

FOOTBALL AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Mon 14th Oct 2024 1–3 PM
Cardiff City Stadium



FOOTBALL AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

"Football and a Sustainable Future" is an innovative and inspiring event dedicated to exploring the intersection of football and environmental sustainability.





This event will highlight the remarkable efforts and initiatives within the football community aimed at addressing climate change and promoting sustainable practices.

It will provide a platform for showcasing how football, as the world's most popular sport, can be a powerful tool in raising awareness about environmental issues and driving proactive change.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading voices in football, sustainability experts, and environmental advocates who are making significant strides in incorporating eco-friendly practices within the sport.

Through a series of engaging presentations and panel discussions, participants will learn about groundbreaking projects, sustainable stadium initiatives, and grassroots programmes that are setting new standards for environmental responsibility in football.

Key topics to be covered include:

-  Sustainable Practices: Best practices for reducing the carbon footprint of football Clubs and events.
-  Community Engagement: How football can mobilise fans and local communities to support environmental causes.
-  Grassroots Initiatives: Success stories of grassroots programs using football to promote environmental education and action.
-  Partnerships and Collaborations: Exploring synergies between football organisations, environmental groups, and corporate sponsors to drive sustainability.





FOOTBALL AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:15 PM - Arrival & registration.

1:15-1:35 PM – Welcome & introductions.

1:35-2:45 PM – Presentations & discussions:

- Achieving Circularity in Cities through Environmental Sustainability of Sports (ACCESS Project).
- Strength through Unity - activating and accelerating collective action to respect the environment in the context of European football. (UEFA).
- Uniting Football and Nature for a Greener Future. (Panel Discussion).
- Y Club Gwyrdd / The Green Club. (Case Study).

2:45 – 3:00 PM – Next steps & close.

SESSION INFORMATION



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Following the welcome and opening address, this session will present an overview of the Football Association of Wales' Sustainability Strategy, Cymru Wellbeing and the World. It will highlight the steps we are taking to meet current needs while safeguarding the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

With the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act as the cornerstone of our plan, we aim to position us as a leader in sustainability within the sports sector, both nationally and internationally.

We are committed to addressing both global and local challenges through a unified approach, while also inspiring other football associations around the world on their sustainability journeys.

SPEAKERS

- Laura McAllister – UEFA Vice President & Chair of UEFA's Social and Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Helen Antoniazzi – Head of Public Affairs & Sustainability at the Football Association of Wales.

ACHIEVING CIRCULARITY IN CITIES THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF SPORTS.

This session will present the outlines and the basis for the [ACCESS project](#), how it translates into reality and what the project aims to achieve in the four pilot countries. This session is part of the project aim in enabling and supporting a transfer of knowledge, skills and competences in the field of environmental management, circular economy and sustainable development onto sports organisations to allow them to develop their own knowledge base and ultimately – strategies, initiatives, road maps and action plans aligned and contributing to their respective local and regional authorities' efforts.

This session will present some of the key findings, observations and achievements so far, acquired through various methodologies, as well as they way ahead and outlooks for follow up actions.

SPEAKERS

- Ernest Kovács – Association of Cities and Regions for sustainable Resource management (ACR+).





STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY

The challenges surrounding human rights and environmental issues are becoming increasingly significant in both society and football, with growing awareness across UEFA's member associations, fan groups, clubs, and leagues.

Global initiatives like the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, the European Climate Pact, and the European Green Deal have underscored the urgent need for a transition to a sustainable, green economy.

It is vital for all sectors of society to contribute, and football can play a pivotal role in driving this change. UEFA is committed to being part of the solution through its Sustainability Strategy: Strength Through Unity, aimed at preserving and restoring the environment. The strategy also seeks to harness football's influence to raise awareness and inspire action.

This session will showcase key initiatives and accomplishments currently unfolding across European football in pursuit of these goals.

SPEAKERS

- Filippo Veglio -Head of Social & Environmental Sustainability at UEFA.

