



# FIFA CLIMATE STRATEGY

Making football climate resilient and  
mitigating our impact on climate change







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## 1. FOREWORD BY THE FIFA PRESIDENT



There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a climate emergency. Environmental and climate change experts are reporting increasing global levels of carbon dioxide, temperatures around the world at the highest levels ever recorded, ice caps melting and ocean levels rising faster than predicted, and with the world experiencing more extreme weather events than ever before.

The change in weather patterns is impacting the environment and its rich biodiversity, food security and access to fresh water as well as the health and well-being of individuals. It is affecting the livelihood of entire communities and even threatens the existence of low-altitude countries and entire island nations.

Sport is not immune to climate change and around the world, grassroots, recreational, amateur and elite football is also being affected. Heat waves, heavy rainfall and other extreme weather conditions impact the ability for football to be played and lead to increased health risks for players. Violent weather events and rising sea levels damage football infrastructures with increasing air pollution risking the health of those who play sport in the open.

Football competitions, like all sporting events, are also being affected by climate change. Infrastructure and operations have already been impacted with match schedules disrupted, resulting in uncertainty for the players, fans, sponsors, broadcasters and organisers.

Climate change and its impact is undoubtedly one of the most pressing challenges of our time, if not the most critical, and it requires each of us to take immediate and sustainable climate action.

However, the scientists have also told us that it is not yet too late to avoid some of the worst effects of climate change by stopping the flow of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. To this end, FIFA has been taking steps to reduce emissions and to offset its carbon footprint at our flagship events, the FIFA World Cups for some years whilst working together with our tournament hosts and partners to ensure that the stadiums meet international climate friendly standards as a crucial host bidding requirements.

Following my election as FIFA President in 2016, FIFA became the first international sports organisation, to join the UNFCCC “Climate Neutral Now” campaign, pledging to measure, reduce and compensate the greenhouse gas emissions related to the FIFA World Cups. At the COP24 in Poland in 2018, FIFA also signed the new [UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action Framework](#) that brings together sports organisations, teams, athletes and fans in a concerted effort to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

These are of course important steps demonstrating FIFA’s determination to reduce FIFA’s and football’s emissions and contribute to achieving these global goals with a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and become net zero by 2040.

Indeed as FIFA President, a year ago, I have set out FIFA’s 11 goals to make football truly global in my Vision 2020-2023. This includes a firm commitment to protecting the environment and to harnessing the power of football to address global challenges such as climate change.

FIFA will continue to take climate action leadership by engaging actively and collectively in the journey to net zero. We will seize the opportunities offered by a new, greener direction of global growth and development to make our organisation and our sport ever more sustainable, more efficient and more successful. This FIFA Climate Strategy lays out our plan to accelerate the delivery of solutions to protect our beautiful planet and our beautiful game.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, representing Gianni Infantino.

**Gianni Infantino**  
**FIFA President**

## 2. FIFA AT A GLANCE

The iconic FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™ are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the work being carried out by FIFA day in, day out. As the international governing body of football, FIFA is responsible for developing and promoting the sport globally, ensuring that it is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate.

In order to achieve this objective, FIFA collaborates with its 211 Member Associations, the six Confederations and all football stakeholders to build football infrastructure, supply equipment, provide necessary technology, and train players, coaches and referees. FIFA also organises events and 14 women's and men's FIFA World Cups across all age groups, including the respective preliminary qualification phases, where all eligible Member Associations compete for spots at the final tournaments according to international match calendars.

For many years, FIFA has been working diligently on making its tournaments and its organisation more sustainable. In the Vision 2020-2023, FIFA reinforced its commitment to protect the environment and harness the power of football to address global challenges such as climate change and thereby contribute tangibly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

FIFA is committed to protecting the environment, its biodiversity and the climate. FIFA will reduce its resource consumption, as well as consolidate and further improve its management of environmental risks, obligations and opportunities with the aim of mitigating any negative impacts on the environment.

