



SUTTON UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

CSR REPORT

2023/24 & 2024/25



UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY

FOREWORD

by Bruce Elliott, Chairman, Sutton United FC

Firstly, an apology that we did not issue a stand-alone report last year and that, instead, we have combined both 2023/4 and 2024/5 into this, single report.

This was purely down to logistical reasons and a lack of time, but we plan to revert to annual reports for 25/26 and ahead and, indeed, I am advised that work has already begun on the 25/26 report.

Our third season in the Football League, 2023/24, did not end as we had hoped, with relegation confirmed on the last day of the season after a frantic and entertaining 4-4 draw away to MK Dons.

We loved our time as an EFL club and will work hard to regain our place, but those three years since promotion was achieved in 2021 were not without their challenges and will continue to have an influence on how we do things moving forward.

It is well documented that significant changes had to be made to our stadium in order to meet the required standards, and building work is expensive, and we still have much to do to turn our stadium into the venue we want that will provide the best matchday experience for all.

We had to change off the field too, the model that had served us so well for so many years simply was not suited to the demands of full-time professional football, neither in terms of the financial model nor the reliance on our wonderful band of volunteers.

We still have many hard-working volunteers that provide a range of vital services from selling matchday tickets to staffing the car park, but we now also have a small team of full-time staff with a focus on marketing and growing the commercial side of the club.

The differences between being an EFL club or “non League” extend beyond matchday. We need to be in the EFL to retain our Category 3 Academy status and, losing that would have implications for our staff and young players. The change in status also affects our funding opportunities and, sadly, we took the decision in the summer of 2024 that we could no longer support three adult women’s teams. Therefore, we no longer run an under-21s development squad but will maintain two adult teams with much improved pathways for progression. Our first team plays in the London & South East Regional League, the 5th tier of football in the women’s national pyramid.

Bruce

GOVERNANCE

The club is owned in its entirety by Sutton United Football Club Ltd.

The company has several significant shareholders, and the Sutton United Supporters’ Society (aka ‘The Supporters’ Trust’) is a minor shareholder and can make representation to the directors on behalf of supporters and is in regular dialogue throughout the year.

The club continues to follow the philosophy of the original directors that we should be a community-based club run by “Sutton United people”. During the 23/24 season, Adrian Barry retired from the Board but he remains in post as the Club Vice-Chairman. Former player Dominic Feltham, who played a big role in establishing the club’s ticketing system, also retired from the Board along with Pat Carr, whose father Ralph had been a director for half a century. Club Chairman Bruce Elliott has been a supporter for more than sixty years and still goes to every game, home and away, and fellow director Micky Joyce is regarded as one of the club’s greatest players, with an association spanning half a century.

ENVIRONMENTAL

As our time as an EFL club drew to a close we were, however, delighted to become just the third club (out of seventy-two) to be certified under the EFL's Green Clubs scheme. This took a lot of hard work and, like most SMEs, we needed to achieve this without being able to devote significant capital to the project.

2023 also saw our local authority, the London Borough of Sutton, introduce its Green Mark scheme for local businesses. This scheme was also intended to drive environmental performance, with the bonus of a rates reduction for each business that could achieve the required minimum standard. There were, naturally, many similarities/crossovers between Green Mark and the Green Code and adapting our programme and targets so that we could work towards both standards was not a big challenge. We were therefore delighted to be awarded Green Mark status, passing with flying colours.

The Green Mark programme in particular required us to develop a suite of policies, plans and targets and these have proved really helpful in helping us to move forward.

Our new manager, Steve Morison, was provided with an Electric Vehicle (EV) as his company car, with the intention of installing a charging facility at the club, and this was actioned towards the end of 2024. The charging point is available for the whole community to use. We also replaced our old diesel kit van with a hybrid vehicle, with a plan to move to a full EV once charging facilities became available. Our main electricity supply has been on a green tariff since January 2024.

We had already partnered with Human Forest (now Forest Bikes) to establish the Gander Green Lane as a hub for the E-bike rental scheme. We also partnered with London Borough of Sutton to accept an E-Cargo Bike, which is available for use by anyone at the club or our business partners.

In 2023 we held a Climate Fresk (www.climatefresk.org) to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change, and were delighted to learn that our thought leadership in this regard was taken up by the Football League, who trained up their own facilitators to be able to deliver the programme to clubs.

Towards the end of the 2023/24 season, we introduced a "bring your own cup" scheme, whereby spectators could get a discount on hot drinks if they brought their own reusable cup, and also introduced

vape recycling points within the ground, to allow spectators to dispose of vapes safely and we send the waste for recycling.

