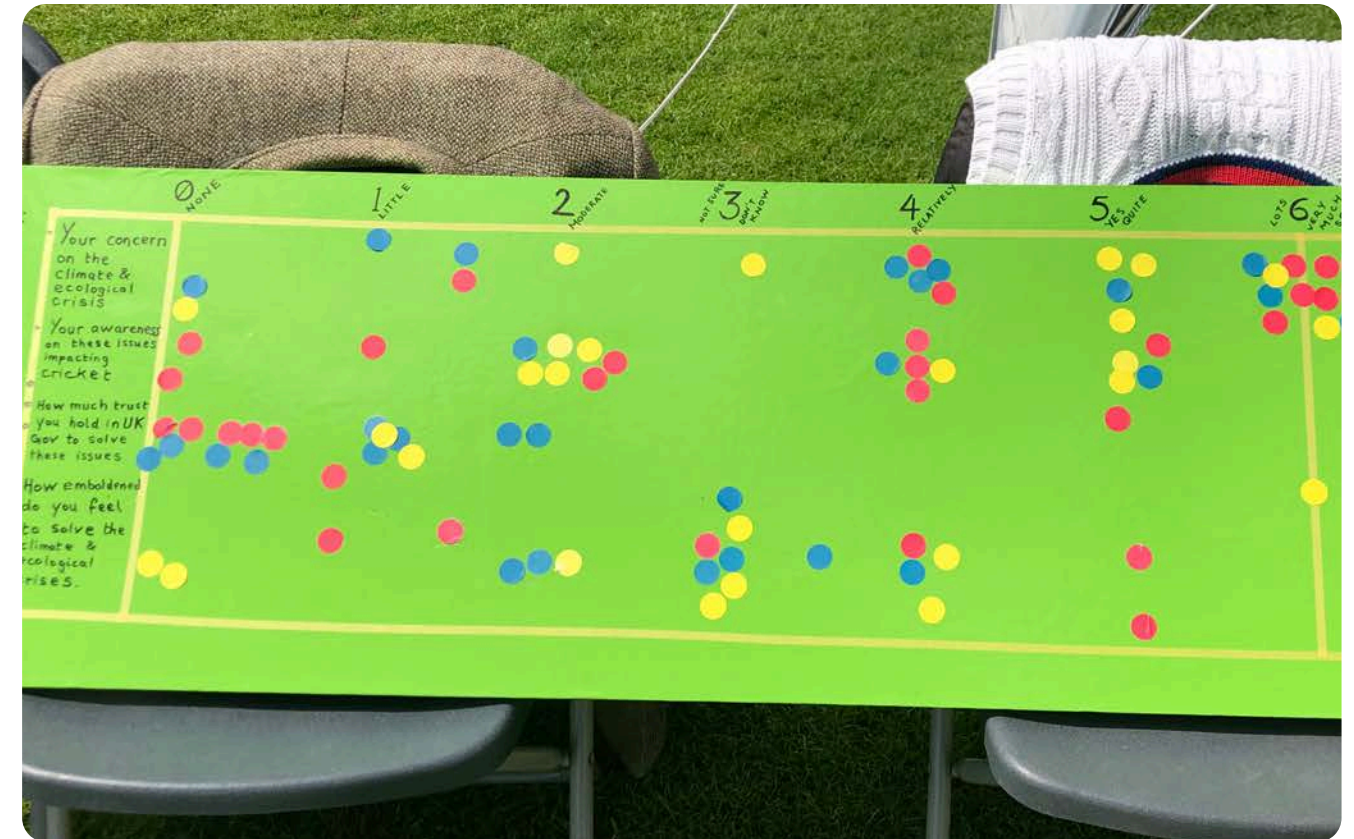
“This has been a really excellent event, it feels exciting and genuine! It’s really refreshing to be a part of it. Thank you!”

Local resident survey and informal conversations with supporters

In addition to the Greener Games conference, Gloucestershire Cricket has also engaged with supporters, members, and local residents through informal conversations and by being present within the community. This ongoing dialogue has provided further valuable insights into local priorities and the specific challenges and opportunities relevant to our context.

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's methodology for developing a more sustainable future recognises the financial constraints faced by the club. Therefore, Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's approach will prioritise:

- Identifying practical and cost-effective "quick wins" that can deliver tangible environmental benefits without significant financial outlay.
- Leveraging partnerships and collaborations with local organisations, businesses, and other sporting bodies to share resources, expertise, and best practices.



- Embedding sustainability considerations into existing operational decisions to minimise additional costs and maximise efficiency.
- Raising awareness and engaging our community to foster a collective responsibility for environmental action, recognising that behavioural change can be a powerful driver of sustainability.
- Developing a phased approach to implementing more significant sustainability initiatives as financial resources allow, ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated with the club's strategic planning.

By drawing on the rich feedback from the Greener Games and our ongoing engagement with the community, Gloucestershire Cricket is committed to developing and implementing a climate action plan that is both ambitious and achievable, reflecting our willingness to be a leader in sustainability while navigating the realities of our financial context and the imperative to provide a positive experience for all who engage with the club.

Climate action heroes

The Bristol & District Cricket Association

The Bristol & District Cricket Association (BDCA) are the grafters behind the scenes who ensure our game and competition are thriving in the region. The organisers of The Bristol & District league which covers a geographical area from Thornbury in the North to Midsomer Norton in the South, Bath in the East to Clevedon in the West. We spoke to Marek and Steve about the league structure the BDCA have designed, trialled and adopted.

Organising cricket is hard enough and getting your squad to a match in another area of the region can be tricky. Life is different now, people work different times and often further from their homes, schools, colleges and workplaces. Logistics for picking up and transporting a cricket team of XI and full kit is a behemoth task in itself. The BDCA have developed a structure which seems to be working well. Clubs and players are pleased with it, as cricket remains the core focus and travel is less of a barrier. We're all winning!

A regionalisation of the lower end of the structure, covering half the Divisions in the League has assisted teams who may have struggled with getting a team out. No longer are players forced to travel unrealistic distances. Something which a lot of parents dropping their children to games have found very helpful. The intention has always been to ensure more cricket is played and not cancelled. What makes this case remarkable is the outcome to save on emissions is not the main purpose of the structure.

The main reason for the regionalisation was to meet the needs of the players and families, but it is saving travel time, petrol costs and carbon emissions.



'The regionalisation made a significant impact to our 4th team by not only making cricket more accessible to some of our newer and younger players, but also cheaper and more fuel efficient. Our average journey time for away games has gone from around 45 minutes to under 20, which has led to a significant amount of players wanting to get involved, as games are easier to fit into their schedules.'

-Simon at Thornbury CC

Climate action heroes

Maia Bouchier

Maia Bouchier, England star and EcoAthletes Champion, is one of the most powerful voices in cricket speaking out on climate change and calling for climate action and sustainability within the sport, and beyond.

'The ICC should have some regulations.... I get that it is difficult because it also depends on format. In a test match you do have a lot of breaks, even though you are out there all day.

But playing above, say, 45 degrees - that is just scary. It is physically and mentally dangerous. In the Scotland game, three of the Scottish girls had to go off the field. We started play at 2pm which was the hottest part of the day. It does worry me a little bit that the girls might have to play in even worse conditions in India later this year.'

-Maia Bouchier, England Cricketer and EcoAthletes Champion



Priorities and actions



Residents' priorities and actions to achieve them have been grouped into eight key climate themes – Transport, Homes & Buildings, Energy, Food, Waste & Resources, Nature, Business & Skills and Adaptation & Resilience.

