



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY AUGUST 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POLICY

Galway United will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and to minimise environmental pollution in all its activities and, where possible, by its influence over others. We will strive for continual improvement in this area and take all reasonable measures to ensure our activities do not cause pollution.

It is the policy of Galway United, as a club and a business, to continually develop, review and improve our environmental objectives and work towards further sustainable and environmentally friendly projects, in the present and for the future of this club.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

We are committed to treating all relevant legal and environmental legislation and guidelines as a minimum requirement and will seek to exceed them wherever possible. The Club will follow all legislative requirements as set out in the Waste Management (Amendment) Act, 2001 and European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018. It will follow all EPA guidance as outlined. It will refer to the National Air Pollution Control Programme and the National Energy and Climate Plan as required for advice and guidance.

Link to FAI/UEFA FSR/Sustainability Strategy

This policy links to the FAI FSR/Sustainability strategy by:

- Updating our facilities and infrastructure manuals to reflect modern, best-in-class standards of safety, accessibility and sustainability.
- Ensuring that all events that the club is involved in follow the objectives as set out in this policy
- Ensuring that any infrastructure in the club's ownership/management complies with this policy
- Ensuring that all employees and volunteers are aware of the club's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint to reduce the impact of climate change
- This policy sets out to comply with the UEFA Sustainability Strategy regarding Human Rights and the Environment "Our mission is to inspire, activate and accelerate collective action to respect human rights and the environment within the context of European football."

IMPLEMENTATION

SCOPE

All GUFC employees, volunteers, supporters, suppliers and the general public will be advised on this policy and strategy and its importance in mitigating and improving the Company's environmental performance.

Training on the content of this document will be provided at least annually to all volunteers and employees to help embed the club's social and environmental policies and commitments in our club. Training will be delivered by relevant experts from our Sustainability Advisory Group or external parties, as required. This document will also be made available to all employees and registered volunteers of the club. Records will be kept on all training provided.

In some areas, work is conducted in collaboration with or delegated to the Galway United Friends Co-operative.

PRACTICES, POLICIES AND FUTURE INITIATIVES FOR TRANSITIONING TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

For each of these topics, we will review all existing policies, performance and targets, with a view to identifying gaps and to firmly embedded processes to measure progress on the relevant sustainability metrics.

Having identified the topics considered to be material from a sustainability reporting standpoint, in 2026 the club will work to review policies and key performance indicators for the relevant reporting topics.

As the club progresses its development of its training facilities at Mountain South, best sustainability practices will be embedded from the start across each of the material environmental topics identified. This includes biodiversity, optimising water withdrawal and consumption, applying circular economy principles including resource use, waste management and implementing circular processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The double materiality assessment conducted during 2025 identified Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Pollution of Air Water & Soil, Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Water as the environmental topics that are currently material or that are expected become material as we develop our training facilities at Mountain South. The relevant policies and associated commitments are being reviewed by the Sustainability Advisory Committee, with a view to updating these prior to the 2026 season.

During 2025 to date, the main environmental initiatives are set out below.

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

➤ ENERGY USE

- The club will seek to minimise energy use from the design stage as club-owned or managed facilities are built or upgraded.

➤ CARBON EMISSIONS REPORTING

- The Sustainability Advisory Committee is currently evaluating the data collection required to enable future reporting of carbon emissions. This evaluation extends to scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3 emissions. Based on the outcome of this evaluation, the committee will make recommendations as to the first steps to provide for carbon emissions reporting.

➤ SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- The Galway United Friends Co-operative will collaborate where possible with supporter groups to run supporter buses during the 2026 season, with the aim of reducing the fan travel-related scope 3 carbon emissions for these games.
- Travel to away fixtures for senior squads is by coach minimising travel related emissions compared to the usage of cars.

POLLUTION OF AIR, WATER AND SOIL

- As the club designs the new club-owned training facilities at Mountain South, limiting all aspects of pollution forms an important element of the proposed designs.

RESOURCE USE, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

➤ CIRCULARITY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- A new club shop was installed at Eamonn Deacy Park in August 2025. Rather than acquiring a new shed-style building, an existing unit was identified that could be repurposed and reconditioned. This fitting out of this reused unit is expected to be completed later in 2025.
- We continued to work with our contracted waste management service, City Bin, to ensure segregation of waste to minimise landfill and maximise the percentage of waste sent for recycling or reuse.
- During 2025, the club partnered with students from the University of Galway in a project aiming to identify ways to increase recycling across all elements of the club.

➤ SINGLE USE PLASTIC REDUCTION

- Our Club Shop has started to phase out the use plastic bags during 2025.
- All Galway United teams (both senior and academy) have phased out single use water bottles at all our training locations during 2025.

BIODIVERSITY

➤ POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY

- As we develop our new training facilities at Mountain South, we will endeavour to follow the guidelines set out in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan¹ for the pollinator-friendly management of sports clubs, including:
 - Manage some off-pitch grass for pollinators;
 - Manage existing native hedgerows for biodiversity;
 - Plant biodiversity-friendly (native) trees, plants and flowers;
 - Minimise use of herbicides; and
 - Provide nesting places for wild bees.

¹ <https://pollinators.ie/sports-clubs/>

WATER

➡ WATER USAGE

- As the club designs the new club-owned training facilities at Mountain South, limiting water usage forms an important element of the proposed designs.

GENERAL NOTES

This policy will be enforced by the Galway United Board of Directors and shall be subject to regular auditing and review. This policy will be made available to the public on the GUFC website.

Policy Sign-Off:

Alan Brett



Galway United FC Football Social and Environmental Sustainability Officer