UNITING FOOTBALL AND NATURE FOR A GREENER FUTURE.

This panel discussion will explore the powerful intersection between football and nature conservation, highlighting how the sport can serve as a pivotal force in promoting biodiversity and protecting the natural environment.

The session will bring together leading organisations at the forefront of biodiversity preservation and nature conservation to discuss strategies, challenges, and opportunities for integrating environmental stewardship into the fabric of the game.

SPEAKERS

- Lesley Fletcher - RSPB.
- Paul Southall - The National Trust.
- Angie Kirby - Size of Wales.
- Louise Tambini - Keep Wales Tidy.





Y CLWB GWYRDD / THE GREEN CLUB

This session will feature a pioneering Football Club that are setting the standard for a sustainable Club.

We will explore their innovative approaches to integrating sustainability within their operations, offering participants valuable insights into how they are leading the charge in their community and setting an example for others to follow.

SPEAKERS

- Steve Brown - Clarbston Road AFC



SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS

LAURA MCALLISTER CBE: UEFA VICE PRESIDENT & CHAIR OF UEFA'S SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

Laura is the UEFA Vice-President and elected member of its Executive Committee. Laura is also the Chair of UEFA's Social and Environmental Sustainability Committee.. She is also a former Wales football international and served as team captain. Laura served as the Chair of Sport Wales (between 2010-16. Until April 2016, Board Member of UK Sport, the Government's agency for Olympic and Paralympic sport, and former Director of the Football Association of Wales Trust. She was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2016.



FILIPPO VEGLIO: HEAD OF SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - UEFA

Filippo is Head of Social & Environmental Sustainability at UEFA, European football's governing body.

He works in partnership with Europe's national associations, leagues, and clubs to roll out the targeted measures and investments set out in UEFA's Football Sustainability Strategy 2030. As part of UEFA's Social & Environmental Division, he leads a team aiming to inspire, activate and accelerate collective action across 11 dedicated Policies covering respect for human rights and the environment across the European football ecosystem. In addition, he is focused on developing and implementing across the organisation a dedicated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy for the 2024 UEFA European Football Championship taking place in Germany. Prior to joining UEFA in September 2021, Filippo spent 16 years at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a CEO-led community of 200 of the world's leading companies, where he was part of the senior management team.

Filippo holds a master's degree in international relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. A Swiss national, Filippo was formerly a professional tennis player and is fluent in six languages.



SPEAKERS

HELEN ANTONIAZZI: HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & SUSTAINABILITY - FA WALES

Helen Antoniazzi is Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability at the FAW having joined the association in January 2023.

Helen's key roles and responsibilities are leading the delivery of 'Cymru, Well-being and the World', the FAW's sustainability strategy, as well as developing and delivering the public affairs strategy. Helen is driven by the potential that football has to make a positive, lasting social impact on the communities of Wales.



ERNEST KOVÁCS: PROJECT MANAGER - ACR+

Ernest is a project manager and the leader of the "Sustainable Lifestyles" thematic group at ACR+ which looks at various operations and processes in tourism, sports, culture and beyond and tries to challenge them for the better and less environmental impact – through behaviour assessment, audits and co-creation processes.

Ernest holds a master's degree in environmental management with a focus on waste and is a member of various European platforms for practitioners in the fields of environment and sports.

He comes from Serbia, based in Brussels and speaks four languages.



SPEAKERS

LESLEY FLETCHER: HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT – RSPB CYMRU

Trained as an ecologist Lesley has worked in the conservation sector for over 20 years, starting as a volunteer with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and now leading RSPB's Cymru's Engagement work in Wales. Over the decades, much of the work that Lesley has been involved in or led on, has been around partnership working, and working with communities, focused on nature restoration and nature-based climate action in landscape and urban settings across the UK, but especially in Wales.