We also explored having solar panels on site, to generate our own green electricity, but feasibility studies indicated that this is not currently viable and is something that will have to wait until the structures within our stadium are better suited to housing more panels or the financial equation changes. We did, however, move our main electricity supply to a "green" tariff, which means that the electricity we use is certified as having roughly the half the associated carbon emissions of standard grid electricity (as per DEFRA annual figures).

In October 2024 the club was delighted to learn that our Sustainability Lead, Dave Farebrother, had been named as the UK sport sector Sustainability Champion of the Year by BASIS, the British Association for Sustainable Sport

Aims for 2025/26

- We continue to investigate the possibility of installing solar pv onsite
- To develop and make available on our website a Green Travel Plan for spectators

Targets

We have adopted the following Objectives, and will report on our progress against these in our 25/26 CSR Report.

Long Term Objectives

	Objective
1	To reduce our carbon footprint to net zero by 2050
2	To reduce our carbon footprint to 50% of our baseline figure by 2035
3	Replace remaining radiators and boiler with heat pump system
4	Upgrade water using devices with low-flow alternatives – eg compression taps
5	Replace catering equipment with low energy alternatives
6	To switchover all internal lighting to LED
	Progress
6	Almost complete, anticipate completion in 2025

Table 1 – Travel emissions per unit cost of travel

	22/23	23/24	24/25
CO ₂ per £	0.683	0.816	0.660
		19.4%	-19.2%

2024/25 Targets – Progress Report

Objective
To consider replacing the kitman's van with an electric vehicle Achieved
To incorporate wild flower planting into the site footprint Achieved, in cooperation with our Foundation
3% reduction in travel associated carbon, normalised per unit spend on travel. Applies to 2023/24 season compared to 2022/23 Not achieved, usage was up 19.4%, see Table 1
Gas consumption for 23/24 to be 2% below the target as normalised using Heating Degree Days. Not achieved, usage was 8.9% over target <i>It is believed this increase is a consequence of employing f/t members of staff based in the offices at the stadium.</i>
3% reduction in travel associated carbon, normalised per unit spend on travel. Applies to 2024/25 season compared to 2023/24 Achieved, usage was down 19.2% , see Table 1 This is 3.5% below the base year.
Gas consumption for 24/25 to be 2% below the target as normalised using Heating Degree Days. Not achieved, usage was 1.9% over target <i>This does though represent a big improvement on the previous year</i>
To install at least one EV charging point within our car park Achieved, thank you to our partners The Ryan Canter Club
Promote spectator green travel plan on website Not achieved
To publish a Procurement Policy. Not achieved, drafted but not yet adopted.
Introduce a composting scheme for waste food Achieved, but overtaken by legislation
Engage with principal suppliers to understand more about their packaging. Not achieved

nb – Although we failed to meet our gas usage goals in terms of the normalised targets, our total usage in both 23/24 and 24/25 was considerably less than in the previous two years. For details, see Table 3 at the end of this report.

LOOKING AHEAD

2025/26 Targets

Objective
Undertake a full energy audit of the stadium

3% reduction in travel associated carbon, normalised per unit spend on travel. Applies to 2025/26 season compared to 2024/25
Gas consumption for 25/26 to be 2% below the target as normalised using Heating Degree Days.
Promote spectator green travel plan on website
To publish a Procurement Policy
Engage with principal suppliers to understand more about their packaging.

SOCIAL

The grass pitch that we had to lay when we joined the Football League served us well, but we have now entered into a partnership with Crystal Palace FC, who share our ground for a number of games including their women's team. In 23/24 Crystal Palace won promotion into the Women's Super League and the decision was taken to put down an even better, state of the art, playing surface. We are confident that this will prove to be one of the best surfaces in the National League.

Grass surfaces cannot take the weight of matches that can be played upon an artificial turf surface, so our women's teams continue to play away from the main Stadium. In 23/24 this led to the unsatisfactory position of having to play home games at a variety of venues but we were delighted to have secured a better option for 24/25, when our women's first team predominantly played home games locally at Chipstead FC, and our Reserves played in Collingwood Recreation Ground, with games scheduled to avoid Crystal Palace fixtures so that we could enjoy full use of our club's facilities.

Football provides us with a key to open doors to engage and communicate with many sections of the local community, especially school children. Would you rather learn about diet and nutrition from a teacher or professional footballers?

Some of the schemes we have in place include:

- Christmas presents delivered to children who would be spending the holiday period in local hospitals.
- Annual partnerships with local charities to help raise their profile within the community and to partner in fund-raising activities. We have been doing this for more than ten years. For the 23/24 season, that charity was The Children's Trust, who are based at Tadworth Court. Their services include the UK's largest rehabilitation centre for children with acquired brain injury.

