

DESERT VIPERS

PLASTIC IMPACT REPORT

SEASON 3



In Partnership with



October 2025

OVERVIEW



COMMENTS FROM THE CEO, PHIL OLIVER

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Desert Vipers have taken great pride in our work to protect nature in Season 3 of DP World ILT20, not only by measuring and reducing our carbon footprint, which will be released in a report later this year, but by eliminating harmful materials which have other negative environmental impacts, such as plastic. As cricket's first signatory to the IUCN Sports for Nature Framework, we take our commitment to nature seriously, and I am therefore delighted to be able to share this report on how we're taking steps as a franchise to reduce the environmental impact from one of the worst offenders for nature: plastic. I hope this report inspires you to cut out plastic from your own lives, wherever you can, and together we can make a difference for people and the planet.

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COMMENTS FROM THE BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY LEAD, BEN HARDY-JONES

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When we set out last year to become the first sports organisation in the world to our knowledge to quantify and publicise our Plastic Impact, I didn't imagine the ripple waves it would have on our organisation's decision-making. In Season 3, we've managed to reduce plastic by 35% versus Season 2, whilst increasing the recycled content from 2% to 88%, and that work started with the inception of the Plastic Impact Report in Season 2. Our work will ensure we are compliant with forthcoming UAE legislation, as the country continues to set powerful environmental legislation to positively impact the planet, and contributes to SDGs 3, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17. None of this would have been possible without the support of fantastic partners, such as Bluewater Group and PALMFIT, as we continue to work with our community to be a force for good.

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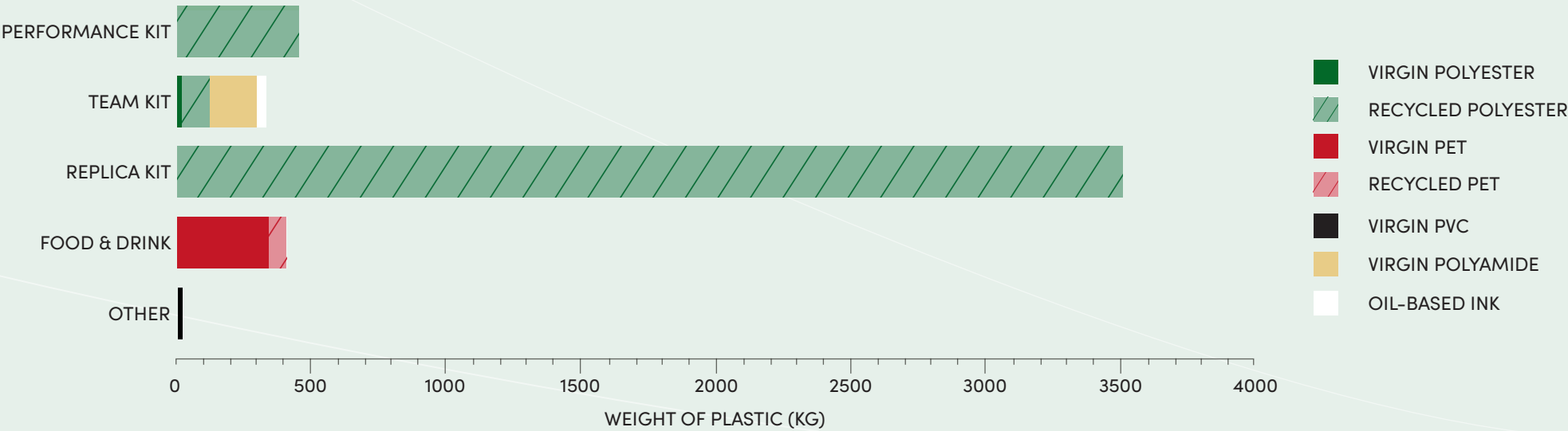
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SEASON 3 PLASTIC IMPACT



PLASTIC FOOTPRINT - SEASON 3

Desert Vipers’ plastic footprint for S3 was 4,715 kg – a **35% decrease** versus S2. 87.5% of plastic was made from recycled materials, up from 1.9% in S2. More types of plastic were identified than previous seasons, reflecting an increased reporting capacity. 74.3% of plastic was from Replica Kit, 9.7% from Performance Kit, 8.6% from Food & Drink, 7.0% from Team Kit, and 0.4% from Other sources.



