

IF Sustainability Project  
**10 YEARS OF CARBON  
MANAGEMENT AT  
FIFA**

Photography © FIFA/Getty Images



Photography © FIFA/Getty Images

## NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of

sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan

to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

*The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.*



*“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”*  
Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### IOC FOCUS AREAS



### UN SDGs



## FIFA CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF CARBON MANAGEMENT

**A**s an international organisation, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) takes its responsibility to protect, cherish and limit its impact on the environment seriously. FIFA aims to lead by example and inspire greater awareness and best practices in sustainability standards with regard to FIFA World Cups™ and FIFA as an organisation. Since 2010, FIFA has been measuring, reducing and mitigating its impact on climate change as well as engaging with its stakeholders to promote awareness on climate change (see [background paper](#)).

### OBJECTIVES

Since 2010, FIFA has engaged in carbon management to improve the sustainability of its operations and events by:

- Estimating the carbon emissions of FIFA competitions.
- Implementing reduction measures,
- Offsetting its controlled and unavoidable emissions.
- Engaging with stakeholders to help raise awareness on climate change.

### Measure the impact

To better understand the volume of greenhouse gas emissions that are attributed to its activities and its main competitions, FIFA has estimated the greenhouse gas footprint linked to FIFA competitions since 2010, always using the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol and working with climate experts. As the understanding of the impact of a FIFA competition broadened, the system boundaries were expanded to capture additional Scope 3 emissions such as special events taking place during the competition period, spectator travel, TV production, temporary infrastructure and stadium construction. The key emission sources have remained very much the same across the multiple carbon footprints, with transport of people & goods and accommodation making up at least 85% of the total.

### Reduce the impact

In collaboration with organising committees, local authorities and commercial affiliates, FIFA has over the years developed and implemented a variety of reduction measures. For example, free public transport services for ticket holders, training on climate-friendly driving, use of alternate fuels,

climate action campaigns for ticketholders, local and organic catering, waste recycling, courses on sustainable stadium operations, as well as more stringent sustainability certification requirements for stadiums.

### Offset the impact

As a way to balance the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere in one place by removing, or preventing them, in another – resulting in a zero-net effect, FIFA has offset its controlled and unavoidable emissions. The main share of FIFA's carbon credits come from low-carbon projects located in the host country of the tournament and go



**“OUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING OUR CLIMATE REMAINS UNWAVERING. WE RECOGNISE THE CRITICAL NEED FOR EVERYONE TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ACCELERATE THE CHANGE NEEDED TO REACH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION NEUTRALITY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. FIFA WELCOMES THE UN’S DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK, AND I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT FIFA WILL SUPPORT THE VISION OUTLINED IN THE NEW FRAMEWORK”**

**MS. FATMA SAMOURA, FIFA SECRETARY GENERAL**

through a rigorous tender process in collaboration with specialised stakeholders and in accordance with international best practices. The remaining emissions are compensated with UN-Certified Emission Reductions from the Clean Development Mechanism. In the selection of individual projects, FIFA has also aimed at contributing to projects that benefit local communities through employment, training and support.

**Collaboration for impact**

Engagement with key stakeholders such as organising committees and local authorities in the host countries, commercial affiliates such as Coca Cola and Yingli Solar, and international institutions such as the World Wide Fund for Nature and the UNFCCC, has always been an important part of carbon management at FIFA. In 2016, FIFA was the first sports federation to join their Climate Neutral Now campaign of UNFCCC in 2016, committing to continue to strive towards becoming greenhouse gas emission-neutral by the mid-21st century (also see [2018 IOC](#)

[IF Case Study](#)). In 2018, FIFA became one of the first signatories of the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#), which brings together the sports world to contribute to the global climate action goals defined by governments in the Paris Agreement.



**EVALUATION**

In investing time and resources into climate action and carbon management according to international best practice since 2010, FIFA has continuously improved its understanding of its impact. Football worldwide across grassroots, recreational, amateur and elite levels is affected by climate change impacts on Earth’s physical environment as well as by the socio-economic transitions that governments around the world are undertaking to respond to those impacts. With its long-term experience, FIFA has a good basis to further expand its actions to protect football and protect climate.



**BENEFITS**

- Continuous improvement of the understanding of the climate impacts of FIFA competitions and its activities around the world.
- Alignment with the Paris Agreement and relevant international standards such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and GRI reporting standard.
- Robust foundation for the development and implementation of reduction measures and more effective collaboration with stakeholders.
- Contribution to the evolution of best practice in the field of climate change and sport.