- Friday coffee mornings. Introduced the previous winter as a Warm Spaces initiative, the club's 1898 Lounge was opened every Friday morning with a free invitation for the borough's residents to pop along for a chat, a coffee and maybe a slice of cake. We received good feedback that these informal mornings were also good for supporting mental health.
- October 2023 was Black History Month and we celebrated with articles on our website celebrating the careers of some of our past and current players who have black heritage, and we also worked with the Sutton United Podcast to arrange several player interviews. In December we supported the EFL's message that football should be a safe and enjoyable place for everyone #LoveFootball #ProtectTheGame
- We hosted a Q&A evening with England legend Bryan Robson in aid of the Poppy's Path charity.
- At the 2024 Surrey FA Grass Roots awards evening, four of our committee volunteers received long-service awards for combined service to the club totalling more than 150 years.
- In February 2024 we welcomed participants in the "Man v Fat" weight loss through football programme to our game at home to Colchester. They play every Friday at the Sutton Goals Centre.
- We launched a partnership with the world famous Kings College, part of the University of London, supporting their students to develop employability skills and enhance the programme of work opportunities available to their students. The first initiative was a project with students preparing a study on sustainability in football, and we collaborated with them over a period of six weeks and their final report was circulated to our Board of Directors.
- Back in March 2024, against Accrington Stanley, the club launched a special, aubergine coloured shirt, with £3 from the sale of each shirt being donated to the charity. For those that don't know, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust is a world-leading cancer centre. Donations to the Charity help to provide the best possible treatment and care for patients at the hospital, aiding the development of new treatments that can help cancer patients around the world. The sale of this special aubergine kit raised a little over £1,800 for the Royal Marsden Hospital.
- And finally, our long-serving player Craig Dundas was awarded a PFA Community Champions Award for the work he has done with the club within our local community.

ECONOMIC

As mentioned previously, relegation out of the Football League brought several financial challenges. As expected, average home gates were lower as a National League club, although we introduced initiatives to try to mitigate this effect and attendance levels held up quite well. Another impact of relegation was that some grant funding options were no longer available. This obviously had an impact on the first team budget, although the club decided to remain full-time, and may have additional consequences further down the line.

A new Commercial Director was recruited to explore and develop our income streams, alongside a new Media & Marketing Director.

The sale of striker Will Davies to Fleetwood Town did earn a significant transfer fee and showed the value of identifying up and coming talent.

ON THE FIELD

2023/24

We began the league season with a highly encouraging 5-0 home win over Notts County, but it was to prove a false dawn. A harsh red card changed the course of our next fixture and all too soon we were struggling at the wrong end of the table. We were finding it hard to score goals and, at the other end, every minor mistake seemed to be punished.

An 8-0 defeat away to Stockport County, our heaviest league defeat in almost one hundred years, was the precursor to the Board taking the difficult decision to relieve manager Matt Gray of his duties. Matt's assistant, Jason Goodliffe, took charge of the team for a handful of matches on a caretaker basis and we enjoyed a great FA Cup tie away to Plymouth Argyle where a superb team performance did not get the reward it had earned. After that game former Wales international striker Steve Morison was appointed as the club's new manager.

Replacing Matt Gray was a hard choice, Matt had worked a minor miracle to see the club promoted into the EFL for the first time in our history and in his first season in the League had only just missed out on the play-offs as well as taking the team to Wembley in the EFL Trophy Final. But the team had also ended the 22/23 season in poor form and, as the saying goes, it's a results business.

Form did pick up under Morison and, to his credit, the team did take the final outcome to the last day of the season but a draw away to MK Dons was not enough to lift the U's above 23rd position and to safety.

Our Academy continued to thrive under new Head Jimmy Dack, with a number of teenagers in and around the first team squad or loaned out to other clubs at a lower level to gain experience.

The Sutton United Pan Disability Section enjoyed another great season. With a squad of around 50 adults with disabilities we continue to offer amazing opportunities.

2024/25

The aim for the season was undoubtedly to feature in the end of season play-offs but, although the team played very well at times, it never quite found the consistency to finish in the top seven. Leading scorer Will Davies did well enough to earn a transfer to EFL club Fleetwood Town.

More joy was experienced in the cups. In the FA Cup we entertained a very strong Birmingham City side in Round One and were rewarded with live TV coverage, although we slipped to a 1-0 defeat. In the FA Trophy hopes of a return to Wembley started to grow but were extinguished in a disappointing home defeat to Spennymoor Town. But in the National League Cup, a competition featuring a mix of NL clubs alongside Premier League U21 teams, we fared much better. Entertaining wins over Spurs, WBA (on penalties) and Nottingham Forest took us out of the group stage and we followed up with a win over Manchester United to take our place in the semi-finals. A 0-0 draw at Braintree saw us sneak through on penalties but a home final against Leeds United ended in a 2-1 defeat.

