DESERT VIPERS

SEASON 2 CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT

JANUARY 2025

COMMENTS

FROM THE CEO, PHIL OLIVER

"Every sports organisation has an impact on the environment, which threatens the future of sport. Historically, only a handful of sporting organisations have attempted to quantify this impact publicly, and Desert Vipers are now pleased to join this select number and pick up the bat for cricket teams. We have made great strides in acting more sustainably as an organisation over the last 18 months, and this report details the score on our scoreboard. It shows where we stand after the opening overs, allowing us to take stock of how we need to bat over the rest of the innings to win the most important game for the future of our sport."

FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY LEAD, BEN HARDY-JONES

"As a signatory to the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework, we must report on our annual carbon footprint and use our platform to promote and advocate for positive changes. This report brings new life into carbon reporting: laying bare our carbon footprint in a simple way for fans to understand, and transparently showing both our wins and our challenges ahead. We have achieved a significant amount in a short space of time for a new franchise, and this would not be possible without the help and support of everybody within Desert Vipers, our Sustainability Partners, and our fans. The first over has been bowled. We must check the scoreboard. And we must now win."

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GLOSSARY

HERE ARE SOME OF THE TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

BASELINE EMISSIONS
A benchmark year against which a company tracks its emission reduction performance over time

CARBON DIOXIDE (CO_2)
A naturally occurring gas in our atmosphere, measured in parts per million (ppm), which is the leading cause of most greenhouse gas emissions

CLIMATE CHANGE
Long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. Since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas), which produces heat-trapping gases

CARBON FOOTPRINT
The value showing the total amount of greenhouse gases from an activity or organisation. It is commonly reported in tonnes (or kilograms) of carbon dioxide equivalent

DP WORLD ILT20
The DP World International League T20. The UAE's premier cricket tournament

EMISSIONS
The release of greenhouse gases through activity into the atmosphere. This is commonly referred to as carbon emissions

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
The (negative) effects of actions on the natural components of the planet

$kgCO_2e$
Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent. A unit of measurement with which to measure your greenhouse gas emissions

ICC
International Cricket Council. The governing body of cricket

Net Zero
Defined by the IPCC as the point when human-made emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by human-made removals, over a specified period. Typically, this means reducing emissions by 90% against a baseline year, & then offsetting the remaining 10%

S1
Season 1 of DP World ILT20

S2
Season 2 of DP World ILT20

tCO_2e
Tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. A unit of measurement with which to measure your greenhouse gas emissions

HERE ARE SOME CARBON FOOTPRINT COMPARISONS FOR REFERENCE

2.0 tCO_2e – The average annual CO_2e emissions per person in India

25.8 tCO_2e – The average annual CO_2e emissions per person in the UAE

327.8 tCO_2e – The carbon footprint of Edgbaston's Go Green Game in 2023

490,000 tCO_2e – The carbon footprint of Euro 2024

1,750,000 tCO_2e – The target emissions for the 2024 Paris Olympics

INTRODUCTION

ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS ARE ALREADY NEGATIVELY AFFECTING SOCIETY AND SPORTS. IN 2023, GLOBAL TEMPERATURES WERE, ON AVERAGE, 1.36°C WARMER THAN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, BRINGING CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS: IN CRICKET-PLAYING NATIONS WE HAVE SEEN HURRICANES, FLOODING, AND DROUGHT THIS YEAR, SEVERELY AFFECTING PEOPLE AND THE GAME.

Despite the urgent need for sports organisations to prioritise sustainability and the fact that cricket is the turf sport most-affected by climate change, cricket has seen a disappointingly low rate of progress so far. The ICC are yet to publish a sustainability strategy, and only six cricket organisations have signed up to the flagship UN Sports for Climate Action. Desert Vipers are proud to be amongst this select few, but we urge others to join us, as we only win if we all win.

Desert Vipers have integrated environmental responsibility into the heart of our operations. Sustainability is one of the core elements of our HISS values (High performance, Innovation, Sustainability, Social), and we have already achieved a fair amount in a short stretch of time.

SEASON 2 CARBON FOOTPRINT

775.7 tCO_2e

Footprint for Season 2

15.1% ↓

Vs Season 1

24 AREAS

Reported on

18 $kgCO_2e$

Per fan attended

1,042 DATA POINTS

20% FAN GROWTH

Social media

4,320 HOURS

4,320 hours of climate education delivered through Schools Program

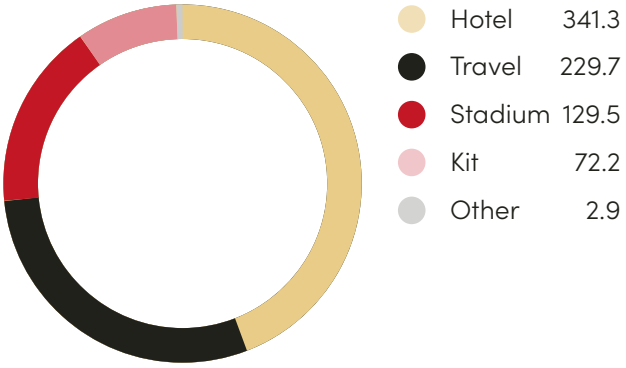
CARBON FOOTPRINT

SUMMARY

SEASON 2'S CARBON FOOTPRINT WAS 775.7 TCO2E, WHICH WAS 15.1% LOWER THAN SEASON 1'S BASELINE FOOTPRINT OF 913.4 TCO_2E.