**FIFA President's Vision 2020-2023**



**6.42bn** **+16%**  
revenue in the 2015-2018 cycle  
v. 2011-2014 cycle

**1.05bn** **+141%**  
result before taxes and financial result in the 2015-2018 cycle  
v. 2011-2014 cycle

**2.74bn** **+80%**  
in reserves as at the end of the 2015-2018 cycle  
v. 2011-2014 cycle

**4bn**  
total investment in development and education by 2022

**1bn**  
total investment in women's football by 2022

**500m**  
investment in the development of football infrastructure by 2022

All financial figures are in USD

### 3. FIFA'S CLIMATE PROTECTION JOURNEY SINCE 2006

FIFA believes we all have a responsibility to protect, cherish and limit our impact on the environment. As an international organisation, we take this responsibility seriously and seek to set a good example for others. Since the launch of the Green Goal programme ahead of the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™, FIFA has engaged with its stakeholders and expert institutions to find sensible ways of addressing environmental issues and to mitigate the negative environmental impact of its activities.

One of the main drivers of climate change is the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere through human activities. Since 2009, FIFA has estimated the carbon footprint of its main tournaments and activities according to the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol in order to better understand the volume of attributable emissions. In collaboration with local organising committees, we have taken measures to reduce and offset the emissions associated with these competitions.

To that end, FIFA has implemented a variety of measures such as sustainable stadium certification requirements, competition-wide recycling programmes, environmental training for workforce and service providers, sustainable operations workshops for stadium managers, free inter and intra-city public transport services for fans, and climate action campaigns for ticket holders.

The main focus of FIFA's carbon offsetting portfolios has been on certified projects located in the host countries of our tournaments and supplemented by UN-certified emission reduction projects from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Through careful selection of such projects, we have not only helped to protect the environment, but also supported projects that benefit local communities through employment, training and health promotion as well as contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our collaboration with the UNFCCC started in 2016 when FIFA became the first and only sports federation to join their Climate Neutral Now campaign. In 2018, FIFA went a step further by becoming a signatory of the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework and committing to reach net zero emissions by mid-century as per the goals set by the Paris Agreement.

"Our commitment to protecting our climate remains unwavering. We recognise the critical need for everyone to help implement the Paris Agreement and accelerate the change needed to reach net zero emissions in the second half of the twenty-first century."

**FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura**

## FIFA's environmental and climate-related measures

### 2006

Green Goal programme of the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ in Germany, included a low-carbon project to generate electricity from sewage gas in the Sebokeng township in Gauteng, South Africa, offsetting 92,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### 2010

FIFA and FIFA World Cup Sponsor Yingli Solar installed solar panels at the "20 Centres for 2010" in communities across Africa and raised awareness about renewable energy.



### 2009

Incorporation of environmental protection requirements within bidding processes, starting with the FIFA World Cups™ in 2018 and 2022.

The first greenhouse gas accounting report for FIFA estimated the annual carbon emissions for 2009 at 48,488 tonnes.

### 2011

Host City Cape Town won the 2010/11 IOC Sport and the Environment Award for its environmental programme at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

FIFA and the local organising committee launched the first environmental programme for a FIFA Women's World Cup™. 40,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the tournament were offset and environmental measures for all official football stadiums led to annual savings of approximately 300'000 Euros.

Offsetting of emissions at FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 with a joint reforestation project in the Colombian Andes by FIFA, the local organising committee, the office of the President of Colombia, the Ministry of the Environment in Colombia and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



## 2012

FIFA introduced a new requirement that all official men's FIFA World Cup stadiums should achieve international sustainable building certification.

First FIFA and local organising committee joint sustainability strategy for a FIFA World Cup presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## 2014

FIFA compensated operational emissions of 251,000 tonnes through four certified low-carbon social development projects in Brazil.

More than 17'000 ticket holders signed up to the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ climate action campaign and registered over 40'000 journeys to and from Brazil, prompting FIFA to offset 80'000 tonnes of additional greenhouse gas emissions.