The following priorities and actions were developed with the local community through our community engagement process and refined with support from Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and various community climate action partners from across the city. There is also crossover and connection with the priorities developed by partners in other geographic neighbourhoods in the city and with the citywide priorities in the community climate action plan of Bristol's Community of Disabled People and Bristol's community of refugees and asylum seekers.

We have scored the recommendations according to the monetary cost (Resource: Cost), staffing and effort required to achieve it (Resource: People), potential reductions in carbon emissions (Impact: Carbon) and positive impact on the community through social benefits (Impact: Community). While not exhaustive, we have also listed some key stakeholders and potential collaborators, many of whom are already doing work related to the priority and whose support and leadership will be critical to success. Some of these stakeholders have not yet been involved in developing the plan. Rough timescales for implementation of priorities have also been noted to highlight quick wins alongside significant strategic changes that will take sustained, long-term and citywide action. Where possible the priorities and action have been broken down into 1) organisational 2) community wide 3) citywide.

Scoring definition

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high/significant

Timescale

1-2 years (quick win)

3-5 years (medium term larger scale)

5-10 years (significant or complex)



Criteria scored

Resource: cost
Impact: carbon

Resource: people/time
Impact: community



Priorities: Transport

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high/significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
1. Supporting more hyper local regional leagues - (to reduce journeys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Professional County Cricket Clubs Sponsors Bristol & District Cricket League & GCF and other County Last Man Stands Cricket League, midweek cricket leagues 	<p>3</p> <p>Directors and staff</p> <p>Accommodation</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Sustainability directors with "SMART" objectives</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Players</p> <p>Sponsors</p> <p>Accommodation</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Reduction in vehicles used</p> <p>Avoid long round trips</p> <p>Reduced travel if away matches are played on consecutive days - professionals</p> <p>Overnight accommodation for multiple matches</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Less travel for players and fans</p> <p>Better for mental and physical health</p> <p>Reduced travel costs</p> <p>More time with family rather than travelling</p> <p>A shift in culture and attitudes</p>	<p>1-2 years (Quick win locally)</p> <p>But Significant - complex 5-10y to roll out nationally & at professional level</p>
2. Increase rail and sustainable affordable transport for fans and clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train companies Bus companies TravelWest West of England Combined Authority Bristol City Council Scooter & Bike hire companies 	<p>5</p> <p>Education and training within Transport sector staff. Bus, Rail,</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Reduced fares and better accessibility to public transport</p> <p>Reduced private car travel and an increase in public transport</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Better and more reliable transport that works for the public</p> <p>Workable incentives to encourage active and public transport</p> <p>Reduced inequalities</p> <p>How to refine and improve this-behavioural changes through schedules & operations</p>	<p>5-10 years</p>



Priorities: Transport

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high/significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Car sharing, car clubs, electric charging points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charging points companies Power infrastructure Car sharing apps 	<p>3</p> <p>Installation of charging points</p> <p>Apps</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ride sharing reduces the carbon footprint of individual travel in a car</p> <p>Ask Clubs and players what is the main barrier to sharing travel</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Better connection and communication</p> <p>Reduced social isolation</p> <p>Reduced travel costs</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>4. Increase active travel, walking, wheeling, or cycling to cricket matches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs Walking groups Cycling organisations like Sustrans and Bristol Cycling Campaign Bristol City Council 	<p>3</p> <p>Apps, maps, scheme & launch</p> <p>Staff cost for collaboration orgs.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Consultation, coordination</p> <p>Sustrans, maps</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No emissions with active travel</p> <p>Reduction in pollution is better for people and wildlife</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Reduced noise pollution</p> <p>Opportunity for physical activity</p> <p>Improved health outcomes for communities over time</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>

Priorities and actions: Transport

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Increase rail and sustainable affordable transport for fans & clubs: Advocate for and facilitate improved public transport options to the Seat Unique Stadium.

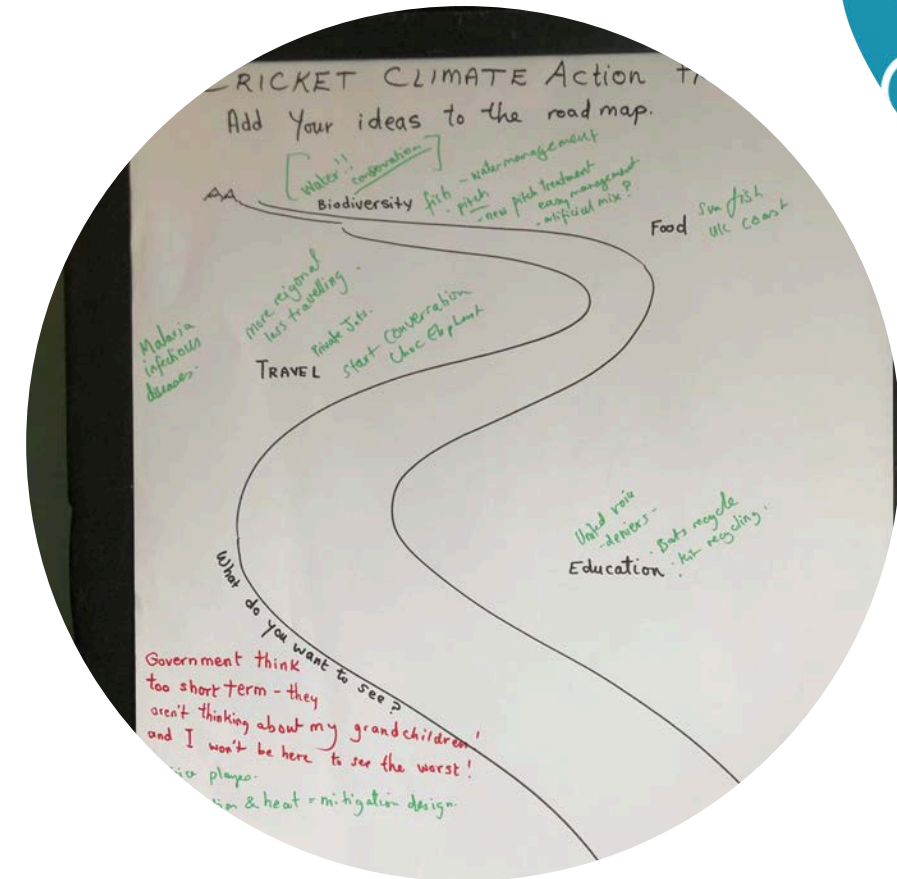
ACTIONS:

- Work closely with Great Western Railway to ensure the new local train station coordinates with match times and address any teething problems.
- Lobby the West of England Combined Authority and local bus companies to enact more frequent and reliable services on match days, including expanding park-and-ride options.
- Increase signage and awareness of local bus and scooter services to reduce congestion around the venue.

PRIORITY 2. Increase active travel, walking, wheeling, or cycling to cricket matches: Develop comprehensive infrastructure and incentives to promote active travel for fans and staff.

ACTIONS:

- Improve cycling infrastructure at the ground with secure bike storage and better pedestrian access.
- Partner with local e-scooter and bike-sharing schemes to promote first/last-mile solutions for fans.
- Consider the provision (data insights required) of incentives such as ticket discounts or priority seating for those using public transport, cycling, or walking.



'We need better Transport systems that work well and are affordable for families – Can we encourage high polluting sponsors to clean up their image and pay for sustainable transport.'

Priorities and actions: Transport



Our community

PRIORITY 3. Car sharing, car clubs, electric charging points.

