

2024-2025 | Version 1.0 Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) Plan

MORE PEOPLE. MORE ACTIVE. MORE OFTEN.



# active lincolnshire

## **Active Lincolnshire is a lead enabler** for physical activity in the county.

We lead, connect, and enable organisations to reduce inactivity and influence the collective goals set out in the county-wide Let's Move Lincolnshire strategy.

"There is no doubt that our changing climate is already impacting our opportunities, motivation and ability to be active. Extreme weather is increasingly making it difficult for us to live healthy, active lives by creating a 'doom loop' where people become less motivated and more fearful of injury, with sporting opportunities increasingly cancelled and disrupted. Without change now, the government's target to get 3.5 million more people active by 2030 is very much in jeopardy – and our children will be the ones to suffer most. If places to play are unavailable, people will go and do something other than sport and physical activity, leading to small clubs going under and vital community organisations disbanding."

Chris Boardman MBE.



# Weimprove<br/>biogeneities the positive<br/>power of<br/>movement.



# MORE PEOPLE. MORE ACTIVE. MORE OFTEN.



By building a shared understanding of inactivity, championing equality and inclusion, sustainability, and welfare and integrating physical activity into all sectors, policies, strategies, and education.



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## About our Environmental, Social Governance Plan.



#### Introduction

Active Lincolnshire's Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) plan is designed to cover our commitment to and our governance around positive environmental and social impact.

Positive 'social' impact is at the core of our work, as an organisation with a mission to enable more people to be more active more often. We are therefore using this (our first ESG Plan) as an opportunity to consider our approach and raise the bar on our commitment to environmental sustainability. It is not something that has previously been front and centre for us. Yet we recognise that we are in a climate and biodiversity crises. Developing this plan has helped us learn and clarify what we need to start embedding into our organisation day to day to become more environmentally sustainable and where there are opportunities for us to have real influence and impact on the environment.

We also occupy a unique role within Lincolnshire to influence and connect other organisations across the physical activity and leisure sector. There are some unique 'sweet spots' where we can bring the power of individual and community movement together with the environment to bring about meaningful change for people and planet. We are excited about our first ESG Plan and the positive impact we can have as an organisation, a team and individuals and the wider role we can play to support the sector on this journey through our shared commitment.

The movement in our sector towards increased focus on Environmental Sustainability and embedding it as a core consideration in what we do and how we do it, is growing but some might argue has been a little slower out of the starting blocks than we might want. The good news is that it is building momentum from multiple angles. There is some risk and challenge associated with this momentum, with some fragmentation of effort and some inconsistencies. We need to be aware of these challenges but use the momentum to our advantage. We need to find the pockets of best practice and strategic inputs and run with it.





# Our commitment

#### Moving to support our planet.

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#### Alignment with a Global Strategy.

We have mapped our main areas of impact on people and planet to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The 2015 global blueprint adopted by the United Nations as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



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#### 4 critical goals.

We aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals on 4 critical goals for Active Lincolnshire.



#### How?

By helping more people be more active more often.

#### How?

By removing the inequalities that exist in sport and physical activity by working with partners..

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



#### How?

By setting a target of Net Zero by 2045 and focusing on our Scope 3 emissions.

#### How?

#### Moving to support our planet.

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By using our unique position within our county and sector to influence for movement that supports the environment, movement in harmony with the environment and movement without environmental harm.

"We must all do what we can to halt climate change, so we can continue to enjoy the place we live in. Working together we will seek opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from our leisure facilities and ensure future generations can continue to enjoy our playing pitches and spend time outside on our waterways and in our countryside."

#### Ian Fytche,

Chief Executive Officer, North Kesteven District Council Chair of Lets Move Lincolnshire Taskforce Chair of Greater Lincolnshire Infrastructure Group Vice-chair of the District Council Network Chief Executive Group Member of the Local Government Physical Activity Partnership



# Why does environment sustainability matter to us?



#### A multitude of reasons

For most of us, our own moral compass guides us to focussing more and more on environmental sustainability, inside and outside of work. We already have a team who are rallying for us to do more together. Beyond that, there are organisational motivations to put more focus on environmental sustainability:



#### Climate emergency

We are in a Climate Emergency and a time where human behaviour is determining the environment around us.

