

British Fencing Base Year Operational Carbon Footprint Introduction



This summary report presents the results of the operational base year (FY 22/23) carbon footprint for the British Fencing National Governing Body (NGB).

Context

In March 2023, UK Sport published its Environmental Sustainability Strategy which includes a goal for high-performance sport to have a net positive impact on the environment by 2040.

UK Sport calculated their first operational carbon footprint in 2022, appreciating that this represented only 6% of their expenditure. 94% of UK Sport's expenditure is provided as funding to the high-performance sport sector.

Therefore, in 2023 UK Sport appointed Useful Projects and Sporting Giants to deliver an environmental sustainability support programme for its funded NGBs (the 'Accelerator Programme'). The programme supported the NGBs to calculate their operational carbon footprint and develop an environmental sustainability action plan in line with the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

The Useful Projects and Sporting Giants team supported the British Fencing team to calculate this base year operational carbon footprint using the Useful Projects Get Set Zero carbon footprint tool. The Get Set Zero tool accounts for carbon emissions of the organisation in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol 'Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard' methodology and principles.



Completeness

The British Fencing Base Year Carbon Footprint includes all relevant emissions scopes and categories as defined by the GHG Protocol:

Emissions scope	Emissions source
Scope 1	Gas use in owned / controlled facilities
Scope 2	Purchased electricity in owned / controlled facilities
Scope 3.1	Purchased goods and services
Scope 3.2	Capital goods
Scope 3.3	Indirect fuel- and energy- related emissions
Scope 3.5	Waste generated in operations and water use
Scope 3.6	Business travel and accommodation
Scope 3.7	Employee commuting and homeworking energy use

British Fencing owns its head office space, and therefore has scope 1 or 2 emissions associated with the head office energy use.

Data Quality

Calculating carbon footprints and the associated data collection is an iterative process, where the aim is to improve accuracy of data year-on-year. Base year carbon footprints often include assumptions, exclusions, and poor-quality data due to a lack of formalised data collection and management processes for carbon data. For example, most organisations use financial data to calculate carbon emissions from purchased goods and services in their base year, using generic 'spend-based' emissions factors (kgCO₂e/£), rather than supplier-specific factors.

Due to the high level of uncertainty inherent in base year carbon footprint calculations, subsequent footprints may increase against the base year as more accurate data is captured. Recommendations for improving data collection and calculation accuracy are presented on page 3.

The purpose of a base year carbon footprint is to provide a best estimate based on the data available and identify carbon hotspots and focus areas for the development of net zero targets and targeted decarbonisation actions.

British Fencing Base Year Operational Carbon Footprint Results summary



The British Fencing FY 22/23 base year carbon footprint is approximately 672 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases (tCO₂e).

This is made up of 0% scope 1, 0.05% scope 2, and 99.96% scope 3 emissions.

It is very common for Sport National Governing Bodies to have predominantly scope 3 operational emissions.

671.9 tCO₂e

Approximate annual emissions (scope 1, 2, and 3)