ACTIONS:

- Promote the benefits for amateur clubs for car sharing and signpost clubs to potential grants for solar panels or green energy solutions, which can increase their electric car charging points thus reduce carbon emissions and create income for the club.
- Engender a culture of finding solutions then sharing these with others. Greatest concern is balancing safeguarding and carpooling especially via Apps.
- Encourage the competitive nature of sports to reduce carbon emissions among your peers, see [PledgeBall](#) as an example of how this can be done. Inspire clubs by other examples, such as the [French football Ligue 1 being sponsored by a carpooling app dedicated to sporting events.](#)

PRIORITY 4. Increase active travel to cricket matches

ACTIONS:

- Champion cultural change through our social media, showing the benefits of walking or cycling instead of driving, collaborate with well established organisations who already work in this sector. In time this may lead to behavioural change.

City(nation) wide/other stakeholders

PRIORITY 5. Championing more hyper local Regional Leagues - (to reduce journeys)

ACTIONS:

- The Next Test to write articles and other social media to raise awareness of possible routes to roll out nationally.
- Gather wider opinion on this via survey, conversation and outreach
- Support Bristol & District Cricket Association to highlight the success of the localised league, tell the story of how this works, how it benefits clubs, celebrate and champion this scheme already in place. Connect with Centre for Sustainable Energy for insight on carbon saved. Share success nationally and internationally.

'International cricket has global travel travel requirements as well as national travel. There is too much cricket; the schedule is packed; this is not healthy for player's too much travelling. Are the World Cricket Association and Professional Cricketers' Association working on this?'



Priorities: Food

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Increase access and provision of sustainable, local, healthy food options at cricketing events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering team Local suppliers External concession stands 	<p>Possible increased cost of more sustainable and locally sourced food</p>	<p>Buyers</p> <p>Suppliers</p> <p>Chefs and preparers</p>	<p>Reduction in carbon footprint using local products</p> <p>Reduction in the use of meat, a high carbon industry</p>	<p>Improved mental and physical wellbeing</p> <p>Healthy populations mean less strain on healthcare services</p> <p>Increased interest in the link between food and the natural environment</p>	<p>1 - 2 years</p>
<p>2. Reduce food waste from cricketing events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catering teams Suppliers Food banks Education, training Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Resource Futures 	<p>Possible cost savings if less food being cooked and thrown away</p>	<p>Buyers</p> <p>Chefs and preparers</p>	<p>A reduction in the disposal of food in landfills will lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Less packaging for disposal</p>	<p>Opportunity for skills and training</p> <p>Reduced plastic from food packaging</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>



Priorities: Food

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Local clubs consider redistribution of surplus food to reduce local food poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers Feeding Bristol Bristol Food Network Fareshare 	<p>Health & safety adherence</p> <p>Refrigeration</p> <p>Maps, apps</p>	<p>Volunteers specifically for match days</p> <p>https://www.feedingbristol.org/</p>	<p>Local redistribution reduces carbon footprint</p>	<p>Helps those in financial need, who might not be able to afford a healthy diet</p> <p>Reduced social isolation</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>
<p>4. Inspiring stories to encourage the cricketing community to make sustainable food choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional and amateur clubs Role models Cultural educators 	<p>3</p> <p>Communicating messages can take time before we can see impacts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Leaders in their communities</p> <p>Passionate players and role models</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Altering dietary patterns</p> <p>Reducing food waste</p> <p>Celebrate culture and food together</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Positive reinforcement drives healthy behaviours</p> <p>Inspirational stories give hope as they show what can be done</p> <p>Supports personal development and growth because of a better understanding of healthier food</p>	<p>1-2 years (quick win)</p>



Priorities and actions: Food

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Increase access and provision of sustainable, local, healthy food options at cricketing events: Enhance the sustainability of food sourcing and menu options at the Seat Unique Stadium.

ACTIONS:

- a. Work with catering suppliers to develop scalable, sustainable solutions for large events while maintaining local sourcing commitments.
- b. Improve menu transparency, clearly labelling sustainable, local, and plant-based options for fans.
- c. Set a target for at least 50% of matchday food options to be plant-based or sustainably sourced by 2028.

PRIORITY 2. Reduce food waste from cricketing events: Implement robust strategies for minimising and managing food waste.

ACTIONS:

- a. Connect with local organisations like Bristol Waste and FareShare to optimise food waste management and redistribution.
- b. Explore the feasibility of an on-site composting or anaerobic digestion system to handle unavoidable food waste sustainably.
- c. Improve portion control strategies at stadium vendors to minimise waste while maintaining fan satisfaction.

Our community

PRIORITY 3. Local Clubs consider redistribution of surplus food to reduce local food poverty.

ACTIONS:

- a. Connect and work with local food banks or food distribution organisations such as Fareshare. Clubs can think and plan ahead to share any surplus food, change habits to bring tupperwares and take surplus home, encouraging a culture where food waste is not the norm.

City(nation) wide/other stakeholders

PRIORITY 4. Inspiring stories to encourage the cricketing community to make sustainable food choices.

ACTIONS:

- a. We all love talking about food. Use publicity, narratives and social media to celebrate healthy eating options for long term physical health, place athletes and players at the centre of the story. Ask how does a meal get to your plate.
- b. Promote and celebrate cultural diversity through different themed menus at cricket teas. These can have a twist using alternatives to meat or reduced meat options and reduced plastic options.

'Food and cricket teas are one of the most important aspects in our game! It's a celebration and a tradition. Tea, cake and cucumber sandwiches.'



Priorities: Nature

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Maximise potential of green spaces used in cricket for the benefit of nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs' sustainability directors City councils & Parks services University Cartographers to show 'Green Corridors' 	<p>3</p> <p>Maps, apps for Green Corridors</p> <p>Services from professional bodies</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Facilitation and coordination</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Green habitats have lower carbon which is better for wildlife</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Improved air quality in the city</p> <p>Improved health</p> <p>Opportunities to get closer to biodiversity</p> <p>Good for mental health</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>
<p>2. Support grounds and operational staff to become nature champions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The England & Wales Cricket Board Sponsors Clubs' sustainability directors Local wildlife groups Bristol City Council 	<p>3</p> <p>Skills training</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Trainers</p> <p>Local wildlife organisations & charities</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Lower fossil fuel emissions come with better practices</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Green job opportunities</p> <p>Reduction in pesticides and herbicides seeping into the environment</p> <p>Better for human and ecological health</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>



Priorities: Nature

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Share cricketing green spaces as natural assets for wider community benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Association for Sustainability in Sport Cricket Clubs Community groups 	<p>3</p> <p>Maintenance costs during project and as legacy</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Local teachers schools and colleges</p> <p>Residents and community</p> <p>GCCC volunteers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Biodiversity has an opportunity to thrive</p> <p>Reduction of travel to access nature</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Increased pride and ownership in the community</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>
<p>4. Champion successes and education on nature</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenest Ground Awards Grant organisations Walkers & Talkers with a Nature & Biodiversity theme Bristol Natural History Consortium Universities & citizen science BBC Natural History RSPB The Next Test Avon Wildlife Trust 	<p>2</p> <p>Tree planting</p> <p>Bird boxes</p> <p>Insect hotels</p> <p>Bat boxes</p> <p>Swift bricks in buildings</p> <p>BBC Big Bird Watch annual event</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Club volunteers</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Champions for nature have an inspiring exponential effect on others</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Highlights the connection between communities and their environment</p> <p>This would stimulate children's curiosity, which will pass on to subsequent generations</p> <p>Fall in love with nature again, pride and joy in watching biodiversity return and thrive</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>



Priorities and actions: Nature

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Develop and implement a comprehensive biodiversity strategy by 2028.

ACTIONS:

- a. Formalise a biodiversity strategy incorporating native planting, pollinator-friendly landscaping, and rewilding areas.
- b. Work with local conservation groups and wildlife organisations to create best practices for biodiversity-friendly groundskeeping.
- c. Explore sustainable drainage solutions at regional cricket facilities to prevent flooding and improve soil health through existing partnerships with suppliers and councils.