SEASON 3 PLASTIC IMPACT

SCOPE OF FOOTPRINT

This report includes every plastic product purchased by Desert Vipers, meaning some elements are not included. To be as transparent as possible, a full breakdown is shown in the Appendix.

KIT

Season 3's focus was switching from virgin materials to fully recycled ones in our kit, particularly in Performance and Replica kit, which was achieved. Reduced personalisation and rethinking the amount needed resulted in a reduced quantity ordered, and should continue to do so going forward.

FOOD & DRINK

The Bluewater partnership again resulted in reduced plastic bottles. For the League requirements, we were unable to find a suitable supplier of recycled PET for most soft drinks, so virgin PET was used.

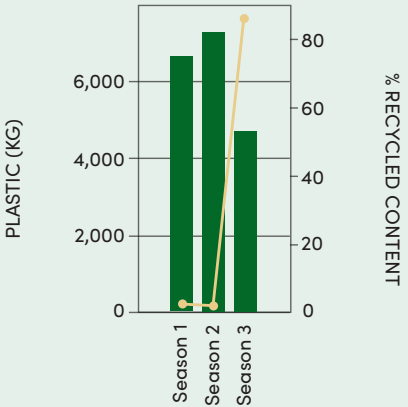
OTHER

The team bus was again wrapped in virgin PVC.

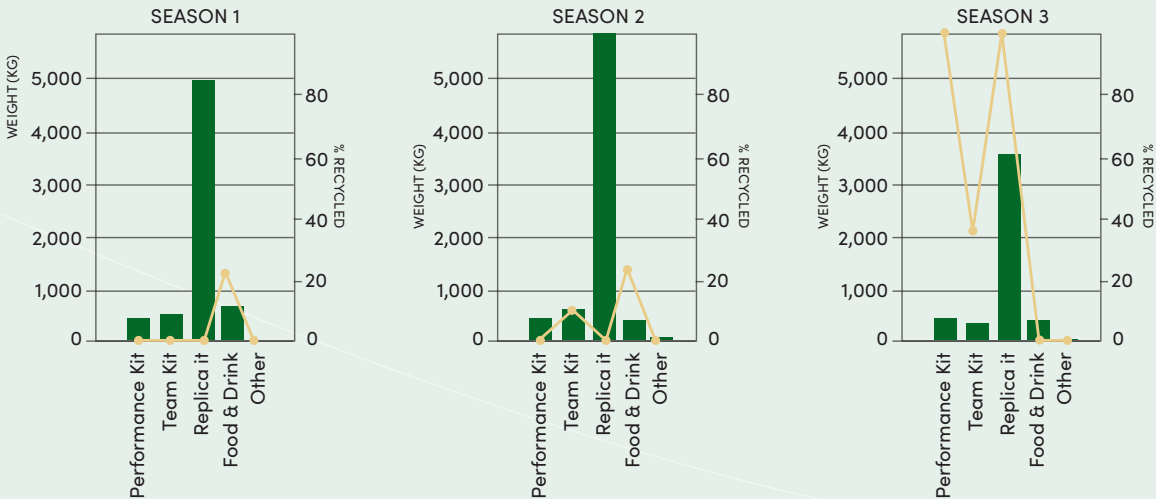
PROGRESS

Season 3 saw a marked reduction in the amount of plastic used, and a tremendous increase in the % recycled content of that plastic versus Seasons 1 and 2. Despite having a larger team and following in Season 3, the quantity of kit was reduced and the vast majority of the kit was made from 100% recycled materials, which is the main reason for the change from Season 2 to 3.