Hotel stays made up 44% of the footprint, followed by travel (30%), stadiums (17%), and kit (9%).

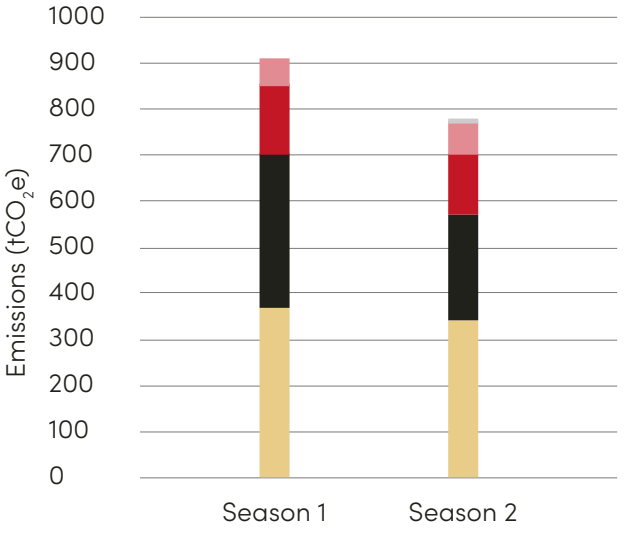
SEASON 2'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



SEASON 2'S FOOTPRINT WAS 15.1% LOWER THAN SEASON 1, PREDOMINANTLY FOR TWO REASONS:

1. Reduced air travel and lower class of travel – this makes up the bulk of the emissions reduction.

2. In Season 1, we reached the final of DP World ILT20, so we played more matches and had a longer hotel stay. Our emissions from hotel and stadium usage was therefore slightly higher in S1 than S2.