Our community

PRIORITY 2. Maximise potential of green spaces used in cricket for the benefit of nature.

ACTIONS:

- a. Collaborate with organisations who are focussed on wildlife and biodiversity to thrive in our clubs, spaces, cities and gardens. Create plans that work for the future to maintain and regenerate existing biodiversity. Invite community to use and maintain wild spaces.
- b. Biodiversity education as a framework to connect clubs and wider concerns, water quality and links to health. Connect cricket to nature – change of culture – fall in love with nature again; Champion positive stories such as owls at clubs, swift boxes, community can get involved, school children and young players, clubs; wild gardens & fruit trees. A great first step on climate action, people connect and watch nature thrive and grow to be a part of this process.

'Having played in both extreme heat and in games called off due to rain saturating pitches in the same summer, it is clear our weather is getting more extreme and cricket needs to work hard to do more about its mitigation of the effects of the climate crisis and reducing its impact on the climate.'

PRIORITY 3. Supporting grounds and operational staff to become nature champions

ACTIONS:

- a. Use platforms, publicity and social media to publicise and encourage this when we hear other 'top tips' and achievable success stories.
- b. Use the networks, nationally and globally that already exist, events, seminars, conferences to improve education and knowledge within groundstaff community. Raise awareness of this, gather disparate voices nationally and then perhaps globally. Who are the innovators, the lynchpins, time to activate and empower your motivators.



Priorities and actions: Nature

Our community

PRIORITY 4. Sharing cricketing green spaces as natural assets for wider community benefit and education on biodiversity and nature.

ACTIONS:

- a. How to better utilise the raised planter beds in grounds - connect to local community groups, encourage these to collaborate and take ownership of the space. Volunteers and local leaders.
- b. Make clubs a centre for biodiversity – acting as urban corridors. Clubs create connections to local wildlife charities, groups and organisations and find collaborative ways of working.
- c. Empower and support those passionate members already involved in your club. Who has “green fingers” who has an allotment, who knows about planting fruit trees and wildflower meadows? Utilise their knowledge and celebrate them and in turn everyone’s success. Watch to see if butterflies and bees return, invite schools or groups to survey the nature that returns or host BBC Big Bird watch. Submit your successes to the Greenest Ground Competition.

City(nation) wide/other stakeholders

PRIORITY 5. Championing successes and education on nature

ACTIONS:

- a. The Next Test will publish inspiring cricket and nature articles from around the UK, such as The Cricketers Greenest Ground competition.
- b. Clubs can approach The Next Test with successes and resources. Clubs can approach local news and media with their positive stories, Are the ECB looking for positive stories to highlight best practice? <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/what-we-do/sustainability>
- c. Discuss regional award for our 2025 Greener Games Conference with Glos CCC and hope to see this adopted regionally.
- d. Utilise the network that already exists in the cricket community to roll out a programme. Work to make resources available and include tool kits. Work with a reflective ethos to allow for learning and open ways of working. Resources can include ‘learning lessons and pitfalls’ section for future proofing.



Priorities: Waste and Resources

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Reduce waste at cricket events (packaging, plastic cups, food)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs' sustainability teams Suppliers External concession stands 	<p>4</p> <p>Sourcing and verification</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Training</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Supporting the circular economy reduces carbon impacts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Opportunities for skills and training</p> <p>Less litter will increase community ownership and pride</p> <p>Reduce waste in landfills and microplastics in the environment</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>2. Maximise kit recycling, reuse, mending and re-homing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kit buyers Manufacturers Sponsors The Cricket Reuse Project 	<p>1</p> <p>Facilities</p> <p>Apps</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Set up and running costs</p> <p>Engagement, lobbying</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Reusing or repairing results in lower emissions than manufacturing new kit every year</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Reduced purchases of new items and education around our throw away culture</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>



Priorities: Waste and Resources

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
3. Clarity on recycling at County Clubs esp Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers Waste and recycling companies 	3 Space	2 Educators	4 Recycling reduces carbon emissions in production and waste management	3 Sharing recycling knowledge is beneficial for intergenerational connectivity	1-2 years

Priorities and actions: Waste and Resources



Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Reduce waste at cricket events: Implement and promote strategies to significantly reduce waste generation at all club events and operations.

ACTIONS:

- a. Develop and launch a "zero waste matchday" initiative with awareness campaigns and incentives for fans to participate in waste reduction efforts.
- b. Reduce single-use plastic packaging in merchandise, catering, and hospitality areas, actively collaborating with vendors and partners on sustainable alternatives.
- c. Implement a reusable cup deposit system in stadium bars and catering outlets.

PRIORITY 2. Optimise resource management through enhanced recycling and water conservation practices.

ACTIONS:

- a. Improve waste separation compliance through clearer signage, additional recycling stations, and ongoing fan education campaigns.
- b. Advance water recycling efforts by integrating an irrigation collection system into the existing storage tank.
- c. Work with partners Grundon Waste to develop a transparent reporting system, tracking stadium-wide recycling rates and landfill diversion.

PRIORITY 3. Maximise kit recycling, reuse, mending and re-homing: Champion circular economy principles for cricket equipment and merchandise.

ACTIONS:

- a. Expand the Kit Drop and Swap initiative to a regional level, working with cricket clubs across Gloucestershire.
- b. Establish partnerships with sports brands and manufacturers to introduce sustainable, recycled, or second-hand kit options.
- c. Create an end-of-life recycling program for cricket equipment to prevent unnecessary landfill waste across the region by cricket clubs and for cricket clubs.

Our community

PRIORITY 4. Reduce waste at cricket events (packaging, plastic cups, food)

ACTIONS:

- a. Influence clubs and the public for positive actions on waste reduction in the cricketing community.

City(nation)wide / other stakeholders

PRIORITY 5. Clarity on recycling at large events

ACTIONS:

- a. Adopt unified, standardised code nationally.



Priorities: Energy

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Increase renewable energy generation from cricket buildings and their grounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The England & Wales Cricket Board • Sponsors • Grant organisations • Installation companies • Council Park services and Planning Department • Bristol City Leap • Bristol Energy Cooperative, ReGen SW • Bristol Energy Network 	<p>4</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Installation</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Education on alternatives such as solar, wind, heat networks, water, retrofit packages</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Divest from fossil fuel energy by using locally generated electricity from renewable sources</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Creating green jobs creates greater equality and leads to diversity in the energy sector</p>	<p>5- 10 years</p> <p>Significant complex</p>
<p>2. Help community cricket clubs reduce energy bills on buildings and events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City councils • Energy survey groups • Centre for Sustainable Energy • Energy providers 	<p>4</p> <p>Assessments and alterations</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Engagement, coordination, communications</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Clubs adopt green energy solutions to reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lower energy tariffs</p>	<p>3-5 years (medium term larger scale) Locally</p> <p>5-10 years (significant or complex)) Long term nationally</p>



Priorities: Energy

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Support and champion a ban on fossil Fuels "Sportwashing"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The England & Wales Cricket Board County cricket grounds and clubs Sponsors Professional Cricketers' Association and sporting unions Badverts Ad Free Cities Zero Hour 	<p>2</p> <p>Encourage public transparency in sponsorship deals so everyone can see the cost.</p> <p>Clear messaging on the consequences for the natural world and on sport</p> <p>Anchoring message back to ban on tobacco sponsorship in sports</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Educators</p> <p>Cricket authorities</p> <p>Clubs</p> <p>Athletes and Players as role models</p>	<p>3</p> <p>The United Nations advocates a complete ban on fossil fuel advertising as it is 'sportswashing'</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Off the scale!</p> <p>One of the most impactful changes that can be adopted quickly</p> <p>The community is frustrated by fossil fuel sponsorship</p> <p>A culture change</p> <p>Growing confidence to speak out on these issues</p> <p>Begin developing a consistent and coherent message throughout the game</p>	<p>1-2 years (quick win)</p> <p>However this continues to be thwarted by entrenched economic and cultural power structures</p>



Priorities and Actions: Energy

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Increase the generation and utilisation of renewable energy at the Seat Unique Stadium.