Our disability section had another strong season and our women ended the season strongly to pull clear of the relegation zone in the London & South-East Regional League. Because of restrictions on the use of the stadium pitch at the main Stadium, home games were played at Chipstead FC, who were very accommodating hosts.

CLUB MASCOT

JENNY THE GIRAFFE

As usual, I had a busy couple of years with a number of schools visits and also attending local fairs and fetes. I must be the most popular giraffe in all of Sutton. But there's no place like home, and I always enjoy the

home match at Easter when I walk round the stadium and say hello to the boys and girls.



No, I didn't play in goal, but at least I would have had no trouble reaching the crossbar.



I took part in the Mascots' Derby at Epsom Racecourse but, sadly, didn't win. Over £3,700 was raised for the Children's Trust. So perhaps I did win anyway !

*Lots of Love
Jenny*

Jenny is always pleased to be invited to attend events around the borough and will try to go to as many as she can.

THE VBS COMMUNITY STADIUM

Relegation from the EFL removed the immediate obligation to increase the stadium's seated capacity to a minimum of 2,000 seats.

However, this must be in place if the club regains its place in the Football League at any time, before promotion could be confirmed.

We also decided to remove the raised platform reserved for wheelchair users, as it was expected numbers wishing to use that area would be much lower in the National League and it did not represent good value for money.

To improve the matchday experience for home supporters, a new fans' zone was put in place for the 2024/25 season behind the goal, with the Collingwood Road end now dedicated to home supporters. And, after many years on our wish list, we finally opened up a direct access route from our bar area into the stadium, which makes it much easier for supporters to access the bar area at half-time.

SUTTON UNITED YOUTH & COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

<https://suttonunitedfoundation.org/>

Our Foundation was established and registered as a charity in 2018 and is administered by a Board of Trustees. Bobby Childs, the club's former team physiotherapist, is the Head of Foundation and Harry Dunne leads in terms of programme delivery.

- Our Foundation was awarded a £10,000 grant by the Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund towards the building of a safe play area at the Collingwood Road end of the stadium. This will be part of a drive to encourage a more diverse crowdbase and offer women & girls, adults with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community a safe space to socialise and play before matches. The Foundation also received £25k from the Premier League Fans' Fund to encourage more diverse support at home games and we increased the hours of our Community Coach in order to facilitate this.
- Support through the EFL Trust for Sutton Community Farm.

We organised a number of events where boys and girls could come down and enjoy a week of football matches and coaching together while giving their families a well-earned rest!

We held a range of events/initiatives including:

- An EFL & eBay event for SUFC Girls U15s, resulting in sponsorship of £2k.
- Brookfield School won our U11 EFL Kids' Cup event, for which the men's 1st team players provided a coaching session. Brookfield went on

to a regional event where they unluckily lost in the final.

- We run a twice-weekly walking football session for the over 55s, with more than 30 men and women attending on a regular basis.
- In autumn 2024 we introduced regular, dedicated walking football sessions for adults with Parkinson's Disease, and followed this up by introducing Parkinson's boxing sessions. Although this may seem counter intuitive, the sessions are non-combat and are particularly helpful in terms of improving balance and mobility.
- We have more than 40 girls playing regularly each Monday evening, from first-timers to more experienced players, many of whom represent our competitive teams on Sundays. This is an area we are hoping to grow and to see more players progress into our senior teams.
- Our Foundation is working with a girls' school Wallington, St Philomena's, to help encourage girls in years 7-9 to take part in sport and exercise.
- Junior Jays - football for kids & parents 18 months to 3 years every Wednesday morning at Sutton United in the MBA Lounge.
- We were delighted and grateful to receive a donation of £3,000 from major Sutton employer Subsea7, supporting our community football sessions at the Phoenix centre in Wallington
- We invited well-known children's author Dan Freedman to talk about his work, and he entertained 60 young adults from the Witherslack group SEN schools from Bramley Hill, Greenholm and Queensmead House Schools.
- Harry, our Community coach, worked with Brookways SEN school next to Goals in Cheam, and 50 of their pupils, staff and parents joined our Disability Team, their opponents Southwark and 40 adults from the Fantastic Freddie Foundation, 100 Hong Kongers & our Charity Sponsors at the First Men' game on Saturday 19 October to celebrate our Foundation Day.
- We work with many local schools to provide a varied programme that includes curriculum-based activities around literacy, for example, as well as traditional football sessions.
- We also operate a special needs schools outreach programme with Carew Manor Academy and hope to expand this into other, similar local schools
- We worked with the Leo Academy to deliver a session showing pupils how mathematics could be used within football.
- Our disability football section under Steve King is one of the most successful in the region, and we now field three teams. Annual participation in the George Best Cup in Belfast is a highlight of the year, offering many of the squad a first chance to experience air travel.