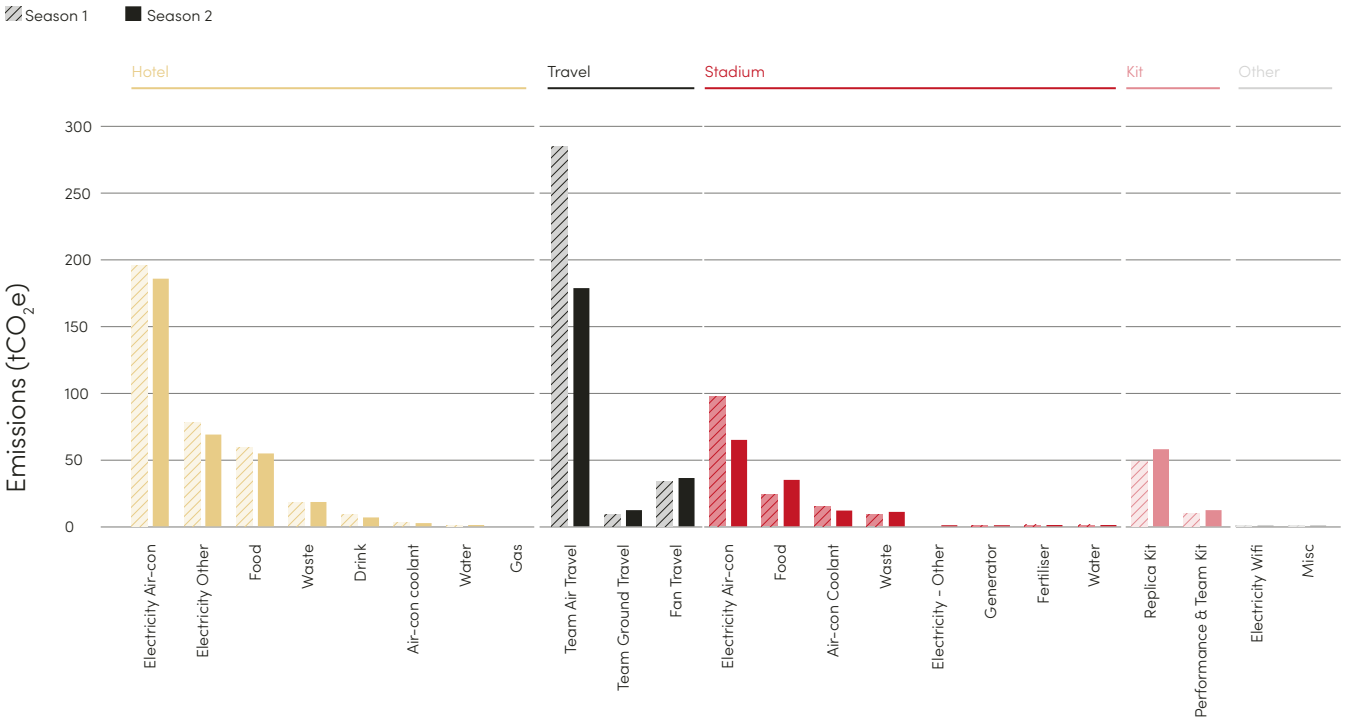


REPORTING SCOPE

Desert Vipers attempts to take accountability for all areas of its operations (including those that many sports organisations don't report on, such as replica kit and fan travel). However, difficulties in receiving data from suppliers means that some footprint sources are estimated, and a minor number of sources are missing. For full transparency, a breakdown of which emissions sources are included and their accuracy in each season is shown in the Appendix.

SEASON 2 CARBON FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS

THIS SECTION BREAKS DOWN THE SOURCES OF EMISSIONS IN MORE GRANULAR DETAIL.



HOTEL

Emissions decreased by 7.7% versus S1. This is due to:

- Spending 6.9% more nights in the hotel in S1, due to progressing further in the tournament.
- Some sustainability improvements from the team hotel.

The largest source of emissions was from electricity for air-con. Given the UAE's warm climate, this is unsurprising, but this finding reveals an important area to address. Air-con will be one of the focus campaigns for Season 3 and beyond, since collectively, emissions from air-con were 268.3 tCO_2e - more than one-third of the total footprint!

TRAVEL

Emissions decreased by a staggering 30.1% from Season 1, due to:

- Flying less.
- Changing how we fly - no executives fly business class as standard.

Despite this, the majority (78.3%) of travel emissions still came from flying.

Team Travel on the ground increased slightly due to a larger team, and fan travel also increased by 3.2 tCO_2e (9.7% increase), due to more fans in S2 vs S1. However, compared to other sports organisations, fan travel is a small source of emissions as around 92% of fans arrive via bus and virtually all fans come from the UAE.

STADIUM

Emissions decreased by 14.0% from S1 to S2, due to playing fewer matches.

But, more fans increased some emissions:
- More food was served in hospitality (increasing emissions by 11.4 tCO_2e).
- More general waste was produced, which outweighed the 2% increase in recycling rates from adding plastic recycling bins as a trial.

We only received partial information from our home venue, the Dubai International Stadium (DIS). Most of the stadium values in this report were provided by Sharjah Stadium for our home match there, and extrapolated to the DIS based on the number of games and venue size. Greater cooperation from DIS would significantly reduce uncertainty around the emissions.

KIT

Emissions increased by 19.3% from S1 to S2. This is due to the growth of fans at matches and the resulting increase in replica kit. Most sports organisations do not report on emissions from replica kit, however, as the producer of the kit, we feel a sense of duty to take accountability for this.

In Season 3, we are focussing on kit, and have just announced a multi-year deal with PalmFit so that we can use the most sustainable kit manufactured locally in the UAE available today. This kit will be available for purchase by fans and other organisations, allowing them to reduce their footprint by purchasing the 'Viper Line'.

Kit also has a large plastic footprint, with it being made mostly of virgin polyester: see the Season 2 Plastic Impact Report for a full breakdown.

OTHER

Several other areas of operation contributed 2.8 tCO_2e to the footprint. These include home-working electricity, team expenses, and team bus branding.

A NOTE ON SEASON 1'S BASELINE

In 2023 Desert Vipers published a Sustainability Strategy Framework, which included our Season 1 carbon footprint. This was measured at 573.3 tCO_2e , which is less than the 913.4 tCO_2e value used in this report. The reason for this change is due to re-baselining after calculating the footprint of significantly more emissions sources in Season 2, and then retrospectively applying that information to Season 1. This more accurately reflects the footprint of the franchise in its first season, and can be used as a true baseline going forwards for which to measure our footprint against. Season 1 has been used as a baseline to report to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

LOOKING AHEAD

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SEASON 3?

DESERT VIPERS MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN SEASON 2 TO REDUCE EMISSIONS BY 15.1%, BUT THE WORK DOESN'T STOP THERE. THE BASELINE GIVES US A GREAT STARTING POINT TO PRIORITISE EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND SHOW PARTNERS THE DATA. WE ALREADY HAVE SOME EXCITING PLANS FOR SEASON 3 WHICH WILL HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR FOOTPRINT:

1. NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH PALMFIT SETTING A NEW STANDARD FOR SPORTS APPAREL.

Sports apparel contributed to 9% of our carbon footprint in S2, but it is a highly visible and controllable area, so one that we have addressed ahead of Season 3. Our performance and team kit will be made from fully recycled materials from PalmFit, with replica kit being made completely out of recycled plastic bottles (from the same system as bottles that fans recycled in last season's Sustainability Match, making that a more circular system).