ACTIONS:

- a. Increase solar panel installations beyond the pavilion roof, utilizing other suitable structures like stands and car parks.
- b. Explore battery storage options to optimize on-site renewable energy usage and reduce reliance on the grid.
- c. Secure partnerships with clean energy companies to maximize investment in on-site renewables.

PRIORITY 2. Implement comprehensive measures to enhance energy efficiency across all stadium operations and infrastructure.

ACTIONS:

- a. Complete a site-wide LED lighting transition, ensuring all floodlights and facilities use high-efficiency lighting.
- b. Implement smart energy management systems to monitor and reduce unnecessary power consumption.
- c. Upgrade insulation and heating systems in stadium buildings to minimise energy waste.

Our community

PRIORITY 3. Increase renewable energy generation on cricket buildings and their grounds.

ACTIONS:

- a. Collaborate with grant organisations to educate amateur clubs in getting financial assistance for installations.

PRIORITY 4. Seek better advice and support for cricket clubs to reduce energy bills on buildings and events.

ACTIONS:

- a. Signposting to resources, funding and support to reduce energy bills. Feature these concerns from clubs in our published materials.

'Cricket should say no to fossil fuel sponsors – high polluting industries should not have a place at the table.'



Priorities and Actions: Energy

City(nation) wide/other stakeholders

PRIORITY 5. Champion a ban on fossil fuel sponsorship.

ACTIONS:

- a. Improve access and advocate five principles from the United Nations and lobby cricket authorities to find alternatives.
- b. Outreach sessions and publications will amplify voices and concerns of fossil fuel and high polluting sponsors and sport washing. Draw on and share heroic sports history stories of solidarity we look back with pride.
- c. Be leaders and educators along with other organisations and sporting groups who are concerned by climate change. Better education on sponsorship and the detrimental impact on our game and it's reputation. Draw on past successes such as the ban on tobacco industry sponsoring sport. Begin to change culture open discussions, educate, inform, and campaign for better standards from cricket and it's sponsorship deals.
- d. Encourage the Professional Cricketers' Association to involve unions and employers in processes and plan development to create best practice guidelines.





Priorities: Business and Skills

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Education within the cricket community on concerns and knowledge of adaptations or mitigation strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Next Test BASIS GCF Bristol & District Cricket Association Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Ad Bloc BAdvertising 	<p>3</p> <p>Create education resources, materials and programme that meets needs of clubs and fans</p> <p>Can be easily disseminated and shared at a scale that works</p> <p>Collab with local leagues, connect to counties and work the way up the Cricket structure</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Organisation rep</p> <p>Collaboration team</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Dedicated Sustainability Lead</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Education can be direct and indirect - embed in to culture. This can happen at matches on the screen and scoreboard. as play rolls out. Animations and positive solutions</p> <p>Children's voices and top players and athletes' message to fans and good examples</p> <p>Connect voices nationally and inspire - media is the message! Take back ad billboards in areas and tell another story</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Improve knowledge and information</p> <p>Increase confidence in subject</p> <p>Empower community</p> <p>Culture shift - slow but meaningful</p>	<p>1-2 years (quick win)</p>
<p>2. Green skills development for cricketing operational staff and/or volunteers, and apprentices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Next Test BASIS Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation Bristol & District Cricket Association Gloucestershire County Cricket Club 	<p>2</p> <p>Time and cost to create content and scheme to share.</p> <p>Time and cost to roll out scheme.</p> <p>Recruit dedicated staff member / volunteer</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Organisation rep</p> <p>Collaboration team</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Dedicated Sustainability Lead</p>	<p>3</p> <p>How to map the solutions-track successes and learn from things working less well, adapting to meet growing and shrinking needs. leading to flourishing</p> <p>New roles and positions jobs in green sectors</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Learning for future resilience</p> <p>Collaboration and future connections to other clubs</p> <p>Staff are empowered and well informed to make positive choices as employees but also wider community</p> <p>Future job creation from skills embedded now</p>	<p>1-2 years (quick win)</p>



Priorities: Business and Skills

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
3. Business procurement to integrate green targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club procurement teams• Suppliers• WECA• University, College & schools• Bristol City Council		On Site		Gain valuable work experience	



Priorities and Actions: Business and Skills

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Foster green skills development and create opportunities within the club and the wider community.

ACTIONS:

- a. Create apprenticeship and internship opportunities in sustainability-focused roles, such as green groundskeeping and eco-conscious event management.
- b. Work with local businesses and cricket clubs to develop sustainability initiatives and offer business support workshops focused on lower-carbon practices.

PRIORITY 2. Leverage the club's brand and influence to advocate for sustainability and responsible business practices.

ACTIONS:

- a. Develop a sustainable sponsorship policy to phase out partnerships with fossil fuel-based businesses and high-carbon industries.
- b. Actively seek green investment and sponsorships from environmentally responsible companies.

Our community

PRIORITY 3. Education within the cricket community on concerns and knowledge of adaptations or mitigation strategies and green skills development for cricketing operational staff and/or volunteers and apprentices.

ACTIONS:

- a. Use the networks, nationally and globally that already exist in the cricket structure, clubs, associations, foundations and leagues, to share education programme to raise awareness of impacts and the mitigation. Improve knowledge and empowerment within the community.
- b. Continue outreach and round table conversations for clubs and players at each level of the game. Roll out education programme. We are dedicated to grow as a hub to meet the aims of this plan. Improving our structure and website to accommodate this. Invite more of the cricket community to contribute to the work we do.
- c. This action plan will be shared with clubs, during continued outreach, made available for free, in the Resource section of The Next Test website, including an accessible Easy Read summary.

'If clubs can embed solutions then we can map how this also inspires and impact the local community to show people benefits of positive action and solutions.'



Priorities and Actions: Business and Skills

City(nation)wide / other stakeholders

PRIORITY 4. Business procurement to integrate green targets.

ACTIONS:

- Need more examples of how to divest; find ways to actively help organisations to divest, in phases, with active support to hold clubs to be financially viable; can sports work together, such as Bristol Rovers - GCCC - Bristol City - Ashton Gate - can learn from each other; how to collaborate with other sports and share resources.
- Create standards of regulation within the game at all levels. Better and more honest leadership from governing bodies. Leagues are being failed by ECB on these issues and many others - need a better local structure and healing from loss of trust from the top of the game.
- Every club should have a sustainability officer keeping people informed and engaged; education on the issue with positive frame for solutions. Sustainability should be the same as safeguarding policies, make it mandated and funded. The Women's game still feels like an afterthought within clubs, "just an add on". There is a loss of trust since the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report. New roles and framework creates an opportunity to combat racism, inequity for women, class, LGBTQ+ and disabled groups in the game.