As a result of the 'Great Acceleration' since the 1950s, we are in urgent need of reducing emissions to hit Net Zero by 2050 and halve emissions by 2030 in order to try to keep global warming under 1.5 to 2 degrees.



The new Global Biodiversity Framework includes the commitment by nations to protect 30% of their land and seas for nature, by 2030 ('30 by 30').



#### Influencing others

We have a unique role as an influencer and connector in our community and across the physical activity sector.

We must use our voice to have impact and walk the talk of a lighter footprint.



By 2050, it is estimated that 1 in 3 British Golf Courses will be damaged by rising sea levels.

23 out of the 92 English Football League grounds can expect annual flooding and only half of the venues that have previously hosted the Winter Olympics would be able to hold them again. If this is the level of impact expected at a nationwide and global level, this will likewise impact our grassroots events and venues which our movement for movement is so dependent on.

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#### **Biodiversity crisis**

Since 1970 UK species have declined by 19%, and nearly 1 in 6 species are now threatened with extinction.

#### Sport and activity venues and events

#### **3** / Why does environmental sustainability matter to us?



#### Team commitment

This is something we care about as a team and as individuals and we are not prepared to be inactive in this space.



Take responsibility and accountability for our environmental footprint and impact.



#### Leisure facilities

We're very aware that leisure facilities are significant contributors of carbon emissions.



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#### Responsibility and accountability

We strongly recognise that we have a collective responsibility.

We as:

- a charitable organisation
- an employer
- a local stakeholder
- a member of our community,
- a part of the Active Partnerships network
- a Sport England system partner

#### Cost savings

We see cost savings as representing opportunities.

Many of the more sustainable choices are also opportunities for cost savings, such as reducing energy and water consumption and reuse over recycling.



# Where are we now on our environmental sustainability journey?



#### **Current achievements**

Building our first ESG Plan, has helped us reflect and recognise some of the work we are already doing in the space of environmental sustainability:

#### GIKI

Our team has access to the GIKI platform where we have assessed our own personal carbon footprints and start taking steps towards reducing it.

Our average annual footprint as individuals is currently 8,561 Kg. Our end of year target is to get to 7,584Kg and by 2030 we all need to be at 2,500Kg so we have a way to go - but we will tackle it one step at a time.





**Engage Employees On Sustainability** Founded in 2017 by husband and wife Jo and James Hand, Giki is an evidence-led B Corp and Social Enterprise. Our mission is to help people take more climate action.

To do this Giki works with companies to engage their employees on sustainability. Giki has worked with over 100 companies, across sectors and around the world, and we've been selected as a UN backed Race to Zero Accelerator for employee engagement.

Giki believes that there are many people who are ready, and willing, to take climate action but they need information, and inspiration, to help them start today. Their programme combines the team's experience in sustainability, behaviour change, communications and the best practice we've seen from the leading companies worldwide to make this happen.

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# **giki**.



Green and blue space promotion

In our mission to enable more people to be more active, more often we promote green and blue spaces.

The activities available in those spaces to residents, through the Let's Move Lincolnshire website.



Walking and Cycling We also promote walking and cycling as part of people's daily lives.

This has a positive impact on health and the environment.



**Active Travel promotion** 

the office.



Active Travel promotion for events

We promote Active Travel, public transport and better environmental decision making.

We encourage car sharing to meetings where possible.



Physical Activity sector support

We proactively share and signpost information and tools regarding the environment.

This includes sustainable business practices to the wider physical activity sector.



#### Wheels For Life

The county-wide bike recycling programme takes in preloved bikes and brings them back to a usable condition, before distributing them to people who do not have the opportunity to enjoy the varied benefits of owning and using a bike. Recycling bikes through this scheme helps the environment by reducing waste, whilst P19 also promoting and increasing the ability of people to undertake active travel.

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Through the Cycle to Work Scheme, we promote Active **Travel** and pay employees mileage for travel by bike.