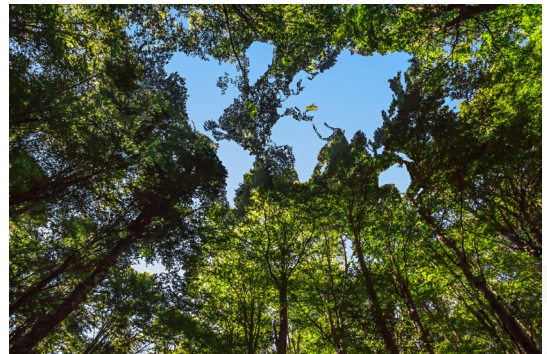
Together with Coca-Cola and local waste cooperatives, FIFA and the local organising committee implemented a recycling programme collecting 445 tonnes of recyclable waste during all matches of the 2014 FIFA World Cup™.

## 2013

FIFA published the greenhouse gas accounting report for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ with a special report on the carbon footprint of TV productions, the first of its kind in the broadcasting industry.

## 2016

As the first international sports organisation, FIFA joined the UNFCCC "Climate Neutral Now" campaign pledging to measure, reduce and compensate the greenhouse gas emissions related to the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.



## 2017

FIFA published the greenhouse gas accounting report of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™.

FIFA also published an Environmental Impact Study of Artificial Turf pitches with guidelines for Member Associations on how to ensure more environmental-friendly use and recycling of such playing surfaces.



## 2019

FIFA President set out his Vision 2020-2023 – Making Football Truly Global 11 Goals including commitment to protecting the environment, taking further climate action and to harnessing the power of football to address global challenges such as climate change.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 in France implemented environmental measures to reduce food waste, to promote more climate friendly mobility and to further develop stadium recycling systems.

Environmental programmes of bidders for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ evaluated as part of the selection process.

## 2018

FIFA compensated the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ operational greenhouse gas emissions of 243'000 tonnes through certified low-carbon projects in Russia and abroad.

At the COP24 in Poland, FIFA signed the new UNFCCC Sports for Climate Action Framework that brings together sports organisations, teams, athletes and fans in a concerted effort to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, so by committing to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Environmental programmes of bidders for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ evaluated and reported to FIFA's member associations as a critical part of the selection process.

## 2020

FIFA published the FIFA World Cup 2022™ Sustainability Strategy jointly with FIFA's delivery partners, the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and Q22. The tournament organisers' committed to measure, mitigate and offset the FIFA World Cup 2022™ GHG emissions.

## 2021

FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ ex-ante Greenhouse Gas Accounting report published noting to the new climate-friendly measures and technologies that have been developed to deliver a sustainable tournament.



## 2022

Completion of the first fully demountable stadium that also fulfils the requirements of an official FIFA World Cup stadium.

Sustainable building certification achieved for all FIFA World Cup 2022 stadiums.

State-of-the-art cooling technology in stadiums with up to 45% energy savings.

Completion of climate-friendly FIFA World Cup transport systems, including metro and network of charging points for official vehicle fleet and public buses.

Offsetting by the host country of emissions related to fans air travel, operations and stadium construction of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Offsetting of FIFA World Cup operational emissions through certified low-carbon projects.



## 2023

Publication of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Sustainability Report under GRI standard.

Publication of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 ex-post Greenhouse Gas Accounting report.

Delivery of the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023 Sustainability Strategy.

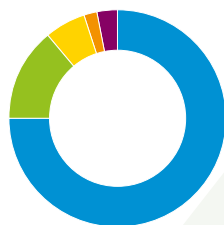
Publication of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Sustainability Strategy.



## Greenhouse gas emission reports

### FIFA in 2009

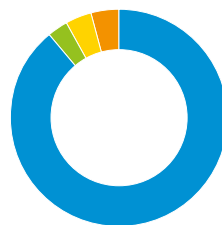
Total: 48,488 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Flights
- Hotel stays
- Logistics
- Production
- Other (Electricity, heating, transport, commuting, etc.)