Let's make change with The Next Test & Gloucestershire County Cricket Club



Priorities: Homes and Buildings

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
1. Retrofit of cricket buildings and spaces for energy efficient outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Councils Energy survey groups Amateur club directors City Leap 	<p>4</p> <p>Costs can be large to start - survey of buildings</p> <p>Time to prepare ground for works and repairs</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Centre for Sustainable Energy</p> <p>BCaNP</p> <p>Employees</p> <p>Club committees</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Clubs will save on energy bills and costs in the long term</p> <p>Solar panels on more clubs</p> <p>Clubs benefit from modernisation of facilities</p>	<p>5</p> <p>A pilot club can be featured and create resource pack/tool kit for others to utilise</p> <p>Benefit in the future with reduced energy costs and create an income from selling energy back to the grid and community</p>	5-10 years (significant or complex)
2. New cricketing buildings to be zero carbon or carbon negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECB Sponsors Grant organisations 	<p>5</p> <p>Suppliers</p> <p>Materials</p> <p>Maintainance</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Planning Department</p> <p>Architects & Engineers</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>5</p>	5-10 years (significant or complex)



Priorities: Homes and Buildings

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Cricket grounds need to anticipate excess heat or rain as the climate changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional groundskeepers Environmental engineers & Architects 	<p>4</p> <p>Installation cost for heat resistant pitch</p> <p>Installation excess drainage or natural solutions</p>	<p>4</p> <p>https://www.thegma.org.uk/home/</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Amateur clubs can learn from professional groundskeepers</p> <p>Enables more playing time</p>	<p>5-10 years (significant or complex)</p>



Priorities and Actions: Homes and Buildings

Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Embed sustainability standards into all future cricket ground developments and refurbishments.

ACTIONS:

- a. Adopt green building certifications (e.g., BREEAM) for all future developments at Nevil Road and beyond.
- b. Use sustainable building materials in all renovations and infrastructure improvements.
- c. Embed net-zero carbon targets into all cricket club development projects.

Our community

PRIORITY 2. Retrofit of cricket buildings and spaces for energy efficient outcomes

ACTIONS:

- a. Cricket grounds aren't being used 6-7 months per year. They can be more utilised as community space. Publicise a room or a slot to be accessible for free to groups, especially those who work with global majority, LGBTQ, elders, women's cricket, lower socio - economic serving groups. this will act as a gesture of solidarity and kindness in a time when cost of living is increasing and impacting small orgs and vulnerable community groups.
- b. Some counties have closed stands to bunch up audiences into areas to save money on energy and stewarding costs.
- c. Clubs can assist to signpost and improve access to find initiatives in place to make them more resilient and adapt.

'People want to do the right thing, but as a club it's very low in the agenda. Running at a loss for past 3 years; and we are quite stable and resilient as clubs go, but we still struggle to make big future decisions; solar is appealing but where to begin is a hard one; committee has to get behind decisions.'

'Climate change also impacts our building insurance and energy bills. Accessing Funding is a barrier, especially after adverse weather.'



Priorities and Actions: Homes and Buildings

City(nation)wide / other stakeholders

PRIORITY 3. New cricketing buildings to be zero carbon or carbon negative.

ACTIONS:

- a. Build better links to Sport England what funding and tools available for smaller clubs nationally. Gain insight what is already in place and where there are gaps to be filled. Find a better way to improve access for clubs to access and engage with existing initiatives.
- b. Work with Centre for Sustainable Energy have a free energy advice line – domestic and community wider offer. Invite energy support desks at matches. Give organisations a space to reach out community days - energy advice hub at matches.

PRIORITY 4. Cricket grounds need to anticipate excess heat and rain as the climate changes.

ACTIONS:

- a. Can the ECB create an online resource for clubs to map the impacts. Clubs can log the incidents on a live map for reference to know the hot spots for climate impacts. Clubs can also create an alternative map with resilience and positive stories.
- b. Clubs can connect to local councils to understand the Local Emergency Response measures and offer space & volunteer support. Local wardens. Plans in place and communicated to club and committee members.
- c. Grounds Management Association to get involved in dialogue with clubs.



Priorities: Adaptation and Resilience

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>1. Flooding and saturation are a threat to Clubs, grounds and the long term future of the game</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant organisations both Local and National ECB Cricket For Climate The Cricketer Greenest Ground Competition Nature Biodiversity orgs & charities 	<p>5</p> <p>Funds from ECB target for worst impacted areas.</p> <p>Map of impacted clubs.</p> <p>Education on mitigation strategies and infrastructure locally - connect clubs who have already implemented strategies and create platform to share learning and support other clubs.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Cricket Clubs and committee members</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Clubs taking steps to become more resilient</p> <p>Pro-active and not reactive to disasters</p> <p>Create a structure for future, culture of monitoring, review, reflecting and adapting</p> <p>Clubs can learn from each other</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Community will feel greater resilience in implementing actions sooner</p> <p>Empowering and safeguarding pioneers to take risk learn and then share knowledge and pitfalls with the wider community.</p> <p>Reliable resources created</p>	<p>5-10 years</p>
<p>2. Rising temperatures can cause heat stroke or worse for players, ground staff, and spectators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs' medical teams First aiders - St Johns Ambulance Specialist teams at local hospital wider perspective of what happens in the NHS when it is too hot. University UWE & Bristol 	<p>3</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Planning time</p> <p>Create content and publish</p> <p>Meetings and collaboration with orgs in person and online</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>Collaborating orgs</p> <p>Clubs Committees</p> <p>Players</p> <p>League</p>	<p>Highlight the serious adverse effects of this on bodies - cases already in the press.</p> <p>Adapt and implement what already exists.</p> <p>It's not a person who cancels the match but the regulations - responsibility and culture of this.</p> <p>Clear messaging and statistics on Heat locally and globally puts a strain on local services and NHS</p>	<p>Improved information and knowledge</p> <p>Possible better outcomes for recovery</p> <p>Better and more relevant safeguards for players</p> <p>Reduce stigma and blame and shame on the officials making decisions</p> <p>Possible change in culture</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>



Priorities: Adaptation and Resilience

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>3. Operational difficulties for amateur clubs include rising insurance premiums and energy costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Leagues England & Wales Cricket Board Centre for Sustainable Energy (Bristol) 	<p>4</p> <p>Volunteer time</p> <p>Volunteer costs</p> <p>Staff time</p> <p>Travel</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Asset climate reports next 50 years</p> <p>Know our vulnerabilities over time. understand the risk</p> <p>Smaller clubs already know and feel the impacts</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>
<p>4. Refugee and migrant communities have cricket as a positive influence in lives uprooted. A sense of camaraderie, union and a reminder of a shared past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol Refugee Festival Refugee cricket squad Mens and Womens based at Gloucestershire County Cricket Club Afgan Womens team - International Easton Cowboys & Girls Local history groups and cricket history writers 	<p>3</p> <p>Time from participating orgs</p> <p>Volunteer time and training</p> <p>Emotional strain</p> <p>Website costs increase to host video & audio content</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Allyship and advocacy with refugee communities in Bristol -Jools Bristol Refugee Rights</p> <p>Media Sport & Culture in Bristol</p> <p>Publish voices of cricket communities impacted globally</p> <p>ICEC report 2023 cricket inequity against women, people of colour, working class.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Negative cost - some nasty outcomes and counteractions can emerge from far right narratives pedalling and fuelling hate</p> <p>Hope Not Hate Charity</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Annual match to bring communities together - fun day or open day.</p> <p>A clear message on how climate migration is impacting nations and communities global and locally. no blaming or shaming.</p> <p>Champion resilience and inspiring characters who compete against all odds to survive.</p> <p>Cricket stories to combat inequity and racism in our game.</p>	<p>3-5 years</p>



