

**BRITISH EQUESTRIAN:
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**



ENHANCING NATURE ACROSS BRITAIN'S EQUESTRIAN LANDSCAPE

EQUESTRIANISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change, biodiversity loss, water shortages and resource depletion all impact equestrians both in the present and in the medium and long term future. We cannot survive as an industry without a healthy ecosystem, so we must act to protect our environment.

The details of the relationship between environmental sustainability and equestrianism are well understood and explained in the [2023 insights report](#) and summarised in the industrywide vision.

Of particular importance is the interrelationship between horse welfare and environmental sustainability. We will always make horse welfare our first priority, and a healthy ecosystem is a vital part of this work.

This document outlines exactly what our deeply practical, knowledgeable and caring community of equestrians will do in order to both adapt to climate change and mitigate against the worst impacts.

As a federation and collaboration of member bodies, we are united in our determination to do the right thing for the environment and create a sustainable future.



OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a biodiverse future, where horses and humans thrive in a healthy ecosystem – where we only take what the Earth can sustain and, through responsible stewardship of the land, we lead the way in benefiting the natural world.



In order to do this, we have set out six commitments which form the foundations of our strategy from this point forward. As equestrians we are united in this vision and the decisions we make, the actions we take and the way we view our environmental responsibility.

1. We aim to protect horses against the negative consequences of the changing environment
2. We will seek to preserve the future of equestrianism, through promoting mitigation and adaptation activities
3. We will take action to positively impact on national biodiversity and promote the importance of nature
4. We will show leadership by promoting good environmental practices and driving positive behaviour change throughout the industry
5. We will support everyone in gaining a good understanding of the inter-relationship between equestrianism and the environment
6. We will proactively monitor, plan for and educate the industry on evolving policy and legislation

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY

Since 2022 we have sought to develop a strategy and action plan, rooted in a deep understanding of the topic and our relationship with the changing climate. This is our journey.

DECEMBER 2022

British Equestrian partnered with Horse Sport Ireland in a pioneering collaboration with consultancy White Griffin. The research project sought to establish baselines for each organisation within the federation, improve our environmental impact and engage stakeholders across the member bodies, and in turn the wider equestrian industries in both countries.

MARCH 2023

White Griffin project kicks off with industry-wide survey to gather opinion and best practice examples.

AUGUST 2023

White Griffin deliver their comprehensive report to British Equestrian with 10 overarching recommendations.

DECEMBER 2023

An environmental working group was established, including representatives from member bodies, to support the British Equestrian team and its Board.

British Equestrian releases our Environmental Sustainability Vision Document, which outlines six commitments with collective agreement from all 19 member bodies. An executive summary of the White Griffin report is also published.

British Equestrian is invited to be a part of UK Sport's accelerator programme alongside Paddle UK, the Royal Yachting Association, British Rowing and British Mountaineering Council, which will help with carbon footprinting for the organisation and developing an action plan.

MARCH 2024

White Griffin project kicks off with industry-wide survey to gather opinion and best practice examples.

MAY 2024

Sport England launch 'Every Move', their sustainability strategy and action plan.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY (CONTINUED)



THE NEXT STEPS

Looking ahead to the next 15 years, we are committed to prioritising environmental sustainability across the federation and out to all equestrians. Our primary objectives are laid out as follows:

