



# Newsletter

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*Welcome to the first edition of the Save Today, Play Tomorrow Newsletter*

*Issue #1 July 2021*

*Birmingham County FA*

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## In This Issue



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*In this months edition you can find more details and information on*

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**"Leading a positive change for the environment through football"**



Be the change you want to see



Living healthier, everyday



Learning for a better world



Bringing resources to life



@savetodayplaytomorrow

#savetodayplaytomorrow

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### What is Save Today, Play Tomorrow?

*Just days after the annual celebration of World Environment Day, Birmingham County FA has launched its '[Save Today, Play Tomorrow](#)' programme, its over-arching strategy for the next four years to create and support lower-carbon football in the West Midlands.*

*Save Today, Play Tomorrow is a series of planned initiatives, strategic partnerships and infrastructure investment that fall under four key themes - health and wellbeing, positive education, climate action and reconnecting football with nature.*

*As a governing body, Birmingham County FA (BCFA) recognises the need to take action now to ensure the beautiful game significantly reduces its environmental impact, whilst helping to educate those involved in football at all levels to make informed decisions that will shape how much future generations will be able to enjoy the game.*

*The aims of the initial four-year strategy are to stimulate conversations and positive action about the role football must play in addressing climate change. Furthermore, it is designed to engender innovation and partnerships, and goals include providing best practice guides, carbon literacy training, education and infrastructure support to the 1,200 football clubs, 4,780 teams, 1,100 match officials and almost 70,000 registered players that fall under its remit across all formats of the game, with the greater proportion falling under what is commonly known as 'grassroots'*

**"Our long-term goal with Save Today, Play Tomorrow is to play our part in protecting future generations' ability to enjoy this incredible game, which is such an important part of our community and identity for so many people. However, we also have a duty to support our current players; many of whose quality of life is already impacted by air quality issues, fuel poverty and environmental degradation"**

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## The Launch



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**Watch** *Birmingham County FA's CEO Kevin Shoemake interviewed for Midlands Today [here](#)*

**Listen** *to Richard Lindsay the programme lead on BBC Radio WM [here](#)*

*As part of the launch we are pleased to release new social handles and updated interactive webpages, you can find all the details in the "Contact Us" section*

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### ***Mental Health Training***

*Through our partners at Mind, along with UK Coaching & 1st 4 Sport, Birmingham County FA can bring you the following online learning package.*

*Once all four modules are completed you can download your certificate.*

*The course has been awarded 1.5 CPD points by the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA).*

[Start the course now](#)

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**Positive Education**  
STPT

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*Carbon Literacy Project*



*Carbon Literacy is relevant climate change learning that promotes positive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Carbon Literacy Project works to provide access to this learning to everyone who lives, works and studies and is expanding rapidly across the UK and beyond.*

**"Carbon Literate individuals understand how climate change will affect them – both geographically and sectorally – and have acquired the knowledge and skills to lower their carbon footprint, with typical realised carbon savings of 5-15% per person" (Jacobs 2018).**

*Find out more [here](#)*

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### ***Plastic FREE July***

*Its Plastic Free July! We can all make small changes to our daily lives to live with less plastic and help stop plastic water bottles and other single use items ending up in the sea and polluting our streets. It's easy to make simple switches that will make a big difference to our planet and we are proud to partner with city to see, a campaign an organisation campaigning to stop plastic pollution. Here are their top tips on simple changes you can make everyday to help you live with less plastic*

- .1. Carry a reusable water bottle to training sessions and matches instead of buying a new bottle of water. Remember you can refill your bottle at most training grounds for free! So you'll save money and reduce plastic! Win win!*
  - 2. If you like to enjoy a post-match cuppa of tea, coffee or hot chocolate, why not bring your own reusable coffee cup and ask for your hot drink to be served in that?*
  - 3. Starving after the game? Instead of getting takeaway food in lots of pointless plastic packaging, bring your own lunch box or tupperware and ask for your food to be put in that to take away.*
  - 4. Download the free refill app to find places you can refill your reusable water bottle, coffee cup, and lunch box. There are over 270,000 refill stations around the world so it's super easy to find one near you*
  - 5. For more tips and advice on living with less plastic in all areas of your life, visit [City to Sea's plastic free living hub](#)*
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# Reconnecting Football To Nature

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## *Green Spaces*

*Through our Green Innovation Fund we will help clubs that would like to offer part of their ground to create havens for natural habitat.*

*Maybe you can donate space to local schools to act as nature reserves or living study centres?*

*Are there areas of your local community where the football club can make a difference to wildlife and the ecosystems?*

- *Local litter pick or plastic removal from canals and rivers paths*
  - *Rewilding projects*
  - *Woodland Trust projects*
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## ***Pledgeball***



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**Have your club signed up to the first Birmingham County FA Sustainability Pledge in partnership with Pledgeball?**