WE ESTIMATE THAT CHANGING TO FULLY RECYCLED MATERIALS WILL REDUCE KIT EMISSIONS BY APPROXIMATELY 50%, WITH ANOTHER 8% REDUCTION THROUGH MAKING THE KIT LOCALLY IN THE UAE.

Finally, we are creating a shop. This features replica kit and 'The Viper Line', where people can buy the recycled material from PalmFit for their own sports team, reducing their own emissions by 50% through switching to recycled materials. From a Desert Vipers footprint perspective, this will represent an increase in emissions from sold kit, as we have not previously had a shop. However, this will reduce the carbon footprint of sports kit across the whole industry, because increasing PalmFit's presence in the market will crowd out suppliers of unsustainable, virgin materials, creating a better & more sustainable marketplace for all sports organisations.

LOOKING AHEAD

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SEASON 3?

2. BIGGER TEAM & MORE ACTIVITY

Desert Vipers' team has grown, which allows us to have a bigger positive impact. However, more team members = more nights at hotels, more travel, and more activity. In addition, our regionally and internationally awards-nominated Schools Program is growing, which results in more kit being distributed.

We are also working hard to develop cricket in the UAE for both boys and girls, and have entered teams at the R66T Cup and the DP World ILT20 Development Tournament. In Season 3, we plan to take schoolchildren on an international cricket tour, impacting emissions. However, it is essential to prepare the next generation of cricketers, and we will look to minimise the carbon footprint of this, while taking the opportunity to teach youth players about sustainability.

WHAT COMES AFTER SEASON 3?

Society as a whole needs to take urgent action on climate change, so while Desert Vipers will continue to measure and reduce its carbon footprint, our greatest contribution is through using our platform to positively influence policy and people. We approach this in five ways:

1 Local governments and communities

- Dubai Sports Council are our Lead Sustainability Partner.
- Our Schools & Community Programmes teach about sustainability.

2 Partnerships

- Many organisations have solutions for sustainability challenges, but don't necessarily have a platform through which to tell sustainability stories in context. Others see Desert Vipers as a credible and influential vehicle for their own sustainability storytelling and marketing. Desert Vipers uses its platform as a trusted sports organisation to positively promote its Sustainability Partners.

3 Other sports organisations

- Desert Vipers releases publicly-available reports and blogs so that others can learn from and replicate our initiatives.
- We have recently written to certain other cricket organisations to form a Cricket Sustainability Lobbying Board, working together to push for change.

4 Players

- Players have huge influence, so we are creating opportunities for ours to learn about sustainability & how they can get involved.

5 Team

- Every internal employee makes daily decisions with implications for sustainability. Desert Vipers have run training sessions for staff on sustainability & add sustainability as a lens through which we take decisions about everything.

SELECTED INITIATIVES

1. FLIGHTS - ECONOMY CLASS VS BUSINESS CLASS

Desert Vipers made significant progress in reducing our carbon footprint through air travel policy changes. A large portion of flights were shifted from business to economy, through mandating that staff travel economy as standard, and incentivising players & coaches to fly economy. This was hugely successful: total flight hours decreased slightly, and the overall carbon footprint decreased significantly from 285 tCO_2e to 180 tCO_2e.

Class of Flight	Economy	Premium Economy	Business	Total
Season 1 Hours	311	58	830	1,199
Season1 Footprint (tCO_2e)	30	7	248	285
Season 2 Hours	445	243	389	1,077
Season2 Footprint (tCO_2e)	43	30	107	180

WHY FLYING ECONOMY IS MORE SUSTAINABLE:

1. Space Efficiency: Economy class seats are packed more densely, allowing airlines to transport more passengers with the same amount of fuel, with accountability for the fuel spread across more people.

2. Resource Use: Catering in business class involves more extensive and high-carbon menus. Additionally, business class provides more individual amenities, such as toiletries and enhanced seating materials, increasing resource use and waste. Finally, personal taxis are provided, increasing emissions from travel to and from the airport.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS POLICY:

1. Scale of the Issue: Flying is one of the largest footprint contributors to sports teams.

2. Leading by Example: Sports organisations are highly visible and influential. In a world dominated by overconsumption, sports can use its platform to show that economy class is more than good enough when you have to fly in many instances – particularly for non-athlete staff.

3. Putting Pressure on the Airline Industry: Given the heavy reliance on air travel, sports needs airlines to accelerate sustainability efforts. Using more sustainable fuels is important, but increasing efficiency through an increased number of passengers on each plane is another important lever that airlines should be pulling.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

1. Cost Savings: Flying economy also saves substantial costs for sports organisations. These funds can then be redirected to other sustainability initiatives.