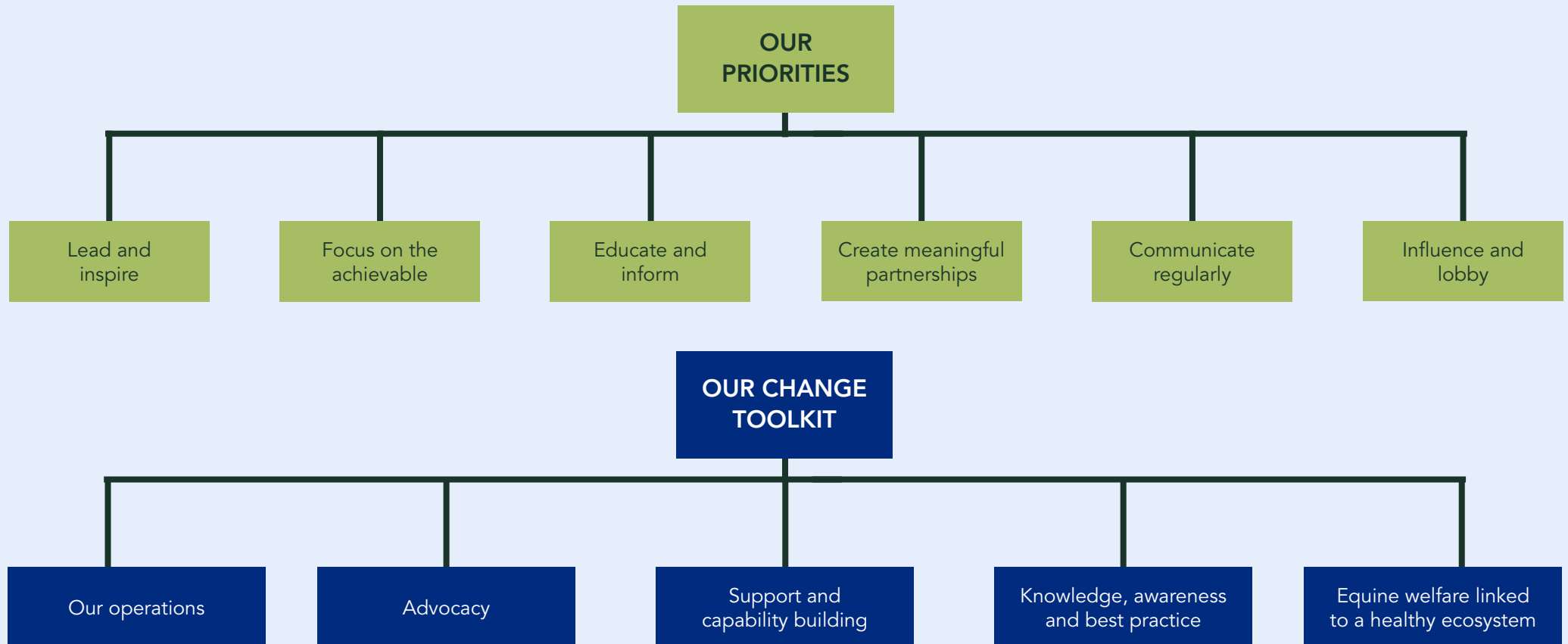


OUR OUTLINE STRATEGY

In order to build on our work to date and achieve the next steps in our journey, we have formulated a strategy, designed to enable us to embed environmental sustainability into our culture and operations, across the breadth of the member bodies.

BRITISH EQUESTRIAN'S SUSTAINABILITY MISSION

We will work to embed environmental sustainability into our thoughts, decisions and actions to ensure that nature always has a seat at our table. We commit to driving equestrianism towards having a net positive impact on the environment, being stewards of the land is our duty and our legacy.





DELIVERING CHANGE

It is paramount that our vision and commitments create tangible results for the environment and go beyond aspirational words on a page. Our strategy and resulting plan of action is therefore based on practical, measurable and meaningful actions which directly benefit the natural world and support all equestrians in creating a sustainable future.

In our vision document, we outlined six areas of focus. These are now broken into detail and expanded upon.

1. Lead and inspire
2. Focus on the achievable
3. Educate and inform
4. Create meaningful partnerships
5. Communicate regularly
6. Influence and lobby

LEAD AND INSPIRE

We will ensure that our own operations demonstrate continuous improvement, including reducing emissions and consumption of resources and improving waste management systems. We will report on our progress and share best practice collaboratively.



We will work with our World Class Programme athletes to support them, both in progressing towards a sustainable future, and inspiring the broader industry to do the same. We will involve all aspects of our federation, including our youth organisations, to ensure their voice and input is valued and heard, and to help them in preparing for the future.

ACTIONS

→ By the summer of 2025, all member bodies will have the knowledge to develop their own action plans and will have completed them by January 2026. This will ensure as a minimum that operations deliver on six core areas:

- Organisational carbon footprints are measured and a reduction pathway is in place
- The circular economy to be embedded into procurement and waste management
- All staff to be trained in environmental sustainability
- Biodiversity to be protected and enhanced in all outdoor spaces
- Measures in place to reduce the consumption of electricity and fuel
- Processes in place to ensure responsible water use.

→ We will encourage minimum reporting standards to be in place for all member bodies from 2026 onwards:

- Scope 1 and 2 emissions (see glossary)
- Waste volumes
- Water consumption volumes.

