Environmental Sustainability Plan 2026-2027

Uniting people, place and planet.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

SPORT ENGLAND

THINK Active

Introduction

Protecting our environment helps to protect opportunities for people to be active. Safe, accessible green and blue spaces, clean air, and climate-resilient communities all play an important role in supporting physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Climate change presents growing challenges for sport and physical activity. More frequent extreme weather events, including heatwaves, flooding and storms, can disrupt participation, damage facilities, and deepen existing inequalities. Those already facing the greatest barriers to being active are often the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

By taking action now, we can help ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of being active, today and in the future.

Our Plan

Our Environmental Sustainability Plan, sets out how Think Active will reduce its environmental impact, support climate resilience, and champion sustainable practice across sport and physical activity in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

The plan focuses on five interconnected priorities:

1. **Carbon Emissions**
2. **Circular Economy**
3. **Blue and Green Environments & Biodiversity**
4. **Tackling Climate-Related Inequalities**
5. **Building Internal Capability**

Together, these priorities will help create healthier communities, stronger organisations, and a more sustainable future for physical activity in Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

About Think Active

Think Active is the Active Partnership for Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, working as part of a national network of Active Partnerships to enable more people to move more, every day.

We work with local authorities, health partners, voluntary organisations, community groups and the sport and physical activity sector to create the conditions that help people lead active lives.

Equality, diversity, inclusion and environmental sustainability are embedded throughout our work and are central to our vision for healthier, happier communities.

An established group within Think Active, the Green Team, are responsible for the delivery of our environmental sustainability plan, supported by the Exec team and board of trustees.

Our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

We recognise that climate change is one of the most significant challenges facing our communities. Climate change is already affecting opportunities to be active through increasing temperatures, flooding, poor air quality and damage to the places and facilities people rely on for sport and physical activity.

The way that people choose to be active matters too. Walking, wheeling and cycling for everyday journeys can reduce carbon emissions, while being active in local parks, green spaces and blue spaces can strengthen people's connection with nature and encourage environmental stewardship. As Think Active works to help more people move more often, we recognise that regular physical activity improves health and wellbeing, helping individuals and communities become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

By supporting active lifestyles that benefit both people and the planet, we can help create healthier, more resilient communities.

Lead by Example

We will embed environmental sustainability throughout our organisation, ensuring it informs our strategy, decision-making, culture and day-to-day practice.

Strengthen Partnerships

We will collaborate with environmental organisations, local partners and sector networks to share learning, amplify good practice and drive positive environmental change.

Build Resilience

We will help sport and physical activity organisations understand and respond to climate-related risks, supporting their ability to adapt, thrive and continue serving local communities.

Our Priorities

Think Active has identified five priorities that will be the focus of the Environmental Sustainability plan until 2027, when they will be reviewed.

1 Carbon Emissions

At Think Active, business travel is currently the most significant source of carbon emissions within our direct control. We will measure and monitor our carbon footprint, establish a clear baseline, and take action to reduce emissions over time. We will also encourage partners across our network to understand and measure their own environmental impact.

We will promote active travel, encouraging walking, wheeling and cycling as sustainable ways to access sport, physical activity, work and everyday destinations. By reducing reliance on car travel, active travel can improve health outcomes while helping to lower carbon emissions.

2 Circular Economy

We will embed the principles of refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle across our operations and events. By purchasing more sustainably and managing resources, we aim to reduce waste and increase value. We will also continue to expand initiatives such as Kit for Communities, helping equipment and clothing remain in use for longer.

3 Blue and Green Environments & Biodiversity

We will work with partners to protect and enhance the natural environments that support active lives. By increasing awareness, sharing knowledge and promoting available support, we will help organisations contribute to healthier, more climate-resistant, biodiverse places where people can be active and connect with nature.

We will encourage people to make use of local green and blue spaces for physical activity, helping to build appreciation of the natural environment. Evidence suggests that people who are active in nature are more likely to value and support environmental protection and biodiversity initiatives.

4 Tackling Climate-Related Inequalities

Climate change affects communities differently. We will strengthen our understanding of climate-related inequalities and use this insight to ensure our programmes, partnerships and investments support those most vulnerable to environmental challenges.

5 Building Internal Capability

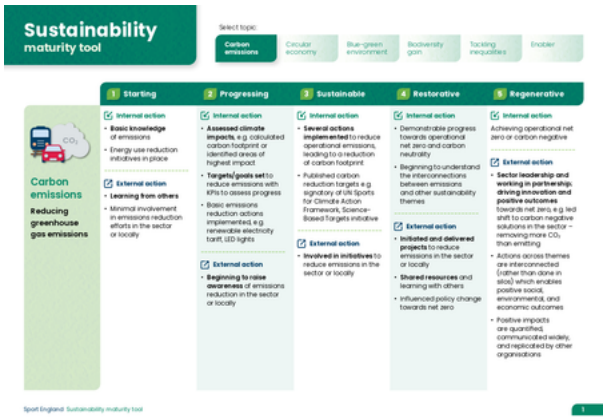
We will continue to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of our Board, colleagues and partners, enabling us to lead and influence environmental sustainability across the local sport and physical activity sector.

Monitoring

We will continue to use Sport England's EveryMove Sustainability Maturity Tool to assess and monitor our progress in environmental sustainability.

This self-assessment will be carried out annually by the whole team, giving us a shared understanding of where we're making progress and where further action is needed across each of the five priorities.

Findings will be shared with our Board to keep them informed of the progress made and to help shape our planning for 2027 - 2028.



Looking Ahead

This plan sets out how Think Active aims to reduce its environmental impact, support climate resilience, and champion sustainable practice across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, helping to support active, healthy and resilient communities, address inequalities, and ensure future generations can continue to benefit from sport, physical activity and movement.

We recognise that our impact will be greatest when we work in collaboration with our partners and communities, building awareness and sharing learning to drive change.

Think Active believes that physical activity is part of the solution to the environmental challenges we face. As we work to help more people move more often, we recognise that regular physical activity strengthens health, wellbeing and resilience to climate change. By enabling people to choose sustainable ways to move, travel and connect with nature, we can create benefits for people, communities and the environment.

We will strive to model sustainable practices within our own organisation and use our influence to support positive action across the sport and physical activity sector. Through collaboration and advocacy, we will continue to champion the role of physical activity in improving health, reducing inequalities and supporting climate adaptation.