Priorities: Adaptation and Resilience

Scoring of priorities

1 - Very Low, 2 - Low, 3 - Moderate, 4 - High, 5 - Very high / significant

PRIORITY	POTENTIAL COLLABORATORS + STAKEHOLDERS	RESOURCE: COST	RESOURCE: PEOPLE	IMPACT: CARBON	IMPACT: COMMUNITY	TIMESCALE
<p>5. Wellbeing - on and off the field. Mens mental health focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andys Mans Club • Walkers and Talkers • Opening Up Cricket • Her Game Too - Womens Game • Good Grief Network 	<p>3</p> <p>Travel</p> <p>Co-ordination</p> <p>Time and cost to create resources and print</p> <p>Publicity costs</p> <p>Events - stalls and pop ups at events</p> <p>Recompense charities for their time and contributions</p> <p>Reimburse travel costs for improved equity and accessibility</p>	<p>2</p> <p>GCCC - staff and Volunteers</p> <p>Representatives from collaborating third sector orgs</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>Leagues and clubs</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Increased sense of belonging to something greater than oneself</p> <p>Connection to people and places we love</p> <p>Build emotional resilience against a turbulent backdrop</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Local events and community celebrations - Carnival</p> <p>Play more cricket bring people together drink tea (or beer) and eat cake and cucumber sandwiches</p> <p>Improved wellbeing through actions on climate and improving nature and biodiversity</p> <p>Social aspect shared experiences making memories of a lifetime</p> <p>Link to five principles of wellbeing</p>	<p>1-2 years</p>
<p>6. The global resilience of the cricketing community can be inspiring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisden • England & Wales Cricket Board • Sporting Media • Universities and academics • Bristol Legacy Foundation 	<p>3</p> <p>Website costs increase to host audio & video</p> <p>Room hire for steering group</p> <p>Travel expenses for participating clubs and volunteers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Steering group</p> <p>The Next Test</p> <p>Passionate amateurs and volunteers, clubs and touring sides</p> <p>Darren Ganga part of UN Sport Org West Indies</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Address concerns raised in ICEC report</p> <p>Open discussion of history of game, inequity and power dynamics</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Share inspiring stories</p> <p>Bridging divides in the game</p> <p>Begin conversations about divestment</p>	<p>3-5 years (medium term larger scale)</p>

Priorities and Actions: Adaptation and Resilience



Our organisation (Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

PRIORITY 1. Implement infrastructure upgrades and operational adjustments to improve resilience to flooding and heatwaves.

ACTIONS:

- a. Integrate flood-resilient infrastructure at the Bristol ground, including improved drainage and water harvesting systems.
- b. Upgrade the stadium's design to reduce heat stress during summer matchdays with shade infrastructure and water refill stations.
- c. Require any new development or infrastructure investment to adhere to climate adaptation standards.

PRIORITY 2. Utilise the club's platform to raise awareness and promote climate adaptation action within the cricket community and beyond.

ACTIONS:

- a. Launch a climate resilience fund to provide support to local cricket clubs impacted by extreme weather events.
- b. Use Gloucestershire Cricket's platform to raise awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on cricketing nations in the Global South.
- c. Engage fans and the local community in climate adaptation efforts through events like "Resilient Cricket Day".

Our community

PRIORITY 3. Flooding and saturation are a threat to Clubs, grounds and the long term future of the game.

ACTIONS:

- a. Collaborate with other sporting clubs and venues, find guidelines and standards in place. Use existing resources, edit and refine to meet our needs. Edit, adopt, review, repeat.
- b. Citizen science approach - [resource map of flooding and impacts](#). collect data and surveys over a longer period. Can clubs "pin" their positive stories to the map. Continue to counter the negative stories this with positive successes from cricket communities - ECB are collecting these.

'Top priority is education on the issues. The urgency locally and globally and the positive solutions to adapt already in place. Fans and Athletes have power! Just how do we harness this.'



Priorities and Actions: Adaptation and Resilience

Our community

PRIORITY 4. Rising temperatures can cause heat stroke or worse for players, ground staff, and spectators.

ACTIONS:

- a. ECB and guidance from sporting venues - risk assessments. Work with with Local Authority emergency plans local councillors - BCC.
- b. Clubs as a safe space in the community to utilise in times of need & emergency, flood, heat, Ask if Climate Hazards sit within the ECB Risk Assessments matrix. Identify key people as leaders, educate without creating fear but with community pride. Link education points to actual solutions. Emergency mutual aid groups, school and colleges community leaders, councils and organisations.
- c. Publish the cases and impacts on community
<https://emergency-on-planet-sport.simplecast.com>

PRIORITY 5. Operational difficulties for amateur clubs include rising insurance premiums and energy costs.

ACTIONS:

- a. Collaborate with Centre for Sustainable Energy, Bristol City Council services and resources to ensure clubs are well informed on energy suppliers, changing deals and tariffs.
- b. Publicity on this matter to raise awareness in the cricketing community - Ask clubs to get in touch to flag up concerns. Encourage and support citizen participatory democratic solutions. Sign our pledge, petitions and write to MP and Cricket All Party Parliamentary Group in Parliament. Support a collective voice with concerns.

PRIORITY 6. Create inclusive space for lesser heard voices in our game. Womens, LGBTQ+, Refugee and migrant use cricket as a positive influence in lives uprooted. A sense of belonging, camaraderie, union and a reminder of a shared past but also a connection to present.

ACTIONS:

- a. Continue to build bridges, active listening and collaboration with players and clubs. Collaborate with Write out acroynms embedded in this sphere - Easton Cowboys & Girls, have presence at Bristol Refugee Festival and orgs in Bristol - decolonising education and teaching intertwined cricket history.
<https://www.bristollegacyfoundation.com/>
<https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/>
- b. Gather local and global stories impacted by climate change. Buddying clubs together like twin towns, share experiences and stories across the global community. Utilise the global connectivity of the game that already exists. Climate vulnerable nations have a large fan base. Acknowledge cricket's history of empire and power dynamics.

Priorities and Actions: Adaptation and Resilience



Our community

PRIORITY 7. Wellbeing - in the game on and off the field.

ACTIONS:

- a. Connect and collaborate with organisations leading in mental health and wellbeing in sport.
- b. Round table format to gather voices and champion the narrative of internal resilience within cricket community. Perhaps a feature of the next Greener Games Conference. Signpost to Opening Up Cricket, [Good Grief Network](https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-08-27/climate-grief-our-greatest-ally/) and other professional bodies, orgs for Psych Mental Health Advice. Ensure a clear messages Clubs are not Mental Health professionals and do not provide these services.
<https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-08-27/climate-grief-our-greatest-ally/>
<https://commonslibrary.org/resources-to-cope-with-climate-anxiety-and-grief/>
<https://www.griefencounter.org.uk>

City(nation)wide / other stakeholders

PRIORITY 8. Refugee and migrant

ACTIONS:

- a. Draw on resilience and generosity in our community. Examples are Blue for Bob, Red for Ruth, Pink for Syd Lawrence, relief for Pakistan floods, many many local campaigns too. Publish and celebrate these, reinforce the positive message that our game is made up of resilient fans and athletes. Establish connections and encourage clubs to share and publish these positive stories. 'sponsored runs' for climate causes.
- b. The Next Test collaborate and publish narratives of cricket past and present with ICEC and climate focussed lens. Enquiring how to improve equity in our game. Connect to historians, writers, cricket media, can we create a video which links local and international cricketers.
- c. Connect to Refugee community organisations locally - learn how to involve these groups in future adaptations and mitigation plan and conversations.

'We are lucky to have lived an amazingly privileged life compared to other cricketing nations in the Global South. How can we 'pay it forward' to ensure equity in our game to mitigate the most prevalent and severe disasters our cricket family are living through now. Fossil Fuel companies and Sportwashing sponsors should pay to stabilise the worst impacts of on clubs in cricketing nations. What can we do as smaller clubs?'

Acknowledgements



We are so grateful to everyone who helped us with this project. We thank the fans, players and clubs who took the time to talk with us, the National Lottery, which funded our work, and all those who play it. We look forward to building future collaborations.