→ As part of the commitment to Sport England and UK Sport, will work across the full spectrum of our operations from grass roots to elite sport, in collaboration with our member bodies. We will seek to understand how we can collectively work towards reducing emissions, through the use of carbon budgeting, and generate awareness of best practice through influencing the wider equestrian public.

GOALS FOR 2030



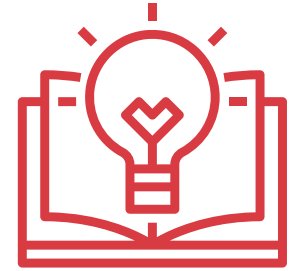
All member bodies will be annually reporting on improvements they have made in all areas of environmental sustainability, including reductions in emissions since the chosen baseline year.



British Equestrian will work to reduce its emissions within its own business operations, in alignment with S4CA and will have engaged in a knowledge programme.




EDUCATE AND INFORM

British Equestrian will work with our member bodies to create an education programme, which will ensure that all individuals and businesses understand the risks, challenges and opportunities of environmental sustainability in equestrianism. This will take the form of centralised resources including webinars, training courses, information sheets and videos.





We will work with the member bodies to provide tools and resources addressing specific topics and guidance to support action. These will include how to access funding for projects, how to run a sustainable equestrian business, how to incorporate water saving operations and technologies, how to make space for nature and sustainable pasture maintenance techniques.

ACTIONS

-  British Equestrian will run a workshop for all member bodies, detailing the risks, challenges and opportunities of environmental sustainability, how to create a strategy and embedding sustainability into member body operations. The workshop will be available to all member body chairs, CEOs and relevant staff responsible for sustainability, with the specific objective of ensuring that all member bodies are confident and competent to create their own strategies and/or action plans from summer 2025.
-  Via the environmental resources hub, British Equestrian will provide support to the wider member body community on a range of topics, including webinars with a specific focus on biosecurity, waste management, reducing emissions and biodiversity enhancement.
-  A tool kit will be created in collaboration with member bodies and environmental experts and placed on the resources hub, in order that all equestrians are clear on the practical actions they can take to create a positive future.

GOALS FOR 2030

-  Equestrians will have the opportunity to have a full understanding of how the environment impacts our sport and be inspired to take a range of actions to positively enhance the environment and minimise emissions and resource waste.
-  The actions will be traceable through the equine carbon calculator, sharing of best practice on the resources hub and through our flagship environmental project detailed at the end of this strategy.





FOCUS ON THE ACHIEVABLE

We will focus on projects that can be achieved at scale and will benefit the lives of equestrians in the short term first. We will endeavour to support every part of the federation to make small and manageable changes, which will have a big impact when combined.



We will provide equine specific information to support projects that make sense for any size of business, with any budget potential, in order that everyone can benefit from the motivation of successfully achieving small changes.



ACTIONS

-  We will seek funding to facilitate research to understand the impact of climate change on equine welfare and provide advice to horse owners about how to adapt to the changing climate in order to safeguard the welfare of their horses. This will include the impacts of the wetter, warmer winters and hotter, drier summers.
-  We will provide advice and guidance to horse owners on how to protect their paddocks during very wet periods, minimising soil degradation and associated risks to our waterways from top soil run off.
-  We will provide guidance on how to save money through environmental sustainability, including the use of the equine carbon toolkit, tips on reducing energy and water costs and mechanisms to apply for funding for environmental projects like hedge planting, solar panel installations and heat pumps.
-  We will suggest 'quick wins' for event organisers and venues to support them in delivering at least a minimum standard in sustainable events. This will include webinars from experts outside of the equestrian world sharing best practice.

GOALS FOR 2030

-  We will provide equestrians with the knowledge and tools to make all of the basic changes needed to both adapt to climate change and reduce negative impacts.
-  Changes will be demonstrated through data gathered within the equine carbon calculator to reflect the collective efforts of the industry at large.






COMMUNICATE REGULARLY

We will ensure that we communicate our progress throughout the process, providing insights into changes happening both inside and outside of the sector, celebrating achievements and acknowledging work to be done.

We will transparently report our impacts and offer insights into projects as they happen. We will keep equestrians abreast of evolving legislation and risks, to ensure they can adequately and successfully prepare for the changes ahead.