Plastic (kg) and % Recycled Content by Season



Weight (kg) and % Recycled by Input and Season



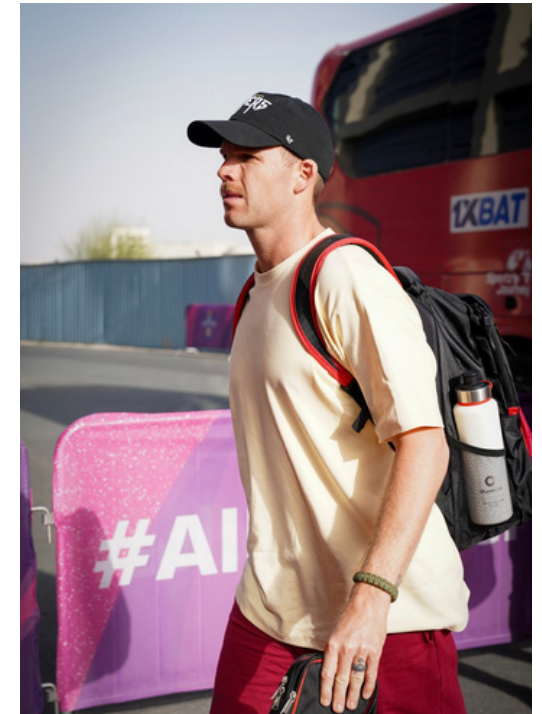
SPOTLIGHT 1: PERFORMING BETTER WITH PALMFIT



IN SEASON 3, DESERT VIPERS PARTNERED WITH PALMFIT, A UAE-BASED APPAREL ORGANISATION, TO DEVELOP THE FIRST FULLY RECYCLED PERFORMANCE KIT USED IN TOP-TIER CRICKET.

This partnership has been a tremendous success in its first year, with notable key benefits:

- **Recycle.** Became the first top-tier cricket side to play a full season using fully recycled materials in Performance Kit.
- **Reduce.** Packaged all items loosely, using cardboard boxes per 25 / 50 items.
- **Reduce.** Print-on-demand and made in the UAE, allowing orders closer to the tournament and fewer buffer items.
- **Reuse.** Worked with PALMFIT's expert design team to create lines of items which were non-personalised and had generic designs, allowing their reuse over multiple seasons. A particularly big hit was softly-branded athleisure wear.
- **Performance.** Created high-quality, durable pieces of items which facilitated high performance.



In Season 4, we are undertaking a full life-cycle assessment (LCA) of our Performance Kit, to understand where we can continue to innovate going forward. We will also continue to increase the amount of recycled materials in Team Kit.

SPOTLIGHT 2: BOWLING OUT PLASTIC WITH BLUEWATER



DESERT VIPERS ONCE AGAIN PARTNERED WITH BLUEWATER, SUSTAINABLE HYDRATION PARTNER, IN SEASON 3, TO CONTINUE TO ELIMINATE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES FROM OUR TEAM ENVIRONMENT.

Expanding upon the success of last year's partnership, Season 3 saw us achieve:

- **Reduce.** Saved 14,400 plastic bottles through switching to a water refill unit.
- **Performance.** High-quality, thermally-insulated bottles kept drinks cold in the warm sun.
- **Increased use.** As well as being next to the dugout, units were placed in the Team Room at our hotel, and on the golf course during our Golf Day, to reinforce refilling and reusing habits.



OTHER INITIATIVES

RECYCLING BINS FOR DP WORLD ILT20

As part of Desert Vipers' Season 2 Sustainability Match, plastic recycling bins were installed in the Dubai Stadium for the very first time. This proved a successful initiative, and it was agreed to place bins in all venues for all matches for Season 3, paid for by Desert Vipers. In total, 410 kg of plastic was placed in bins for recycling.



REPLICA KIT

In Season 3, Replica Kits were made from the same closed-loop recycling system for the recycling bins in Season 2, allowing fans to be a part of the sustainability story. These were made from 100% recycled plastic.

UPCYCLING WITH LOCAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Desert Vipers worked with students from Middlesex University Dubai to upcycle old products from Season 2 into useful items for Season 3, taking polo shirts and turning them into laptop/tablet cases, sunglasses cases, pencil cases, and bucket hats.

RECYCLING BINS IN THE TEAM ROOM

Given the provision of soft drinks in plastic bottles, Desert Vipers worked with the team at JA The Resort to install a recycling bin in the Team Room which was large enough for this waste.