*Pledgeball is a charity that encourages football fans to make sustainable lifestyle choices in support of their teams and, with Birmingham County FA - the first FA to do so, this does not only involve the higher tiers of the football pyramid but also the grassroots clubs.*

**Alongside fellow fans and club members, we can have a huge impact through making small changes. For example, if the 70,000 Birmingham County FA-registered players simply reduced their shower time to 5 minutes, the amount of carbon emissions saved would be the same as taking over 4,900 cars off the road!**

*Each club who've signed up to the Sustainability Pledge will be given a personalised listing on the [Pledgeball website](#) under Pledgeball events.*

*Over the course of the season, we will support each club to encourage their members, fans, parents and friends to make sustainable lifestyle pledges in support of the club. The amount pledged to be saved by each club will determine their place within the Birmingham County FA Sustainability League.*

*Each month, you can expect news of League standings, incentives to support individuals carrying out the pledges and information on specific pledges. See you next month*

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

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## ***Planet Super League***

**PLANET  
SUPER  
LEAGUE**

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### **WHAT IS PLANET SUPER LEAGUE?**

*Planet Super League is a game for football fans who want to look after the environment for future generations.*

*Families play together, tackling green activities to protect the planet, win points for their football club and track the impact they're having on their carbon footprint.*

*Hundreds of families all over the UK are taking part, representing 33 football clubs. There are over 60 planet-protecting activities on our site and we're adding new ones all the time. They range from everyday actions like walking or cycling instead of driving to ingenious ways to upcycle clothes or use old packaging in simple craft projects. There are activities to get you out of the house and interact with nature as well as creative challenges for rainy days.*

*We hope that by joining Planet Super League, as well as feeling good about helping the planet, you 'll spend more time together as a family, get fitter and healthier and save a few quid while you're at it*

### **Planet Super League Season 2 Highlights**

*Chesterfield FC won the trophy*

*- Northampton Town won the impact trophy (i.e. most CO2 saved)*

*- 20,000 actions completed*

*- 56,000 kg CO2 saved (equivalent to planting 3,200 trees)*

*The Summer Season kicks off July 5th, 2021 and you can register and get involved [here](#)*

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### ***Football Rebooted***



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***We want your boots!***

*Join the mission to rehome at least one million pairs of quality football boots across the UK, to stop them ending up in landfill. That's the same as taking 7,000 cars off the road for a year, in carbon reductions.*

***Football is back!***

*There's no better time to take part in football's biggest ever environmental campaign - Football, Rebooted. Grab yourself a FREE pair of pitch perfect football boots, or give someone else the chance to.*

[Get Started](#)

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smol



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*Dont forget, as part of your membership with Birmingham County FA you can take advantage of our partnership with the ethical laundry company smol*

"At smol we strive to create quality eco-friendly products at great value prices to ensure eco-friendly changes are effortless for everyone . After two years in development, we created the most effective concentrated laundry capsules in the world - certainly a match for the muddiest of football kit. We're delighted to be working with Birmingham County FA and to support each other in raising awareness of eco-friendly choices"

[Register here](#)

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## The Green Innovation Fund



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*As part of the launch we have also created a grant funding opportunity for football clubs committing to make long-term changes to the way they operate and behave that positively impacts the planet*

*Right now clubs can submit their Expression of Interest via this [link](#) for project such as;*

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- *Cycle Racks*
  - *Electric Vehicle Charging Points*
  - *Drinking Water Stations*
  - *Recycling Bins*
  - *Sustainability Training*
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*The fund is open to all clubs that have signed and actively working towards the Sustainability Pledge*

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## Contact Us



#SaveTodayPlayTomorrow

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Grassroots football clubs lose five weeks every season due to bad weather, with more than 1/3 losing between two and three months.  
(Game Changers Report)



@savetodayplaytomorrow

[www.birminghamfa.com](http://www.birminghamfa.com)

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*We would love to hear from individuals and clubs who are leading a positive change for football and the environment*

*Share with us your pictures, videos and emails and we will showcase these across all of our social platforms*

*For more information on the Save Today, Play Tomorrow Programme please contact us directly via the following channels*

*Email: [savetodayplaytomorrow@BirminghamFA.com](mailto:savetodayplaytomorrow@BirminghamFA.com)*

*Twitter: [@STPT21](https://twitter.com/STPT21)*

*Facebook: [savetodayplaytomorrow](https://www.facebook.com/savetodayplaytomorrow)*

*Instagram: [@savetodayplaytomorrow](https://www.instagram.com/savetodayplaytomorrow)*

*LinkedIn: [Birmingham County FA](#)*

*Visit us on the web [here](#)*

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#SAVETODAYPLAYTOMORROW

The UK government  
declared a climate  
emergency in 2019, setting  
a net-zero carbon target  
by 2050.