### FIFA in 2015

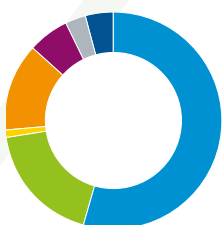
Total: 77,475 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Business travels
- Accommodation
- Logistics
- Accommodation

### 2010 FIFA World Cup

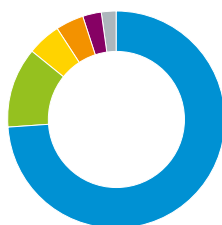
Total: 48,405 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- International transport
- Inter-city transport
- Intra-city transport
- Accommodation
- Logistics
- Printed matter
- Power used for online media

### 2018 FIFA World Cup

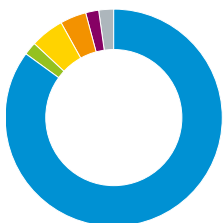
Total: 2,17m tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Travel
- Accommodation
- Food and beverages
- Temporary infrastructure
- Merchandise
- Other

### FIFA Women's World Cup 2011

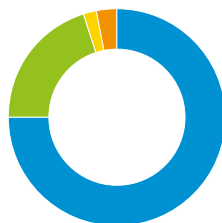
Total: 40,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- International transport
- Inter-city transport
- Intra-city transport
- Accommodation
- Logistics
- Printed matter
- Power used for online media

### FIFA Women's World Cup 2019

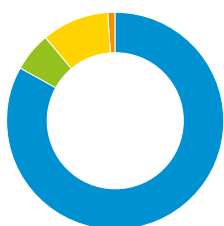
Total: 341,630 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Travel
- Accommodation and catering
- Operational activities
- Other

### 2014 FIFA World Cup

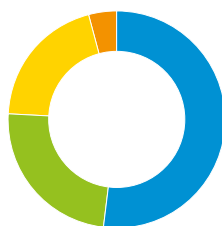
Total: 2.7m tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Transportation
- Accommodation
- Venue
- Merchandise Production
- Logistics

### FIFA World Cup 2022

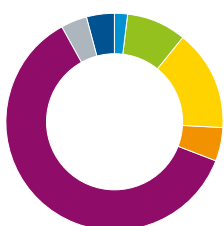
Total: 3,63m tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Accommodation
- Other

### 2014 FIFA World Cup TV Productions

Total: 24,670 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Power Consumption
- Equipment & satellite transmission
- Air freight
- Sea freight
- International travel of workforce
- National travel of workforce
- Accommodation of workforce

## 4. THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOTBALL

The changes in the Earth's physical environment and the socio-economic transition happening due to climate change are far-reaching, with sport and its development impacted too. Indeed, these changes threaten FIFA's own mission to *make football truly global*.

With more extreme and unseasonal weather events, erratic rainfall patterns and heat waves across the world, climate changes are also reducing the amount of time that football can be played outdoors, making it less attractive to play in the open, in some cases even dangerous to do so and risking especially the health of children and young people due to the extreme temperatures risking heat exhaustion, impact injuries due to harder playing surfaces, and increasing levels of air pollution caused by fossil fuels, traffic and industrial emissions. The planet is also experiencing more violent thunderstorms, hurricanes and typhoons that also damage football infrastructures, reducing the availability of playing and training facilities. Droughts, heavier rainfall, longer cold spells and rising sea levels are eroding playing surfaces and other football facilities, adding further stress to the infrastructure required for playing football at all levels. In short, the changes to the environment are starting to impact the rights of everyone to have equal and inclusive access to sport, with reductions in available playing times and infrastructures directly affecting all who wish to participate.

For FIFA competitions, a reliable match schedule is key for participating teams, fans, broadcasters and commercial affiliates. Yet, an increased frequency of extreme and unseasonal weather events exposes match schedules to disruptions that can significantly impact the course of the tournament. Heat waves and heavy rainfall also impact the performance of players and lessen the level of comfort for fans in the stadium. As matches become increasingly susceptible to erratic weather, they will also become less attractive for broadcasters and the global TV audience.