2. Storytelling: It's unusual for sports organisations to fly economy as standard, so there is the opportunity for first-movers to authentically tell this story & connect with fans on an important choice that many people make (especially business people).

2. DESERT VIPERS X BLUEWATER GROUP

PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES ARE SEEN EVERYWHERE IN CRICKET MATCHES WORLDWIDE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN T20 FRANCHISE CRICKET BECAUSE BRANDED FRIDGES FORM PART OF THE COMMERCIAL RIGHTS SOLD TO BEVERAGE SUPPLIERS AND THESE ARE FILLED WITH SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WATER AND FIZZY DRINK BOTTLES. WHILE THERE ARE BIGGER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF A MATCH, WE BELIEVE THAT SPORTS ORGANISATIONS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE, AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BOTTLES ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH UNSUSTAINABILITY.

Desert Vipers eliminated single-use plastic from our team environment for Season 2 of DP World ILT20, through a partnership with Bluewater Group, saving 14,400 single-use plastic water bottles. From a carbon footprint perspective, this decision meant water bottles were not flown into the UAE from India, with water filtration units processing water on site instead, resulting in reduced water waste, and reduced emissions from the transport of water. Overall, emissions from drinks purchases were reduced by 30.2%.

The change included using stainless steel reusable Bluewater bottles. Stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion, allowing bottles to last for decades. Its properties make it 100% recyclable without any loss in quality, supporting a circular economy. By contrast, plastic bottles are usually made from petroleum-based materials and release microplastics. While manufacturing stainless steel is initially more energy-intensive than plastic, its longevity and recyclability help offset this footprint and lead to a lower carbon footprint in the long run.

To achieve this, Desert Vipers worked collaboratively with DP World ILT20 to allow for deviation from the commercial guidelines which previously only considered single-use bottles or cans. Desert Vipers became the first franchise in the world to successfully eliminate single-use plastic water bottles from their team environment, and has led to other cricket rights holders either implementing the solution or enquiring about it. We believe that new technology should be considered for player hydration in cricket more broadly and will work with Bluewater Group to enable other sports teams and organisations to eliminate unnecessary plastic from their own team environments, lowering the environmental impact of sports organisations.

Bluewater

3. SUSTAINABILITY MATCH

THE 2024 SUSTAINABILITY MATCH WAS A MILESTONE FOR OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS.

The match aimed to use the platform of cricket to promote sustainability and served as a trial for various sustainability initiatives, setting a benchmark. A comprehensive report has been produced for the match, so this section will focus on the carbon footprint element of the match.

KEY STATISTICS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The total carbon footprint of the match was 23.09 tCO_2e, with the largest contributors being:

- Kit Giveaways (6.36 tCO_2e)
- Food (6.26 tCO_2e)
- Diesel Generators (3.56 tCO_2e)

The footprint was 1.19 tCO_2e lower than a normal match, due to:

- Low-carbon menu (1.11 tCO_2e)
- Recycling trials (0.06 tCO_2e)
- Biofuel blend in team buses (0.02 tCO_2e)

KEY FOCUS AREAS

1. Low-Carbon Food Menu
Desert Vipers replaced high-carbon items with lower-carbon items. This resulted in a 15% reduction in emissions from food. The carbon footprint of dishes were also shown.

2. Recycling Trials
Desert Vipers worked closely with recycling providers to install 20 plastic recycling bins in the Dubai International Stadium for the first time ever, resulting in the recycling of 3,630 PET bottles. This initiative was extended to subsequent matches, resulting in long-term improved recycling rates; for example, the ICC Women's World Cup saw recycling bins in the Dubai International Stadium, which was made possible through the successful trial by Desert Vipers.

3. Fan Engagement
Fan engagement encouraged fans to lower their own carbon footprint:

- Schoolchildren were educated about plastic pollution in the Fan Zone.
- Limited edition green jerseys with key environmental messages, including the team's Net Zero 2040 pledge and a call to 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle', were distributed to fans.
- Sustainability messages were shown on big screens and LED boards.

The Sustainability Match demonstrated that sports can be a powerful vehicle for positive change. By continuing to trial new initiatives, engage fans, and collaborate with partners, the Desert Vipers aims to use the Sustainability Match to show what can be done to lower the carbon footprint of all cricket matches.

KEY CHALLENGES

THE IMPACT OF LACK OF ASSET OWNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS BY T20 CRICKET FRANCHISES

DESPITE THE COMMERCIAL SUCCESS OF FRANCHISED T20 CRICKET LEAGUES, FRANCHISES THEMSELVES FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN LOWERING THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINT, LARGELY DUE TO THE LACK OF ASSET OWNERSHIP. IN LEAGUES LIKE THE DP WORLD ILT20, MOST FRANCHISES DEPEND ON LEAGUE-OPERATED OR THIRD-PARTY-OWNED FACILITIES, RESTRICTING THE ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.