Some of the participants from the club that as a whole have lost in excess of 1,000kg since the scheme launched in early 2022.

We were delighted when our Foundation was honoured at the London Football Awards with an award for our disability section, described as a 'truly inspiring cause all about providing a safe environment for young people to have fun, make friends and enjoy football.'



The Head of our Foundation Bobby Childs, with our Head of Disability Football, Steve King.

We were also shortlisted in the category for "Outstanding Volunteering Group" in the Sutton Community Awards 2023.

Our "Man v Fat" programme, which commenced in 2022, has proved to be a great success, helping participants lose weight and adopt a healthier lifestyle.

We held a food donation event at our Christmas fixture at home to Harrogate Town, collecting cans, bottles and many other items for distribution in association with several local organisations.

SUFC FOUNDATION

CHRISTMAS FOOD DONATION



BRING DONATIONS TO MATCHDAY

- TINNED HAM
- CHOCOLATES
- TINNED SWEETS
- SELECTION BOXES
- YULE LOG
- BISCUITS
- GIFT SETS
- CAKE



Sutton Community Works had previously attended our match on 7th October 2023, our "Foundation Day", to also collect food donations

In partnership with Age UK (Sutton) our Foundation hosted a Christmas lunch in 2024 for local pensioners and the children of Cheam Common Junior School, part of Leo Academy, came along to sing festive carols.

Courtesy of the Paul Alan Project, we now have four defibrillators available across the stadium and publicly accessible and PAP deliver regular training sessions and emergency first aid to help save lives.

Plans have been announced to introduce a new, dedicated CP (cerebral palsy) football team for the 2025/6 season.

CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS

It has long been our practice as a club to work with a local charity as our appointed 'Charity Partner of the Year'. We always work with a small local charity as we believe that is where we can help to make the greatest difference, using our own profile as leverage to raise awareness of the charity.

Our recent charity partners have been:

- 2017/18 Sutton SCILL Centre
- 2018/19 St Raphael's Hospice
- 2019/20 St Raphael's Hospice
- 2019/20 Sutton Night Watch
- 2021/21 St Helier & Surrey Kidney Patients Association
- 2021/22 Play Wise
- 2022/23 Maggie's Cancer Care
- 2023/24 The Children's Trust
- 2024/25 The Paul Alan Project

Sales of a special aubergine first team shirt raised over £1600 for the Royal Marsden Hospital.

The U's Business App.

Launched four years ago year our community-based "U's Business" App continues to link and support local businesses in an easy to use way. It was designed to provide a forum and meeting place for the various organisations we interact with - from our Business Club to shareholders, sponsors, local partners, suppliers, charities and, of course, the local authority.

The app connects the Club's extended community, with a focus on our valued business partners. The "U's Business" App includes contact details of all our community partners, regular news updates, details of matches and other events at Gander Green Lane, and a simple chat function that enables easy personal introductions and interaction.



The modern way to link a local business community

HEALTH & SAFETY

Boardroom responsibility for matters of Health & Safety lies with Chief Operating Officer Tim Allison.

Expert support was provided by Kevin Thackeray, a well-qualified and experienced H&S manager, and by our Ground Safety Officer Mike Chenery. We work closely with the Sports Ground Safety Authority and with experts at London Borough of Sutton to ensure we implement high standards both on match days and more generally.

The HR Company Ltd is appointed as our external H&S advisers to the club, and they review all of our policies and procedures.

Ahead of every match we undertake a walk round of the stadium to check for hazards that need rectifying. On match days the stewarding team perform a further series of checks before the Ground Safety Officer gives the OK for the gates to be opened.

FAIRNESS, INCLUSION & RESPECT

At Sutton United our aim is to treat everybody equally, irrespective of their gender, age, backgrounds or beliefs.

We are very proud of the reputation we have as a friendly, welcoming club and were really pleased to again receive many kind messages from away supporters during the season. Our stewarding partners also received a number of compliments

For the 2023-24 season we introduced a dedicated text number that allows spectators to anonymously report any instances at The Lane on matchdays of behaviour that is discriminatory in any way and our multi-faith prayer room was open to all, not just on match day but throughout the week.