FIFA's competitions, like all sporting events, need to contribute to the ongoing socio-economic transitions to protect the environment and stop further climate change. For example, new air travel regulations will affect the movement of the workforce, guests, teams and fans to and from FIFA tournaments. The global pandemic is enabling each of us to evaluate current practices and FIFA is taking a lead role in this regard in football, making use of new technologies such as virtual stadium tours and reducing travel wherever possible. New local legislation for climate-friendly events and climate-resilient infrastructure will require FIFA to continue adapting its tournament concepts to adhere to and support the ambitions and climate action plans of the host countries and the world.



## 5. FIFA'S STRATEGIC APPROACH

### Vision

Our vision is for FIFA to reach net zero emissions by 2040, and for football to be a unifying tool to drive global climate awareness and action.

### Purpose

As the international governing body of the planet's most popular sport and the organiser of the largest single-sport event in the world, FIFA has a significant role to play in climate action in the world of sports and beyond. Consequently, FIFA is determined to continue to take a lead role in sport, joining the states, cities, businesses and organisations that are leading the way by defining a clear strategy and setting ambitious goals to respond to the challenges of climate change in a tangible manner. In addition to FIFA's own responsibility as a global corporate citizen, FIFA recognises the importance in joining forces together with its stakeholders, including FIFA's 211 Member Associations, sponsors, investors, the media, players, fans and the wider public. By doing so, FIFA aims to protect football from the many risks posed by climate change and to ensure that both the organisation and football worldwide becomes ever more sustainable and climate action responsible. This new FIFA Climate Strategy builds on the steps taken to date and sets out still further

measures to strengthen FIFA's climate protection and environmental programme and to help ensure that FIFA's pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2040 becomes a reality.

### Strategic framework

FIFA's Climate Strategy is built on a foundation of four pillars of climate action that will enable FIFA to reach net zero emissions by 2040, reduce all avoidable emissions, and remove residual emissions from the atmosphere. The strategic framework guides the development of key goals and initiatives, ensures focus for the FIFA administration, facilitates alignment across the world of football, and establishes the scale that is needed to transform our organisation, our competitions and football over the next decades.

"Our vision is for FIFA to reach net zero by 2040, and for football to be a unifying tool to drive global climate awareness and action."

**FIFA Climate Vision**



#### Educate

the global football workforce on climate-related impacts and climate-friendly solutions



#### Adapt

football regulations and activities to be more resilient to current and anticipated impacts of climate change



#### Reduce

the carbon emissions of FIFA and football to contribute to the Paris Agreement and the Sports for Climate Action Framework



#### Support & Invest

key stakeholders with access to know-how to tackle the impacts of climate change as well as climate friendly investments

**KEY CLIMATE GOALS**  
*Climate Initiatives*



### Key goals and initiatives

Delivering on something as transformational – and at the same time necessary – as reaching net zero by mid-century requires substantial efforts from all state and non-state actors. For organisations like FIFA, achieving its net-zero goals by 2040 demands strong leadership, unwavering commitment and the collaboration of its internal functional areas and external stakeholders.

The IPCC defines net zero as a state where there is no incremental addition of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. This means that once all avoidable emissions have been reduced, residual emissions

have to be removed from the atmosphere. Our path to pursuing this target is guided by FIFA's international commitments to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework and by our strategic framework. The target will be met by implementing concrete initiatives to achieve our key goals.

The following three key goals outline the game plan for FIFA's climate action work for the coming decades. The implementation of the listed initiatives will expand on FIFA's long-standing climate and environmental programme and will be prioritised in the current FIFA cycle.

### Goal 1: Make our organisation ready for climate action

FIFA will review and adapt its existing management systems and football regulations to improve processes that will lead to climate-friendly performance and solutions. FIFA will also strengthen the knowledge on risks and impacts of climate change on football, facilitate the transfer of this knowledge, track the key climate indicators for football and monitor the impacts to effectively support climate strategies in football.