1. ENERGY / RESOURCE / WASTE MANAGEMENT

Franchises are limited in their ability to influence the energy / resources / waste of stadiums. Energy systems are typically run by stadium operators, and these often rely on non-renewable energy. Without operational control, franchises cannot invest in infrastructure improvements, such as solar panels, or introduce energy-efficient practices. Franchises also cannot directly address the significant amount of waste generated at cricket matches.

2. TRANSPORT AND FAN ENGAGEMENT LIMITATIONS

Franchises possess limited power to change urban infrastructure to encourage public transport use or active travel, as this is usually decided by city planners. Leagues have greater scope to work with public transport companies, and stadiums have the power to install EV charging stations. Franchises can promote lower carbon travel options to their fans (which Desert Vipers did in Season 2), but its success often depends on collaboration.

3. DEPENDENCY ON LEAGUE-WIDE DECISIONS

Many sustainability decisions are made at the league level. The league often controls key aspects of matchday operations, from stadium contracts to sponsorship deals. Franchises must align with league-wide policies, which may not always prioritise sustainability. Furthermore, league-wide decisions on match scheduling, venue selection, and broadcast arrangements can impact a franchise's ability to implement sustainability measures.

KEY CHALLENGES

THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL CALENDARS, PLAYER REPRESENTATION, AND TRAVEL

THE GLOBAL NATURE OF CRICKET HAS BOOSTED THE SPORT'S POPULARITY, BUT PRESENTED SIGNIFICANT CARBON FOOTPRINT CHALLENGES.

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CRICKET CALENDAR AND ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT

One of the greatest carbon footprint challenges is the relentless nature of the international cricket calendar. Cricket has evolved into a year-round sport, with multiple leagues, series, and tournaments overlapping. This schedule leads to constant player movement, creating a significant footprint. For example, one of our players might finish a series in Australia, travel to Dubai for the DP World ILT20, then head off to an international fixture in India, return to Dubai for the final few matches, before finally flying off to Pakistan to compete in the PSL after our tournament. Desert Vipers currently takes accountability for emissions from all of these flights, but we are limited in how much we can influence the scheduling of matches or tournaments. The global cricket calendar is determined by governing bodies and national cricket boards. Many competitions also involve domestic air travel.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF PLAYERS AND ASSOCIATED CHALLENGES

Cricket's global appeal means that our team is made up of players from across the world. This diversity brings enormous value, but it also presents sustainability challenges: our players travel from various corners of the globe to join the squad in Dubai. Moreover, there are few viable alternatives to air travel, especially given the distances involved.

3. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND AIRLINE EFFICIENCY

Air travel is one of the most significant sources of emissions for sports teams. Many players and staff must take several long-haul flights per year, due to tournament schedules. The key challenge for Desert Vipers is balancing the need for travel with our sustainability ambitions. We aim to explore ways to reduce emissions, such as using fewer flights, working with airlines who prioritise fuel efficiency, and exploring the use of 'sustainable' aviation fuel (SAF).

KEY CHALLENGES

COLLECTING DATA

PRODUCING A CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT IS COMPLEX AND TIME-CONSUMING, AND A RELATIVELY NEW AREA. THIS EXPLAINS WHY DESERT VIPERS ARE THE FIRST CRICKET TEAM TO PRODUCE A FULL ANNUAL REPORT, AND ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF SPORTING ORGANISATIONS WORLDWIDE TO MAKE THIS PUBLIC.

1. UNDERSTANDING

Many suppliers lack an understanding of what information must be provided for an organisation to report on their footprint. To overcome this, Desert Vipers produced information sheets and simple forms for organisations to fill in key details. However, many organisations still struggled to understand the requirements.

2. TIME

Finding information for carbon footprint reports is time-consuming for both the organisation requesting the information and the organisation providing it, especially when collecting data for the first time. Desert Vipers have set up systems to decrease the time it takes to collect this information, but nonetheless, it is still something that takes time.

3. MONOPOLIES IN SPORTS

Sports is unique in the sense that there are very few suppliers; for example, teams can't move venues and there are only a handful of producers of specialist equipment such as cricket helmets. This means that these suppliers do not necessarily have an incentive to provide information for carbon footprints as part of their customer service, because if they don't provide this, sports teams will still continue to give them business as they can't go elsewhere.

OTHER INITIATIVES

AS DUBAI'S FIRST SIGNATORY TO THE UN SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK, WE ARE REQUIRED TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE WIDESPREAD SOCIETAL DECARBONISATION.

Traditionally, where sports organisations have attempted this (and most haven't), this has been limited to in-stadium initiatives. This does not help fans with actions to lower their own carbon footprint, so the environmental benefit is restricted to match days. A study found that organisations can have a much greater impact if they engage with stakeholders beyond the stadium. Desert Vipers are doing this in many ways, and this section looks at three highlights.