The governance section of our website (www.suttonunited.net) has links to our various policies in relation to:

- Equal Opportunities
- Respect
- Unacceptable Behaviour
- Safeguarding
- Health & Safety

This is also where anyone can find our Customer Charter.

Table 2. Health & Safety Statistics

Matchdays				
Incidents within the stadium (excluding players)				
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Number of Incidents	9	24	24	24
Injury	4	9	8	12
Medical	5	15	16	12
Hospital Visits Required	1	0	3	6
RIDDOR	0	0	0	0
All Other Times	0	1	0	0

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The EFL launched its Green Clubs scheme in October 2021, an initiative aimed at all 72 member clubs and designed to improve the levels of sustainability across all three divisions.

Sutton United was happy to sign up to the scheme and achieved an initial score of 46 marks. We were therefore delighted during the 2023/24 season to be advised following a third-party audit that the extra work we had put in had seen us become just the third EFL club to be certified under the scheme.

We were subsequently pleased to learn that our introduction and advocacy of 'climate fresks' (www.climatefresk.org), has been taken up by the EFL's team to deliver the training more widely.

We also signed up to a very similar scheme, Green Mark, established by the London Borough Sutton and intended to incentivise local business to improve their environmental performance by offering a rates rebate to all those who met the standard. We were delighted to meet the standard, with flying colours, at the first attempt and thus qualify for the rebate. We retained this status in 2024/5 with an even better score. The council terminated the scheme after two years.

Quantifying Our Environmental Impacts

This is now the fourth year for which we have published an extensive breakdown of our carbon footprint, going beyond what even some of the leading FTSE250 companies have managed in terms of the scope of our data.

In compiling our emissions report we have continued to use the same methodology, assumptions and conversion factors as previously; this ensures that, as far as possible, we are comparing like for like and can start to identify trends in performance and identify where we need to focus future efforts. Although our Scope 1 and 2 emissions can be quantified fairly accurately, anyone familiar with the murky world of Scope 3 will know that this is a much more vague area and that the carbon data should be viewed in terms of orders of magnitude and trends rather than precise numbers. So why do we estimate the Scope 3 emissions? Because they help paint a much more complete picture, showing how our direct emissions relate to our total footprint and highlighting the challenges the sport faces to become truly more sustainable.

Definitions

Scope 1 – Emissions arising from direct usage of fossil fuels, eg gas in a boiler or petrol in company vehicles

Scope 2 - Emissions arising from usage of electricity

Scope 3 – Indirect emissions arising from the energy used in manufacturing goods procured, or services, or transport where the vehicles are owned by others and the club does not purchase the fuel. The use of water and management of waste are also Scope 3.

It should be noted that one of the most significant elements of carbon emissions arises from the travel of spectators to games (FIFA take note!). It is not included within Scope 3 reporting as clubs have zero control over the impacts, but we have attempted to estimate this for completeness and to give an idea of how impacts compare. It should of course be noted that all estimates of Scope 3 emissions are just that, estimates, and should not be taken as accurate measures.

Table 3. Utilities Usage, VBS Community Stadium

	<u>21/22</u>	<u>22/23</u>	<u>23/24</u>	<u>24/25</u>	<u>21/22</u>	<u>22/23</u>	<u>23/24</u>	<u>24/25</u>	
	kWh	kWh	kWh	kWh	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	
Gas	63,525	45,423	66,468	68,683	12,070	8,292	12,132	12,541	Scope 1
Electricity	19,767	17,761	21,551	24,440	4,568	3,996	4,857	4,779	Scope 2
Water, M3	3652	7,100	6,741	5,735	1,537	2,684	2,284	2,077	Scope 3
The conversion factors used are taken from the official data published annually by the UK Government, and may be seen in Appendix 1									

Note #1 – Water consumption has been estimated for some time, as the meter pit is submerged under water, and the supplier bases usage on historic consumption.

Table 4. EV Charger – company vehicles

		kWh for SUFC Company Vehicles	Total CO2 Kg	Kg CO2 for Company Vehicles
2024/25	5,657	4,136	1,106	809

In September 2024 we installed an EV charging point in our car park (thank you, The Ryan Canter Club). Although anyone can use this, the most regular users were our first team manager and our kit man – both driving EVs.

The energy they used is summarised in Table 4, and is included within Table 3, but to avoid double accounting is not included in the section on staff travel emissions.

Table 5. Team Travel- Away Games

Note – all of the data below relating to Team travel refers only to the men's first team. Data is not available for the Academy teams or Women's sides.

