



Desert Vipers Media Release

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Desert Vipers takes the leading edge in cricket's climate action with new, comprehensive sustainability initiatives

The Dubai based 'Desert Vipers' cricket team are determined to combat climate change and promote sustainability and have unveiled a groundbreaking plan aimed at elevating environmental responsibility within cricket.

Desert Vipers CEO Phil Oliver emphasised the urgency of addressing climate-related challenges in cricket, which include record breaking extreme heat, water shortages and pollution impacting cricketing nations around the world. The team acknowledges that addressing these issues is essential for the preservation of the sport and the planet.

"This carbon emission audit is just the beginning of our team's commitment to reduce our ecological footprint," said Phil Oliver. "We will maintain transparency in our efforts to cut emissions across all aspects of our operations, and we are investing in initiatives that leave a sustainable legacy for future generations of cricket fans and the sports industry."

The team's journey towards sustainability began with a comprehensive carbon footprint audit of their operations during season one of the ILT20. Collaborating with Carbon Happy World, experts in carbon emissions tracking and innovative solutions, Desert Vipers gained valuable insights into their environmental impact.

Carbon Happy World CEO Gary Adlen congratulated the effort and work undertaken by Desert Vipers, "To be the only cricket club in the world to fully measure and publish its carbon footprint has to be commended. It takes courage and perseverance to gather the data, speaking and explaining to suppliers and stakeholders alike the importance of undertaking such an exercise. Your bold steps towards reducing emissions and promoting sustainable practices demonstrates leadership and a genuine concern for the planet's wellbeing. We believe your actions will inspire other teams to follow suit and initiate the beginning of a greener, more sustainable future for cricket and the entire sports industry."

At the launch event at Lord's Cricket Ground on July 24th, Desert Vipers publicly disclosed their carbon emissions data for season one of the ILT20. The total carbon emissions amounted to 570 tonnes, with travel accounting for 423 tonnes, goods and services including hotel and transportation in the UAE accounting for about 114 tonnes, and air conditioning coolant contributing to approximately 32 tonnes.

In response to these calculations, Desert Vipers has partnered with leading sustainability organisations to expedite emission reductions with a focus on transparency. The team has committed to the United Nations Sports for Climate Action (S4CA) Framework,



targeting a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2040.

In their pursuit of sustainability, Desert Vipers launched an innovative sustainability partnership program, inviting corporate partners to join their mission. The team aims to work collaboratively with existing sponsors and suppliers, encouraging them to showcase their own sustainability initiatives, while inviting new partners to support their sustainability strategy and emissions reduction plan.

The “Spirit of Sustainability,” Desert Vipers’ philosophy, goes beyond regulatory requirements, advocating for a culture of commitment to the climate cause. As part of this approach, the team announced three example programs developed with partner 1.5 Degrees Sport:

1. Cricket themed Carbon Credits: Desert Vipers joined the pioneering 1.5 Cricket Carbon Credit, which enables partners to offset emissions through projects benefiting cricket-playing nations represented by team members. This initiative provides an opportunity for brands and businesses to engage in sustainability partnerships through carbon offsetting activities. Today, the Desert Vipers has signed a commitment to invest in carbon credits representing the team’s entire Season One footprint.
2. Willow Plantation: Partners can contribute to sustainability by investing in individual willow trees to support future bat supplies. Desert Vipers’ trees, managed through JS Wright, the world’s leading willow farming family, will also play a role in CO2 sequestration.
3. Sustainability Education Programme: The team are launching a comprehensive programme that includes playing a leading role in the new 1.5 Degrees/Environmental Change Institute Internship. In addition Desert Vipers will collaborate with St Edward’s School (Oxford), in an expanding sustainability education program for primary, secondary, and tertiary education. This initiative offers internships and courses, fostering thought leadership and nurturing future environmental talent. The Desert Vipers will also take sustainability themed cricket training into forty Dubai primary schools.

Desert Vipers CEO Phil Oliver expressed enthusiasm about partnering with the Environmental Change Institute, creating a blueprint for sports teams committed to the journey to net zero.

Desert Vipers is devoted to transparently navigating its sustainability path and looks forward to activating around the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in the UAE later this year. The team aims to lead cricket fans towards a better, more sustainable future.



The second edition of the ILT20 is set to commence in the United Arab Emirates on January 13, 2024. The Desert Vipers squad boasts notable players, including England's Alex Hales and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga.

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About the Desert Vipers

Owned by Lancer Capital, The Desert Vipers team finished as the runners-up at the inaugural ICC-sanctioned ILT20 tournament, which was held in the UAE in January-February of 2023. Cricket Director Tom Moody and Head Coach James Foster lead operations in a star-studded Desert Vipers camp, led by captain Colin Munro.

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