DESERT VIPERS SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Schools Program aims to integrate environmental education with sports, to engage with children to foster a sense of collective responsibility and environmental action.

In Season 2, we reached 27 schools – including delivering courses in Arabic to two schools – and delivered over 1,418 hours of sustainability coaching to over 4,000 pupils. This has been made possible by support from Hertz Al-Futtaim, our Sustainable Mobility Partner, who also supplied two hybrid vehicles to reduce the footprint of our team ground travel.

The Program delivers examples of sustainability practices through the vehicle of cricket. One subtle example of how sustainability is embedded in the programme is through the jersey. The number on the back is 1.5°, representing the 1.5°C temperature warming threshold. In addition, the message 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' features. These messages act as a conversation starter, making sustainability fun.

By combining the excitement of cricket with the important message of sustainability, the School Program creates a multifaceted appeal that resonates with children, their families, educators, and the community, sparking widespread conversation and action on sustainability.

Hertz
Al-Futtaim

OTHER INITIATIVES

DESERT VIPERS AND DUBAI SPORTS COUNCIL

In a ground-breaking partnership, Dubai Sports Council became the Lead Partner in the Desert Vipers' Sustainability Programme in Season 2. This partnership sees the Dubai Sports Council playing a key role in supporting the Desert Vipers Schools Program, as well as advancing the topic of sustainability within sports in the region.

This partnership allows Desert Vipers to truly become a leader in helping to create a more sustainable sports industry, both within Dubai and beyond.

Desert Vipers have written Sustainability in Sport Guidelines for the Dubai Sports Council, which will help all sports organisations in Dubai to reduce their own carbon footprint.

FAN ENGAGEMENT

Desert Vipers have launched a new microsite and dedicated social media channels to promote our sustainability work. This will capture fans who may not be as interested in cricket, and will also allow those cricket fans who are interested in sustainability the opportunity to dive deeper into our work.

In Season 2, Desert Vipers placed sustainability messaging in various locations to raise awareness amongst fans. For example, our Net Zero 2040 commitment featured in the prime sponsorship position on the performance kit, as well as on the replica kit (which also included 1.5°). 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' also featured on the back of replica kits, as well as on LED boards around the grounds.

2024 SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

DESERT VIPERS ARE PROUD TO HAVE FANTASTIC ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE HELPED TO LOWER OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT.

We extend an enormous thank you to all of them, as our work would not be possible without their support. If your organisation would like to get involved in helping Desert Vipers on their sustainability journey, please email sustainability@thedesertvipers.com.

مجلس دبي الرياضي
DUBAI SPORTS COUNCIL

PALMFIT

Bluewater

Hertz
Al-Futtaim

The Plastic Pledge

BAT FOR A CHANCE

SUSTAINABILITY SUPPLIERS

APPENDIX

Area	Item	Season 1			Season 2		
		Recorded	What Info Was Recorded?	Uncertainty	Recorded	What Info Was Recorded?	Uncertainty
Hotel	Electricity - Air-Con	Yes	Electricity use and source. Communal spaces included from S2 values	Medium	Yes	Electricity use and source	Low
	Electricity - Other	Yes	Electricity use and source. Communal spaces included from S2 values	Medium	Yes	Electricity use and source	Low
	Food	Yes	Food purchases by hotel restaurants, estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Food purchases by hotel restaurants over a 2-5 day period during the tournament. Extrapolated to entire hotel stay	Medium
	Waste	Yes	Waste quantity & type estimated based on S2 values	Medium	Yes	Waste quantity and type	Low
	Drink	Yes	Drink purchases by hotel restaurants, estimated based on S2 values. Also includes drinks used in Team Room & Stadium	Medium	Yes	Drink purchases by hotel restaurants over a 2-5 day period during the tournament. Also includes drinks used in Team Room & Stadium	Medium
	Air-Con Coolant	Yes	Air-con coolant use and type. Accuracy increased since S1	Medium	Yes	Estimated Based on S1	High
	Water	Yes	Water use estimated based on S2 values	Medium	Yes	Water use	Low
	Gas	Yes	Gas use estimated based on S2 values	Medium	Yes	Gas use	Low
	Fertiliser	N/A			N/A		
Travel	Team Air Travel	Yes	Class of flight, departure & destination location, airline, date, and duration of flight. Accuracy increased since S1	V. low	Yes	Class of flight, departure & destination location, airline, date, and duration of flight. Accuracy increased since S1	V. low
	Fan Travel	Yes	Estimate of distance based on number of fans. Estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Survey of fans at two home matches to determine transport mode and duration	Medium
	Team Ground Travel	Yes	Public transport, taxis, and car journeys. Increased accuracy since S1. Team car distance based on number of days hired, and average distance per day	Medium	Yes	Public transport, taxis, and car journeys	Medium