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
No. of Games	36	31	33	29	36	31	33	29
	km	km	Km	km	kgCO₂	kgCO₂	kgCO₂	kgCO₂
Train	3,345*	4,874*	2,690	467	2,475	3,607	1,990	346
Coach	15,360	7,590	11,917	10,452	19,968	9,868	15,492	14,253
Total	18,705	12,464	14,606	10,920	22,443	13,475	17,482	14,598

NB – *When calculating the emissions for 23/4 and 24/5 an error in the factor used for emissions for train travel was noticed in the earlier reports, these have therefore been amended as show above

Table 6. Team Travel - Hotels & Subsistence

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂
Overnight Stays	5,060	3,962	3,072	2,169
Evening Meals	3,319	2,421	1,870	1,320
Pre-Match Meals	2,596	3,016	3,564	3,016
Total	10,975	9,399	8,507	6,505

Table 7. Player Travel – Home Games & Training

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
					kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂
Home Games	28	26	33	32	129	120	152	148
Training Sessions	80	82	80	80	475	487	474	*369
					604	607	627	516

*From the start of the 24/25 season, training moved back from Harlington to the Sutton area.

Data for travel to matches does not currently include matches for the Academy sides or women's teams. It is hoped to develop data capture methodologies that will allow for these carbon emissions to be estimated for the 2026/7 season.

Table 8. Staff Travel

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/5	2022/23	2023/24	2024/5
	km	km	km	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂
Private Vehicle	290,896	218,074	165,501	67,197	50,375	38,231
Minibus/Van	8,118	12,859	5,709	1,907	3,021	1,790
Taxi	3,240	576	0	868	154	0
Train	1,837	11,260	903	70	429	34
				70,042	53,979	40,055

Table 9 Procurement

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂
Kits & Merchandise	35,843	60,712	53,497	23,091
Social Club	40,464	46,145	31,440	24,435
Food & Refreshments			24,752	16,825
Travel			28,665	42,314
Post & Carriage			3,887	1,033
Pitch work			104,474	126,016
Miscellaneous			65,087	55,923
Project Works	2,375,242	1,340,951	56,146	19,105
	2,451,549	1,447,808	367,948	308,741

Note #1 - Merchandise figures include playing kit used by the teams

Note #2 – The significant drop-off in emissions associated with construction is because the earlier years related to the amount of work required to modify the stadium to comply with EFL and safety requirements

Note #3 – These estimates of CO₂ emissions relate to the financial year in which the money was spent, that is not necessarily the same period *as when the work was undertaken

Table 10 Waste

	Waste Produced				Associated CO ₂			
	DMR	Glass	General	Total	DMR	Glass	General	Total
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂	kgCO ₂
2023/24	8.432	5.061	5.433	18.926	54.1	32.4	34.8	121.3
2024/25	8.943	3.538	5.051	17.532	41.9	16.6	23.7	82.1

The Club's waste contractor collects three waste streams:- Glass, Dry Mixed Recycling and General Waste, and states that all three are subject to 100% recycling. The fall in associated carbon emissions from 23/24 to 24/25 is largely because DEFRA issued revised conversion factors, although the actual total waste also fell by 7.4%. No waste goes to landfill.