ANGIE KIRBY : SIZE OF WALES

Angie Kirby is the Advocacy Outreach & Policy Officer for the climate change charity Size of Wales where she has been helping schools, businesses and organisations learn about and take action to reduce their tropical forest footprint in relation to forest-risk commodities.

She has experience working in the space of public health and sustainability, including for the Health and Sustainability Hub in the WHO Collaborating Centre in Public Health Wales (PHW), where her focus was sustainable behaviour change and helping PHW and the wider NHS respond to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.



SPEAKERS

LOUISE TAMBINI: KEEP WALES TIDY

Louise was appointed as a Keep Wales Tidy (KWT) Rivers Officer in 1997. Since then she has enjoyed various roles at KWT, including Rivers Manager and Operations Director and watched KWT grow from a small charity of 10 staff that focused primarily on litter and waste issues, to one that employs 80 staff and works with people across Wales to protect and improve the environment on a range of exciting activities including Caru Cymru, Green Flag for Parks, Eco-Schools, beach awards and Local Places for Nature.



PAUL SOUTHALL THE NATIONAL TRUST

Paul joined the National Trust 16 years ago as a Climate and Environmental Advisor with the remit to lead for climate and environmental programmes - developing and rolling out an organisational-wide Environmental Management System. This work led to developing a broad range of opportunities and projects that have seen a 50% reduction in energy and water usage.

During the intervening years we successfully integrated over 100 renewable and sustainable energy systems - ranging from hydropower generation sites, historic waterwheels, Photovoltaic systems, heat pumps.

In his current role within the National Trust Cymru, he is the strategic lead for one of the organisational pillars - Climate, Land and Nature; - leading teams of specialist consultants all working with the aim of restoring a healthy, beautiful, natural environment and responding to the nature and climate change emergencies.



SPEAKERS

STEVE BROWN: CLARBESTON ROAD AFC

Steve has been a member of Clarboston Road AFC for the past 25 years, initially as a player and junior coach but subsequently senior coach, committee member and trustee. He has been Chair of the Club since 2014, a period of substantial growth in membership, completion of infrastructure developments and change of governance of the club to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

In 2022, Steve received the FAW McDonalds Grassroots Football Awards Volunteer of the Year. Alongside of his current role as Chair of Clarboston Road AFC, Steve is a member of the FAW PAWB Fund Panel and is representing the club on the FAW Global Action Plan “Together Greener” Project.

Steve is a retired Environmental Manager and has lived and worked throughout Wales, now settled in Pembrokeshire for the past 32 years. He has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He is a Community Governor of his village primary school.

Clarboston Road AFC serves a large rural area of north-east Pembrokeshire. It has held FAW Platinum accreditation for the past 6 years and has achieved the Disability Sport Wales Insport Silver standard for its work with disability footballers.

The Club has twice been the FAW Club of the Year (in 2005 and 2008) and in 2020 was awarded West Wales Community Club of the Year. It currently has around 350 players with 26 teams, including mixed gender mini and junior teams across all age groups, 6 girls teams, a women’s team, 2 men’s teams and a pan-disability squad that is drawn from across the county. It is supported by around 85 registered volunteers, 45 of whom are qualified coaches.



**FURTHER
SUPPORT**

FURTHER SUPPORT

If you require any support, have accessibility requirements or have questions about the event please contact:

Jason Webber – Senior Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Sustainability Manager.

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Carys Ingram - Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Sustainability Executive.

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EVENT PARTNERS





ACCESS

Achieving Circularity in Cities through Environmental Sustainability of Sports

This event forms part of the ACCESS Project Funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme which is one of the latest advanced European projects exploring the world of environmental sustainability and environmental management in sports. ACCESS aims to narrow the gap between the current environmental performances of sport clubs and associations, their strategies, and the strategies and targets of the respective cities or regions they are located in.

Find out more about the project [HERE](#)



**Co-funded by
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CYMRU, WELL-BEING AND THE WORLD.

Find out more about the FAW's Sustainability initiatives [HERE](#)