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- Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership especially Amy, Rachel
- Mark, Anna, Louisa and all the amazing team behind the scenes
- Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Bristol City Council
- Our cohort partners - current and previous who have shared experience, resources and wisdom
- Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation
- Bristol And District Cricket Association
- West of England Premier League
- The Cricketer's Greenest Ground Competition
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- MCC Director of Cricket Operations - Rob Lynch
- County Cricket Matters Magazine - Annie Chave
- & Archie Cornish
- Bristol West Indies Phoenix CC
- Old Bristolian Women's CC
- The Easton Cuttlefish CC
- Guerilla Cricket
- Sustaining Sport Pod
- GCP Architects
- Champions for Earth
- Cool Down Project
- New Weather Institute
- Eco Athletes
- PledgeBall - Katie Cross
- Joe Cook
- Katie Rood
- Melissa Wilson
- Chris Whitaker
- Izzy Sanders
- New Weather Institute
- Badvertising
- Albert the Gorilla
- Duna Films
- CG2 - Gloucestershire Cricket local resident liaison group
- Brunel Field Primary School
- Brunel Field Primary School PSA





Let's make change with The Next Test & Gloucestershire County Cricket Club



Evaluation and wider objectives

This plan was developed as part of the Bristol Community Climate Action Project coordinated by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, and supported by Bristol City Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

The evaluation objectives of the project are:

1. Communities will better contribute to Bristol's 2030 carbon neutral and nature recovery ambitions.
2. There is wider and deeper climate change engagement and leadership in diverse communities.
3. Climate community action will support transitions towards a more just and inclusive society.
4. Community climate action will support increased community resilience to immediate climate and social challenges.
5. Climate community action is recognised as an essential strategic approach towards achieving net zero goals in Bristol, the West of England sub-region (WECA area) and nationally.
6. Communities in Bristol and beyond are inspired and supported to take community-led climate action.

The development phase of the Community Climate Action Project (October 2020 – April 2022) focused on the development of six coproduced community climate action plans by six Bristol community organisations (ACH, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Eastside Community Trust, Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Heart of BS13 and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust) and extensive evaluation data was collected during the project through a suite of 10 surveys using the online Makerble platform.

An insights report was produced at the end of the development phase of the project (April 2022), and a full evaluation report will be produced at the end of the programme (September 2025).

The Community Climate Action Project has been supported by the National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund. The overall objectives/outcomes of the fund are:

1. More – and more diverse – people engage with climate issues and understand what climate change means for them.
2. More – and more diverse – people have hope that things can change and take action on climate change.
3. Community-led climate action initiatives grow and develop.
4. Carbon emissions are reduced through action at the local level.
5. Community-led climate action is fair and generates co-benefits for people's quality of life.
6. Learning on good practice is captured and shared.
7. The National Lottery Community Fund and others across the sector (including funders) integrate support for community-led climate action into their wider activities.
8. Evidence of increased support for climate action.
9. Local communities develop increased resilience to immediate climate impacts.

List of community benefits



Health & wellbeing

- Reduced fuel poverty
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Reduced noise pollution
- Reduced air pollution
- Improved dietary health
- Increased community pride
- Reduced social isolation
- Improve mental health/wellbeing

Economy

- Job creation
- Green jobs training and apprenticeship opportunities (young people)
- Improved business efficiency
- Improved household finances
- Opportunities for skills and training
- Money retained in the local economy
- Opportunities for local investment
- Lower energy costs
- Lower energy tariffs
- Better public transport links

Environment

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improved green spaces
- Reduced overheating risk
- Reduced flood risk
- Increased biodiversity
- Reduced waste going to landfill
- The creation of more attractive public spaces

Resilience

- Security in energy supply (fewer power cuts)
- Security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)
- Food security (security in local food supply)
- Flood risk mitigation

Community Resilience

- Security in energy supply (less power cuts)
- Security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)
- Security in energy supply (opportunities to access renewable energy sources)
- Food security (security in local food supply)
- Food security (less food waste)
- Skill creation through volunteering and training sessions

Society

- Reduced inequalities
- High level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes
- Community brought together / community cohesion
- Improved public sector finances
- Greater voice, agency, and influence of communities in climate decision-making
- Educational opportunities for children and young people

Equalities

- Equal access
- Preventing the creation of new barriers
- Removing a barrier
- Minority voices amplified and able to influence decision-making



List of carbon impacts

Energy

- Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets
- Smarter & more flexible management of energy demand, including storage
- Decarbonised power generation
- Decarbonised heat delivery
- Widespread, actively managed and planned carbon storage strategies
- Reduced energy demand
- Affordable heating
- Energy use is from renewable sources
- Improving all homes to EPC standard C
- Displacement of fossil fuel energy by using locally generated electricity from renewable sources

Buildings/Housing

- Hugely reduced energy demand from buildings, including heritage assets
- New buildings and developments that achieve net zero emissions, including associated transport
- Improving all homes to EPC standard C
- Increased/improved insulation on all housing stock

Food

- Altered dietary patterns & reduced food waste.
- Widely adopted agricultural practices that reduce emissions & increase soil carbon and protect & promote biodiversity
- Food education to reflect the needs of diverse communities
- Reduced meat (and dairy) consumption

Waste and Consumption

- Hugely altered consumption patterns, buying less and re-using/repairing more
- Greatly increased recycling rates to achieve a circular economy model, taking plastics out of the waste stream
- Altered dietary patterns and reduced food waste.
- Less demand on shop bought edibles
- Less packaging and waste
- Safe disposal of older appliances that contain Freon Gas which depletes the ozone layer
- More food waste going to biomass production



Glossary of key words

Adaptation: Process taken to adjust to the actual or expected climate and its effects

Biodiversity: All the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world

Carbon emissions: The carbon dioxide gas that planes, cars, factories, etc. produce which contribute to climate change

Carbon footprint: A tool to help us understand what changes we need to make to cut our emissions. They show us which actions result in emissions, and how much

Green jobs: Green jobs are those which are in some way contribute to reducing the consumption of energy and raw materials, limit greenhouse gas emissions, minimise waste and pollution and protect and restore ecosystems

Greenhouse gases: Carbon dioxide, and other 'greenhouse gases', trap heat in the atmosphere and keep the earth warm (which is why they're called greenhouse gases). These gases, which occur naturally, make the earth a habitable place – without them it would be too cold to live here

Just transition: Ensuring the transition to a low carbon society/economy is equitable, that any benefits are shared widely, whilst supporting those who stand to lose out economically

Natural habitat: The natural environment in which a species of plant/animal/fungi etc lives

Net zero and carbon neutral: This means that any carbon dioxide that is emitted by the activities taking place is balanced by the same amount of carbon dioxide being absorbed from the atmosphere (sometimes achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions is referred to as 'carbon neutrality')

Renewable energy: Energy that is generated from natural processes that cannot be exhausted and is constantly renewed (including solar/sunlight, geothermal heat, wind, tides, water)

Resilience: The capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climate change.

Retrofit: The introduction of new materials, products and technologies into an existing building to reduce the energy needed to occupy/use that building

Wildlife corridors: A strip of natural habitat connecting populations of wildlife otherwise separated by cultivated land, roads, housing etc

'Cricket is uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change and many cricketing nations are on the frontline.

Cricket also faces a huge sponsorship challenge as partnerships with fossil fuel companies, such as the ICC's link with Aramco and the MCC's deal with JP Morgan Chase, raising concerns of "sportswashing,".

... The crucial role the 2.5 billion cricket fans can play in driving change, using our collective power to inspire climate action. She urged fans to channel their passion for the game into advocating for a more sustainable future.'

–Tanya Aldred, Co-Founder and Chair of The Next Test