Table 11. SUMMARY

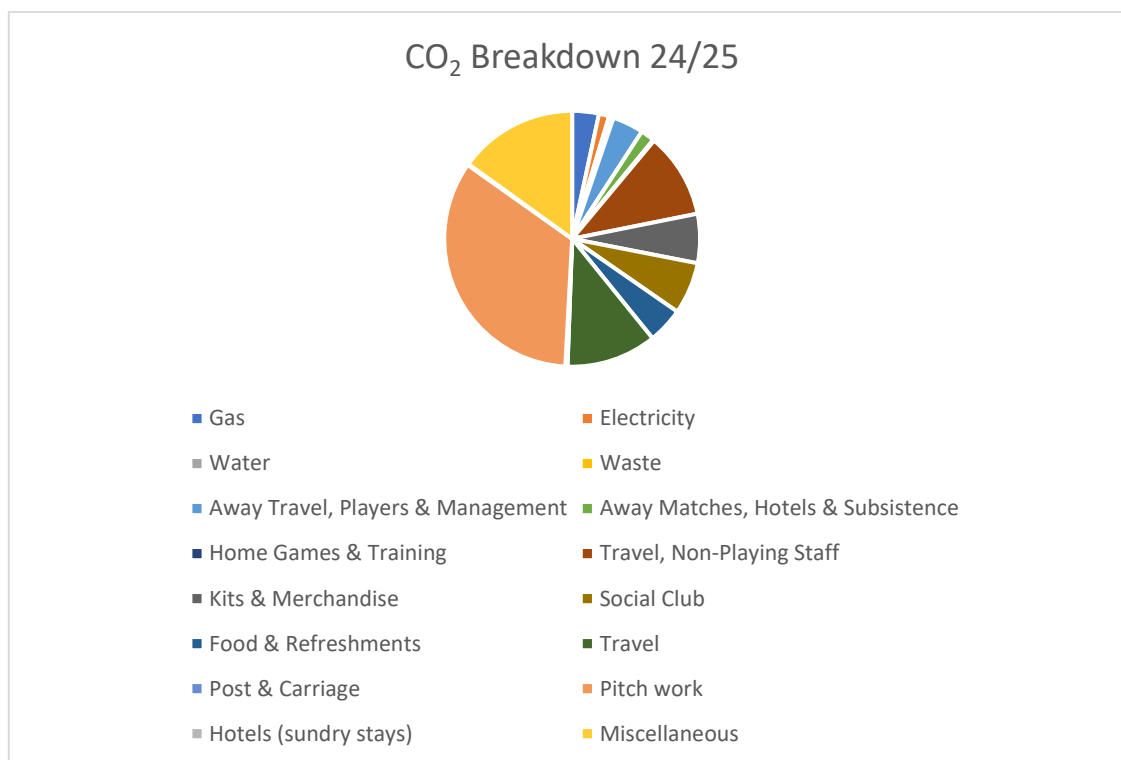
	(Scope)	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Gas	1	12,070	8,292	12,132	12,541
Electricity	2	4,568	3,996	4,857	4,779
Water	3	1,537	2,684	2,284	2,077
Waste	3			121	82
Away Travel, Players & Management	3	22,443	13,475	17,482	14,598
Away Matches, Hotels & Subsistence	3	10,975	9,399	8,507	6,505
Home Games & Training	3	604	607	627	516
Travel, Non-Playing Staff	3		70,042	53,979	40,055
Kits & Merchandise	3	35,843	60,712	53,497	23,091
Social Club	3	40,464	46,145	31,440	24,435
Food & Refreshments	3			24,752	16,825
Travel	3			28,665	42,314
Post & Carriage	3			3,887	1,033
Pitch work	3			104,474	126,016
Hotels (sundry stays)	3			436	536
Miscellaneous	3			65,087	55,923
Sub-Total		128,504	215,352	412,228	371,326
Project Works	3	2,375,242	1,340,951	56,146	19,105
Total		2,503,746	1,556,303	468,374	390,431

Continually improving data collection processes have enabled us to include more aspects for 2023/24 and 2024/25

Split of Contributions to Carbon Footprint

Scope 3 emissions dominate Scope 1 and 2 in almost all industries and football is no different. This is why it is so important to not only address the direct emissions over which we have control, but also the emissions that derive from the goods and services that we procure. We have developed a procurement policy that addresses this alongside a range of other sustainability indicators, but we acknowledge that cost considerations and value for money remain the dominant factors.

This chart looks at the breakdown of emissions without the contribution from construction-related works.



Spectator Travel

The impacts of spectator travel as a major contribution to the carbon emissions of sport are still widely, and conveniently, overlooked. Football is not alone in this, but FIFA staging the 2026 World Cup in three countries and planning to stage the 2030 World Cup tournament across six countries in the three continents sends a message at odds with their proclamations around sustainability.

We therefore continue to report our estimates of carbon emissions associated with fan travel, even though they are beyond our control. We have used the same methodology and conversion factors as large year, so although we cannot claim the numbers are necessarily accurate, they should be helpful in establishing trends.

Table 12. Spectator Travel

	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
	No. of Fa	No. of Fa	No. of Fa	No. of Fa	kg CO ₂	kg CO ₃	kg CO ₄	kg CO ₅
Home Games	50,232	63,018	73,517	67,731	217,836	288,683	318,814	293,722
<i>SUFC Fans</i>								
Home Games	9,447	12,917	15,856	8,085	245,066	316,332	324,124	163,722
<i>Away Fans</i>								
Away Games	6,475	6,384	7,114	5,493	149,258	97,843	121,538	88,251
<i>SUFC Fans</i>								
<i>EFL TROPHY FINAL</i>	15,000				55,477			
<i>SUFC Fans</i>								

Note 1 - the figures are all estimates, intended only to give an indication of magnitude.

Note 2 - the same estimates are used consistently in terms of distances travelled and percentage of fans travelling by car, train, walking etc

Note 3 - clubs have no control over this element at all, numbers of fans travelling will be affected by the attractiveness of the fixtures, distance, day and time of kick-off

Note 4 - the 2022 EFL Trophy Final is shown separately as it was a one-off game at Wembley Stadium