Initiatives	Pillar
Set-up a data management system to estimate greenhouse gas emissions of FIFA, track key climate indicators, and monitor climate impacts on global football on a regular basis	<b>Reduce Support &amp; Invest</b>
Develop reduction plan and define science-based annual targets according to the Paris Agreement and the Sports for Climate Action Framework (net zero emissions by 2040; 50% emission reduction by 2030) for FIFA's three emission hot spots, namely business travel, logistics and accommodation	<b>Adapt Reduce</b>
Create an offsetting portfolio and purchase certified carbon credits to compensate FIFA's remaining emissions on an annual basis (as of 2021)	<b>Reduce Support &amp; Invest</b>
Develop and implement a Climate Literacy programme for the FIFA workforce	<b>Educate</b>
Publish a bi-annual FIFA Climate Report to disclose FIFA's progress and the global situation in football	<b>Educate Support &amp; Invest</b>

## Goal 2: Protect our iconic tournaments from the negative impacts of climate change

FIFA's iconic tournaments and youth competitions will be impacted by an increased frequency of extreme weather events as well as new policies and regulations to protect the environment and stop further climate change. To be prepared for those challenges, FIFA will review concepts and regulations linked to its tournaments and events to further increase climate resilience and to reduce associated carbon emissions. Furthermore, FIFA will work with the hosts of its tournaments to strengthen existing requirements and develop measures that support national ambitions and global climate action plans.

Initiatives	Pillar
Review concepts, requirements, agreements and regulations for FIFA tournaments and events to adapt them to climate change impacts and to reduce their associated carbon emissions	<b>Adapt Reduce</b>
Develop a standardised greenhouse gas accounting methodology for FIFA tournaments and preliminary competitions	<b>Support &amp; Invest</b>
Implement all climate action initiatives of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Sustainability Strategy	<b>Reduce Support Educate</b>
Develop and implement standardised and scalable climate action programmes for all FIFA tournaments in collaboration with the hosts with measures that also support their national plans and meet their ambitions	<b>Reduce Support &amp; Invest</b>
Create an offsetting portfolio to offset emissions related to all FIFA tournaments and events with certified carbon offsets	<b>Reduce</b>
Implement a climate action programme for fans attending FIFA tournaments to raise awareness, reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions	<b>Educate Reduce Support &amp; Invest</b>

### Goal 3: Ensure climate-resilient football development

FIFA will work in close collaboration with its Member Associations, Confederations, key football stakeholders and expert institutions to screen for climate-related risks for participants and infrastructure, anticipate adverse impacts, and implement appropriate solutions to prevent or minimise the damage and to ensure the continued global development of the game.

Initiatives	Pillar
Carry out a global survey and research to estimate the greenhouse gas emission of football globally and determine the current extent of the impact of climate change on football across the world	<i>Reduce Adapt</i>
Implement a Climate Literacy programme to educate and raise awareness amongst Member Associations and Confederations on climate change and the importance of urgent climate action	<i>Educate Support &amp; Invest</i>
Create a Football Climate Hub to strengthen and facilitate knowledge transfer on climate action for football officials, professionals, and players	<i>Educate Support &amp; Invest</i>
Establish clear guidelines to support Member Associations and Confederations in their adaptation, mitigation and emergency projects	<i>Support &amp; Invest</i>
Establish new FIFA Forward Funding Sustainability and Green Building Guidance for Member Associations to develop capacity and climate friendly investment of FIFA's development funds	<i>Educate Reduce Support &amp; Invest</i>
Set-up sustainable and climate action oriented procurement policy and guidelines	<i>Adapt Reduce</i>
Invest in line with sustainable criteria and in investment opportunities which actively support a change to net zero	<i>Support &amp; Invest</i>

In line with our vision for FIFA to reach net zero emissions by 2040 and for football to be a unifying tool to drive global climate awareness and action, we commit to delivering upon the above-mentioned goals in a responsible manner. Further initiatives to expand FIFA's climate work will be necessary over the next decades, and we will not deviate from the path set by the current strategy nor from our commitment to climate leadership in the world of sports.



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