ACTIONS

-  We will deliver a communications campaign across all media channels, beginning with an explanation of environmental sustainability and progressing through to story telling of best practice that exists and develops as more individuals and organisations make inspiring changes.
-  We will recognise organisations and individuals who deliver exemplary projects and practices, through the addition of annual sustainability awards within the existing awards calendar.
-  We will prioritise storytelling and the sharing of best practice across member bodies, in order that organisations may learn from one another. This will be done both through Council meetings and the federation's sustainability working group.
-  We will facilitate working groups for specific sectors who will benefit from communicating with one another, including the supply chain, venues and event organisers and professional riders.
-  We will ensure all equestrians can adequately prepare for legislative changes, by sharing information through the resources hub and within the newsletter sent to member bodies.

GOAL FOR 2030

-  By 2030, environmental sustainability will be an embedded topic in all forms of communication.

CREATE MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS

We will seek to create partnerships with organisations and businesses that share our vision and can add value to our projects.

We will consider frameworks which support our vision and strategy, with a particular focus on nature and biodiversity targets.

We will reach out to other industries that interconnect with our own, including sport, agriculture and education, to ensure that we are making use of existing knowledge and experience.



ACTIONS

- We will create minimum standards for organisations partnering with British Equestrian and work with member bodies to implement similar.
- We will proactively seek businesses with strong environmental credentials to become sponsors and partners. Where possible, this will prioritise British brands and local sourcing or global brands with environmental goals and aspirations which mirror our own. We will introduce a newly defined tender process incorporating both sustainability requirements and equality, diversity and inclusion.
- We will identify frameworks, charities and pre-existing projects and standards that member bodies, organisations or projects may align with in order to ensure integrity and delivery to the highest standards.
- We will research, adapt and utilise pre-existing materials and experience in a range of other industries, with a particular focus on agriculture. In doing so, we will share resources and information within the equestrian sector where equestrians may benefit.

GOAL FOR 2030

- 🎯 By 2030, all equestrian partnerships will be with organisations who have strong environmental credentials.
- 🎯 We will have established a series of projects which incorporate the expertise of environmental charities and organisations, with the needs of the equestrian sector.

INFLUENCE AND LOBBY

We will drive positive change within the sector by recognising individuals and businesses who are adopting responsible environmental practices.

We will ensure that all parts of the federation are supported, tailoring information to each business and individuals' needs.



We will ensure inclusivity of all equestrians, including our young riders, whose future depends on our actions and the support we can give them now in preparing for the future.



ACTIONS

-  We will create an environmental guide for horse owners, detailing all of the actions that can be taken to protect the natural world.
-  We will find ways to support and incentivise equestrians making the green transition, through our internal mechanisms and lobbying for funding where possible.
-  We will collaborate with other sectors to lobby for improvements and support to aid equestrianism in the transition to a sustainable future, including the provision of green transport options.
-  We will work with organisations within our member body group with strong affiliations to youth riders, to encourage engagement on environmental issues, including establishing Green Youth Boards to ensure their voices are heard on environmental matters and provide input, ideas and requests into the federation working group.

GOAL FOR 2030

-  By 2030, we will have driven forward the agenda for a green equestrian transition at government level, ensuring support where possible is given to equestrians seeing to implement change.
-  We will have a have an established reward and recognition scheme across the breadth of our industry, including youth riders seeking to influence the sustainability of their future.

OUR AMBITIONS

In addition to our roadmap of actions, we will be launching two projects, providing specific focus on our most important areas where we can have the biggest impact.

These projects will enable people to feel part of a bigger movement of change, giving the equestrian community the power to impact nature on a grand scale as part of a sector-wide drive towards a sustainable future.

Led by British Equestrian and member bodies, the projects will be driven forward by our Sustainability Working Group.

RESOURCES HUB

We will support all equestrians by creating an informative, inspiring and useful web based platform dedicated to environmental sustainability. The platform will house information and share best practice on both how to protect your horses and businesses in a changing climate and how to have a positive impact on the environment.

NATURE'S EQUINE CORRIDOR

This project will enable equestrians to understand how to enhance their paddocks and land to provide a healthy environment for nature and store carbon in their grasslands. Working as a community, we will create corridors across the country that reverse the trend for biodiversity loss in the UK and create healthy pastures for horses to enjoy.