To support uptake of the scheme we provide a shower at

## HEELS

LINCOLNSHIRE'S BIKE DONATION SCHEME

#### We have enabled **Wheels For Life** a bike donation scheme set up to re-home bicycles across Lincolnshire.

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# How did we get here?



"The 'S' of ESG is already core, in many ways, to what Active Lincolnshire does driving towards its vision, hence Active Lincolnshire's first ESG Plan focuses on the less explored area of the Environment. This plan enables the organisation to better embed sustainability into what they do everyday and to start proactively influencing the wider sport, leisure, and physical activity sector. I'm particularly excited by the areas where the people and planet agendas merge with the focus on Active Travel and Moving In Nature."

Ali Fisher,

Director, Plans with Purpose Co-author of This Environmental and Social Governance Plan.

#### A holistic approach

We reviewed a range of resources (list below) and a number of ESG Plans shared by other organisations in the Active Partnerships network and sector.

In January 2024 we hosted a team workshop looking at the various inputs and prioritising as a team what we felt were the big and bold ideas and the quick wins, depending on level of complexity to deliver and level of impact.

We talked through ideas and opportunities with our Governance and Standards Committee and worked with external professionals to help to shape this plan.

#### **Resources consulted:**

- The 2023 Environmental Sustainability Consultation in Sport and Physical Activity by Useful Projects, sponsored by Sport England and Sport Scotland
- UK Sport's Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- The United Nations Climate Change Sports for Climate Action Framework
- BASIS The British Association for Sustainable Sports
- Buddle and Sport England Tackling climate change: Sustainable sport video
- WWF Office Guide
- GIKI

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Our ESG Plan has critical interconnectivity with other Active Lincolnshire Plans that have been considered as part of this process:

#### — The People Plan

ESG training and desire to be an organisation that supports and cares for the environment.

 Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

> Our critical role at Active Lincolnshire to remove the inequalities that exist in sport and physical activity

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Much of what we want and need to do in our Environmental Sustainability Plan relies on our external influence, making our Stakeholder Engagement Plan a critical success factor in succeeding in ESG.



Our Environmental and Social Governance framework.

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#### **Our ESG framework focuses on 6 pillars**

#### **Internal focus**

Largely within our control and we must tackle and embed into our everyday ways of working in order to walk the talk of being a more sustainable organisation.



#### 1. Core

We commit to prioritising the environment in all of our organisation behaviours and decisions



#### 2. Net Zero

We commit to reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions in Scope 1, 2, and 3



#### 3. Waste

We commit to reducing the amount of virgin materials used and waste we produce



#### **4.** Influence

We champion and enable a more environmentally sustainable physical activity sector



#### 5. Active travel

We champion active travel to increase activity levels whilst reducing emissions and improving biodiversity

#### Note: Net Zero

Commitments

Targets and actions straddle both our internal and external work, with Scopes 1 and 2 emissions sitting internally and Scope 3 more externally.

Whilst we haven't yet completed a carbon footprint analysis of the organisation, we are confident the majority (likely 95%+) of our emissions footprint will sit in Scope 3 and therefore outside our direct control but inside our sphere of influence. One of our key next steps will be to run a carbon footprint analysis and put more details into our net zero roadmap but in the meantime, we will also get the ball rolling on what we believe to be some of the key actions. There is no time to waste in taking climate action.

#### **External focus**

Within our sphere of influence in order to play a role in the key levers of change.



#### 6. Movement In nature

We champion movement in nature to get more people more active more often whilst appreciating and protecting nature

"The biggest mistake we can make today is to believe that someone else will do the difficult work and make the tough decisions needed to save our planet and tackle the climate crisis. By being bold and brave in our leadership and environmental stewardship today, we can move people from being idle to active, and we can shift people from being consumers to caretakers."

#### Kelly Evans,

Chief Executive, Social Change (Certified B-Corp). Active Lincolnshire Trustee and Chair of Governance and Standards Committee.