30.5 tCO₂e / FTE

Approximate emissions per FTE employee

Scope 1 emissions

0.0 tCO₂e **0.0** tCO₂e / FTE

Scope 2 emissions

0.3 tCO₂e **0.0** tCO₂e / FTE

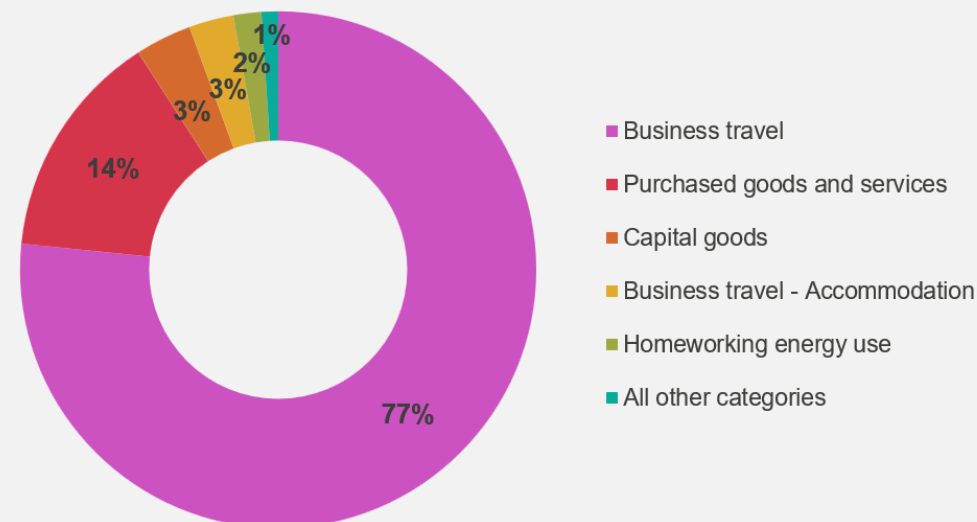
Scope 3 emissions

671.6 tCO₂e **30.5** tCO₂e / FTE

EMISSIONS CATEGORIES IN ORDER: CARBON HOTSPOTS

Top emissions sources: all scopes (highest to lowest)		% of total emissions	tCO ₂ e	tCO ₂ e/FTE
S3.6	Business travel	76.6%	514.7	23.40
S3.1	Purchased goods and services	14.3%	96.0	4.36
S3.2	Capital goods	3.5%	23.7	1.08
*S3.6	Business travel - Accommodation	2.8%	18.7	0.85
*S3.7	Homeworking energy use	1.8%	11.8	0.54
S3.7	Employee commuting	1.0%	6.6	0.30
S2	Purchased electricity in facilities you occupy	0.0%	0.3	0.01
S3.3	Fuel- and energy- related activities	0.0%	0.1	0.00

Top Emissions Scope Categories: Carbon Hotspots



The largest emissions sources contributing to the British Fencing's Base Year Operational Carbon Footprint are:

1. Business travel at 76.7%
2. Purchased goods and services at 14.3%
3. Capital goods at 3.5%

These 'carbon hotspots' will be key areas of focus for the British Fencing environmental sustainability action plan. Service-based organisations such as NGBs often report business travel and purchased goods and services as their most significant sources of emissions, especially when following the spend-based calculation method.

Flights contribute 82% of the total emissions from business travel. These include the flights taken by employees and athlete travel funded by British Fencing for international competitions.

With 99.96% of British Fencing's operational emissions within scope 3, they have influence but not direct control over these emissions sources. To reduce these emissions, British Fencing will need to partner with other sports to influence and engage with their supply chain.

British Fencing Base Year Operational Carbon Footprint

Data improvements and next steps



Data Improvements

The adjacent table provides recommendations for carbon data improvements to increase the accuracy of British Fencing's next carbon footprint calculation.

Conclusions

Utilising the Useful Projects Get Set Zero tool, the British Fencing team have estimated their operational carbon footprint for the FY 22/23 using the best available data.

For this base year calculation, the British Fencing team relied upon spend-based data to estimate emissions from business travel, accommodation, and purchased goods and services. This spend-based data should be replaced with activity-specific (e.g., distance) data for future calculations.

Carbon Reduction Targets

Within their 2023 Environmental Sustainability Strategy, UK Sport encourages NGBs to align with the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#) (as appropriate, in relation to size, for example). This is a unifying initiative for the global sports community, bringing organisations together in a collective effort. The Sports for Climate Action Framework commitment requires the following carbon reduction targets are set, inclusive of scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions:

- Reduce emissions 50% by 2030
- Reach net zero emissions by 2040.

Emissions scope	Recommended data improvements
Scope 2	Improve energy efficiency of the building and switch to a renewable electricity contract.
Scope 3.1 and 3.2	Replace spend data with supplier-specific data. Engage with top 20 suppliers to understand supplier-specific product or service emissions factors.
Scope 3.5	Better capture office waste data, improve recycling initiatives, and reduce waste to incineration or landfill.
Scope 3.6	Replace spend data with distance data. Collect business travel distance (miles travelled per mode) and accommodation nights per country.
Scope 3.7	Perform an employee survey to understand if employees have a renewable electricity tariff for work from home energy use.

Next Steps

This base year carbon footprint report provides British Fencing with a first estimate of their carbon emissions impact. This is the first step in the operational emissions reduction process; measurement to enable management.

It is recommended that the carbon footprint calculation is repeated annually to measure any reductions made and track progress towards targets. Annual measurement and reporting is a requirement of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

The next step in the UK Sport Accelerator Programme is the development of an external-facing environmental sustainability action plan. This action plan will include carbon reduction targets, developed through this understanding of the operational carbon hotspots.

It will also focus on broader environmental sustainability outcomes. The action plan will include British Fencing's environmental sustainability vision, external commitments, priority areas, and targets with delivery timeframes, responsibilities, and methodology.

Contact

For more information on this carbon footprint, please contact:

- British Fencing: Neil Brown, neil.brown@britishfencing.com
- Useful Projects: Kate Boylan, kate.b@usefulprojects.co.uk