OUR COMMITMENT

As British Equestrian and federation member bodies, we are committed to successfully delivering this strategy and will ensure that we hold ourselves accountable to the actions that will lead our sector through the green transition to a vibrant and sustainable sport.



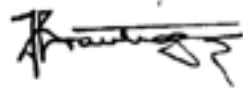
Jim Eyre
CEO

British Equestrian



James Hick
CEO

The British Horse
Society



Jason Brautigam
CEO

British Dressage



Rosie Williams
CEO

British Eventing



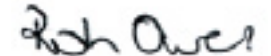
Iain Graham
CEO

British Showjumping



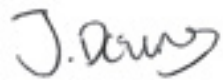
Marcus Capel
CEO

The Pony Club



Roly Owers
CEO

World Horse Welfare



Jake Downs
Chair

Mounted Games
Association of GB



Michael Bishop
CEO

Riding for the Disabled
Association



Lucy Katan
CEO

British Grooms
Association and
Equestrian Employers
Association



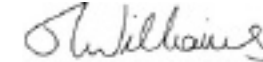
Anne Hardwick
Chair

British Equestrian
Vaulting



Andrew Counsell
Chair

British Carriagedriving



Claire Williams
CEO

British Equestrian Trade
Association



Jane Williams
Chair

ABRS+



George Wilson-Fitzgerald
Chair

UK Polocrosse
Association



James Gibson
Chair

British Horseball
Association



Bruce Lawrence
Chair

British Reining



Larissa Whiley
Chair

Endurance GB



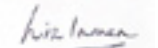
Jane Nixon
Chair

British Horse
Foundation



John Burns
Chair

horsescotland



Liz Inman
Chair

The Showing Council

GLOSSARY

BIODIVERSITY

This term relates to the variety and variability of life on Earth. This is often considered to be the diversity of plant and animal species that exists in a particular habitat at any one time, but can also be used to refer to other biological indicators. A high level of biodiversity is considered to be important and desirable for a thriving and resilient ecosystem.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

An organisation's carbon footprint is defined as the quantified greenhouse gas emissions impact of company activities, over a defined period of time and boundary of assessment. Emissions are typically reported in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), which takes into account the impact of the 7 key greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, defined by the Kyoto Protocol.

ECOSYSTEM

A biological community of organisms, that are interconnected through interaction within their physical, non-biological environment. Or in other words, all elements of nature within a space that work together in harmony to survive and thrive.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The term itself can be defined in a number of different ways. However it has most commonly been explained utilising the 1987 quote from the Brundtland Commission Report as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

NET ZERO

The term net zero for an organisation is most commonly defined as the point at which its greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced either entirely, or very significantly resulting in only a residual level of emissions remaining. Commonly, this is considered to be a reduction of at least 90% of total company greenhouse gas emissions across all scopes by 2050 or sooner, based on the requirements of the Science-based Targets Initiative (SBTi).

SCOPE 1, 2 AND 3

Greenhouse gas emissions are reported in three scopes in line with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. These scopes clearly define emissions which are in the direct control of an organisation (scope 1) and those which are typically indirect and therefore harder to control (scope 2 and 3). Scope 1 and 2 relate to the fuels and electricity purchased and consumed by an organisation. Scope 3 relates to all other emissions, including waste, water and purchased goods and services.

We will be asking organisations to report on their scope 1 and 2 initially, in efforts to focus on decarbonising operations within that organisation's direct control, or that it has a strong ability to influence (scope 2). This will enable progress to commence in an area that is easier to collate data for and therefore report on, and make tangible reductions in.

UNITED NATIONS SPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK

The UN Sport for Climate Action Framework enables sporting bodies around the world to align to a set of principles and requirements, that seek to both reduce environmental impact, and use the unique power of sport to change the world.

The framework requires signatories to agree to five key principles:

- Principle 1: Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
- Principle 2: Reduce overall climate impact;
- Principle 3: Educate for climate action;
- Principle 4: Promote sustainable and responsible consumption;
- Principle 5: Advocate for climate action through communication.

The framework also required signatories to set emissions targets which align to science, with a 50% reduction in emissions against a baseline figure, by 2030 and a 90% or more reduction in emissions by 2040.



Abbey Park
Stareton
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2RH

T 02476 698871
E info@bef.co.uk
www.britishequestrian.org.uk

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