**Priority** focus areas.

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#### Internal organisation and governance focus

There are a number of actions we will prioritise this year to embed environmental sustainability into our everyday ways of working and in our ways of working with partners, suppliers, peers, contacts and network. These include:



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#### **D** Active influencing

Working more closely with the management team at Nicholson's Building to influence sustainability practices and reducing waste and emissions

#### **External influence focus**

In terms of where we want to step up and use our influence for impact externally:

#### **A** Net Zero

#### **B** Environmental focus

- Setting a Net Zero target of halving our Scopes 1,2 and 3 emissions by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045
- Review the opportunity to sign up and pledge to the United Nations 'Sport Race to Zero'
- A 2024 Carbon Footprint analysis, carried out annually thereafter.
- Developing a Net Zero roadmap to 2030 and beyond

Prioritizing support, advocacy and influence for 'active environments within the Lets Move Lincolnshire strategy, including active travel and outdoor movement opportunities aligned with strategic priorities.

#### **C** Influence and advocacy

Support and enable the physical activity sector to understand and act on opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and to support their own organisations. Acting as a shining light for best practice in Environmental Sustainability.

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#### **D** Active partnerships network

Share and seek resources, learning and best practice on carbon footprinting, training, roadmapping, Giki and more



# Making Active Lincolnshire accountable.



#### How?

Our Environmental Sustainability Champion will be responsible for monitoring progress against the plan and recording measures of success. Ultimately The CEO will be responsible for the team and Board having sight of the plan, ensuring resource for training and development opportunities are available and ensure the environment is at the heart of our decisions.

- The ESG plan will be published on our website ActiveLincoInshire.com
- ---- Progress against the plan will be reviewed annually with the Board.
- The Governance and Standards Committee (a subcommittee of the Board) will review progress twice a year
- Progress against the action plan will be reviewed by the senior management team quarterly.
- ---- Monthly team meetings will include ESG as an agenda and discussion item
- All Board papers, funding bids and project proposals and project plans will include a section to review potential environment impact of proposed work / decision being taken.



## Our Action Plan. Year 1: 2024-25





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#### 1. Core



#### Training

- Introduction to environmental sustainability in SPA training for all the team
- ESG lead undertakes more in-depth training

 Training undertaken, team able to talk confidently about environment and consider in all decisions.

#### Goal We commit to reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions in Scopes 1, 2 and 3 by half by 2030 and to Net Zero by 2045.

#### **Bank & Pensions** Giki **New Daily Habits** Nicholson's Carbon Roadmap Footprinting Building Emissions reductions Start building an A key contributor to Review Giki steps, emissions is choice footprint progress through: We will establish Support and influence and leaderboard at of bank we use and whether we are able Nicholson's on Setting laptops to support. Many of the awaydays emissions reduction (c) to run our own carbon sleep mode instead mainstream banks and 3 foot printing analysis of screensaver mode Lead for positive and pension providers (b) or whether we changes across the - Agree an office support fossil fuel partner with someone temperature that whole building investment. Review like Compare Your works for everyone Actions opportunity to move to Footprint to run a Year 1 but is as low as someone like Starling benchmark possible to conserve <sup>(c)</sup> e.g. switching off versus Bank as a responsible energy standby policy, LED light move to help reduce bulbs, renewable energy Use natural lighting emissions supplies, energy monitoring, where and when Review Pension sealing off drafts, using possible provider (a) natural air conditioning in the - Switch off lights summer, move from gas to - Switch off instead of electricity where possible, turning lights off, use power standby strips to turn off multiple machines in one go, check for double or triple glazing, check (a) switchfootwealth.co.uk (b) see WWF Office Guide insulation. Ensure our bank is Year 1 carbon footprint Improved Giki score Monitor energy Meeting with with a target of 7,584Kg Nicholson's Office lead a responsible one, analysis for Active consumption now and July according to external Lincolnshire. by the end of the year track guarterly to see Review progress with if we are reducing our reviews Nicholson's guarterly Success usage Review our Pension **ESG** Review provider to ensure it is a sustainable investment Feedback review results and recommended actions to the Board

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#### 2. Net Zero



emissions reductions roadmap, capturing actions for Scopes 1, 2

#### Targets

- Explore if we can pledge to the UNCC Sport Race to Zero Pledae
- Agree a Net Zero target of halving emissions by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045 across Scopes 1. 2 and 3 and publish