APPENDIX

Area	Item	Season 1			Season 2		
		Recorded	What Info Was Recorded?	Uncertainty	Recorded	What Info Was Recorded?	Uncertainty
Stadium	Electricity - Air-Con	Yes	Electricity use and source. Accuracy increased since S1	High	Yes	Electricity use and source	High
	Food	Yes	Food estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Estimated the footprint of each dish, and calculated footprint by multiplying by number of dishes	Medium
	Air-Con Coolant	Yes	Air-con coolant use and type, estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Air-con coolant use and type	High
	Waste	Yes	Waste quantity and type estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Waste quantity and type	Medium
	Electricity - Other	Yes	Electricity use and source	Medium	Yes	Electricity use and source	High
	Generators	Yes	Fuel use and type estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Fuel use and type	High
	Fertiliser	Yes	Fertiliser use and type. Accuracy increased since S1	Medium	Yes	Fertiliser use and type	High
	Water	Yes	Water use. Accuracy increased since S1	High	Yes	Water use	High
	Gas				Yes	Gas Use	High
Kit	Replica	Yes	Material weight(s) and type(s), for both kit and packaging. Accuracy increased since S1	Low		Material weight(s) and type(s), for both kit and packaging	V. low
	Performance & Team	Yes		Low	Yes		V. low
Training Ground	No data was received for this category, but it is included here because we aim to report on this in future seasons						
Other	Electricity - WfH	Yes	Electricity bills from team members, estimated based on S2 values	Medium	Yes	Electricity bills from team members	Low
	Team Expenses	Yes	Team expenses from hotel stays, food & drink, and travel. Bus branding (material quantity & type), estimated based on S2 values	High	Yes	Team expenses from hotel stays, food & drink, and travel. Bus branding (material quantity & type)	Medium

	Season 1	Season 2
Total Number of Elements Reported On	23	24
Uncertainty (1.0 (v. low) - 4.0 (high))	Medium Uncertainty (3.2/4.0)	Low-Medium Uncertainty (2.8/4.0)

APPENDIX

CHANGE OVER TIME

Area	Item	% Change from S1 to S2	Explanation
Hotel	Electricity - Air-Con	-5.5%	We were eliminated in the group stages of Season 2, which, in comparison to us reaching the final in Season 1, meant we stayed at the hotel for fewer nights, which led to lower emissions from all sources.
	Electricity - Other	-13.2%	
	Food	-6.5%	
	Waste	-1.9%	
	Drink	-30.2%	As well as having fewer nights at the hotel, our partnership with Bluewater saved 14,400 single-use plastic bottles, lowering our footprint by purchasing significantly fewer drinks.
	Air-Con Coolant	0.0%	We were eliminated in the group stages of Season 2, which, in comparison to us reaching the final in Season 1, meant we stayed at the hotel for fewer nights, which led to lower emissions from all sources.
	Water	-2.3%	
	Gas	-5.3%	
Travel	Team Air Travel	-36.9%	Flying by economy or premium-economy class for all Desert Vipers staff was made a sustainability policy in Season 2, which had a very tangible impact on emissions. More efficient planes and other macro factors such as an increase in plane occupancy rate after COVID also contributed to this reduction.
	Fan Travel	9.7%	More fans attended matches in Season 2, increasing the footprint from travel.
	Team Ground Travel	26.1%	Team ground travel was more accurately recorded in Season 2, and the size of the team increased.
Stadium	Electricity - Air-Con	-31.8%	The use of more efficient district cooling systems in the UAE meant that there was a reduced carbon footprint due to air-conditioning in Season 2.
	Food	46.3%	Higher attendance increased emissions, as significantly more food was served. However, trialling no red meat for our Sustainability Match reduced emissions slightly, since red meats have a very high carbon footprint.
	Air-Con Coolant	-22.2%	Fewer matches at the stadium meant less coolant used.
	Waste	7.9%	Higher total attendance increased overall waste, which increased emissions, despite recycling rates increasing by 2% after the successful recycling trial for our Sustainability Match.
	Electricity - Other	366.3%	This footprint number is very small, so although the % increase is significant, the increase in emissions is small.
	Generators	-20.0%	Fewer matches at the stadium meant a lower footprint.
	Fertiliser	-17.9%	
	Water	-16.7%	
Kit	Replica Kit	20.0%	More fans at the matches meant more replica kit being handed out.
	Performance & Team Kit	16.1%	An increase in the size of the team increased the amount of kit purchased.
Other	Electricity - WfH	17.1%	An increase in the size of the team increased the energy from working from home.
	Misc.	-46.2%	Fewer ad-hoc items were purchased, due to reuse from Season 1.

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

This report was co-authored by Ben Hardy-Jones (Desert Vipers) and Karan Ravishankar (Carbon Happy World), with support from Danielle Clarkson (Desert Vipers)