#### 1st draft roadmap by

- Reviewed and updated 6 monthly for Board
- Publish Net Zero targets on the Active Lincolnshire website
- Confirm by July if signing up to Sport Race to Zero



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cycled paper
he office
ting for

#### Reduce Packaging

- Reduce packaging for food and supplies for office, meetings and
- Use reusable travel mugs and drinks bottles

- 1st draft roadmap by
- Reviewed and updated 6 monthly for Board ESG Review



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#### **4.** Influence



#### Sustainable Events

 Write, share and embed a Sustainable Events Policy to reduce the environmental footprint of our events or partner events

- Share with Board at next review and share examples of the policy in progress
- Share the policy and examples with AP Network



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#### **5. Active Travel**



#### Wheels For Life Maintain and prioritise support for Wheels For Life Project to get more people active more often and keeping bicycles in use for longer

 Add growth target numbers for Wheels for Life donations and referrals

Actions

Success



#### **6. Movement In Nature**

#### **Activities In Green And Blue Spaces**

- Champion and promote green and blue space activities that encourage people to get active in nature e.g. gardening.
- Actively advocate for the people and planet benefits of movement in nature
- Promote options to be active especially with young people
- Focus on inclusivity of movement in green spaces for all
- Support and advocate for 'no trace' messaging in green and plus spaces

#### **Partnership**

- Explore Partnership with Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
- = Explore partnership with Natural England's focus on protecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Lincolnshire, tapping into their 2042 target for 75% of sites to be in favourable condition and goal to establish another 25 National Nature Reserves by 2027.

#### **Sport For Nature Pledge**

- Sports for Nature Pledge

- By end of 2024, show case one example of successfully championing movement in nature

Board to Review Proposal in 2025

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Review opportunity to sign up to the United Nations Review the United Nations Sports For Nature Handbook

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Championing

1. Core

Prioritising the environment in all of our organisation behaviours and decisions



2. Net Zero

Reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions in Scope 1, 2, and 3



3. Waste

Reducing the amount of virgin materials used and waste we produce

Education, training and learning across the organisation.	Net Zero in Scopes 1 and 2 by 2030.	Work with Nicholson's Building to reduce waste.
Environmental Champion in the team.	Halve Scope 3 emissions by 2030.	Reuse Policy and practice.
Champion Active Travel to and for work.	Net Zero by 2045.	Recycled paper and printing.
ESG criteria in Project Planning and Delivery.	Sign-up to UNFCCC Sport Race to Zero.	Re-homing lock-up.
ESG criteria in Funding Processes.	Carbon Foot-Printing and Road Map to Net Zero.	Go (fairly) paperless.
ESG Core within Governance.	Support and Influence Nicholson's on Office Emissions Reductions, e.g., Reviewing energy supplier.	Travel Mugs at all times.
ESG criteria for suppliers and service providers.	Turn-off devices from standby.	Reduce packaging food and supplies for office, meetings and events.
Criteria for office equipment and supplies.	GIKI Goals.	
ESG criteria and Active Travel for events and venues.	Review bank and pension providers.	

#### **4. Influence**

Championing and enabling a more environmentally sustainable physical activity sector



#### **5. Active travel**

To increase activity levels whilst reducing emissions and improving biodiversity

Supporting the physical leisure sector in ESG.	Stakeholder engag on Active Design a Environments.
Stakeholder Event(s) on Sustainable Activity.	Champion Wheels Project.
Champion and support providers to deliver sustainable activities including gardening.	UN Sports for Nati
Identify and signpost to Green Champions in our sector.	Promote and Char and Cycling to resi
Promote Green and Blue Space Activities.	Sustainable Travel
Sustainable Events Policy.	Influence and enco sustainable Travel
Include Env criteria in LSPA Awards.	Promote and use t Incentives and Sup

# Commitments

#### **External focus**

agement and Active

s For Life

ture Pledge.

mpion Walking sidents.

el Policy for AL.

courage active / I for AL Events.

the Active Travel upport.



#### 6. Movement In nature

Getting more people more active more often whilst appreciating nature

Partnerships with Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.

Actively Advocating for the People and Planet Benefits of Movement In Nature.

Promote Access to movement in green spaces for all.



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