In addition, a dedicated wheelie bin was purchased for players and staff to drop old kit into at the end of the season. This professionalised the kit collection process, resulting in a greater volume of kit collected than last season.

EDUCATING ON PLASTIC THROUGH THE DESERT VIPERS SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Desert Vipers Schools Programme combines a basic introduction to cricket with sustainability for 8–13 year-olds in the UAE. In Season 3, we reached over 60 schools and 10,000 students. Relating to plastic, students were taught to 'bowl out single-use plastic' during minigames, as Bluewater were a partner to the programme.

TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

In our Corporate Sustainability Strategy, Desert Vipers outline our approach to sustainability through Reduction; Adaptation; Advocacy; and Education.

Furthermore, we document a 'Sustainable Sourcing Code' in the strategy, considering: Need? Where does it come from? Who made it? What's it made of? What's it wrapped in? What happens to it afterwards? This code was instrumental in decision-making around kit in Season 3. Further work on what happens to kit after its use needs to be undertaken, but we are pleased with our progress so far.

DESERT VIPERS' SEASON 3 PLASTIC PLEDGE

In Season 3, Desert Vipers pledged to eradicate virgin plastic from our kit manifesto. We achieved this through:

- ✓ Using suppliers who can provide Replica Kit made of recycled materials
- ✓ Partnering with Palmfit who will provide team and performance kit made of recycled materials
- ✓ Communicating with suppliers to package kit loosely, without single-use plastic
- ✓ Reusing some non-personalised items from Season 2 where possible
- ✓ In addition, we will ensure the quality of the kit is high, to encourage long-term use

Aside from a very small amount of virgin polyester in some Team Kit, we successfully eliminated virgin polyester across our kit manifesto in Season 3, meaning we must set new targets for Season 4.



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT INNINGS

OUR SEASON 4 PLASTIC PLEDGE IS:

■ Eradicate single-use plastic cutlery and cups in the stadium.



Use a microfibre filter on our Team Hotel washing machine to reduce microplastic pollution from kit washing, through a partnership with Cleaner Seas Group.



■ Reduce Performance and Team Kit by 15%.



Switch from plastic water bottles to TetraPak for League requirements, through a partnership with Aqualy.



■ Complete a life-cycle assessment to understand the full impact of our Performance Kit.



In addition, we are delighted to be partnering with Coral Eyewear for Season 4 as our Official Eyewear Partner, equipping our players with sunglasses made from recycled ocean plastic and plant-based materials.



SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

Desert Vipers are proud to have fantastic organisations supporting our sustainability efforts. 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



SUSTAINABILITY SUPPLIERS



APPENDIX

Element	Plastic Weight (kg)	Plastic Type	Assumptions	Uncertainty	Change vs S2	Explanation for Change
Performance Kit						
Training Kit	5,153	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	+ 4%	Slightly more ordered due to working on making the kit perfect.
Match Kit	2,760	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	- 5%	Slightly more ordered than planned due to working on making the kit perfect, but a reduction in buffers due to print-on-demand meant an overall reduction.
Sustainability Match Kit	60	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	NEW	Last year, our training kit doubled up as our Sustainability Match Kit. This year, we wanted a separate identity for the match to create a bigger celebration around sustainability.
Water Bottles	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	- 100%	Only Bluewater bottles were used this year.
Bands	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	- 100%	Bands were reused from S2.
Towels	2	Virgin Polyester (1 kg); Virgin Nylon (1 kg)	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	- 33%	Most towels were reused from Season 2, with a small order for ball towels.
Team Kit						
Team	93	Recycled Polyester (68 kg); Virgin Polyester (25 kg)	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	+ 7%	A slightly larger team resulted in more orders.
Athleisure	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	- 100%	Athleisure was made from cotton in S3.
Bags	175	Virgin Polyamide	Material composition shared by supplier	Low	- 52%	Considerably fewer bags ordered.
Ball Boys/Girls	35	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	- 59%	Fewer ball boys/girls items ordered.

APPENDIX

Element	Plastic Weight (kg)	Plastic Type	Assumptions	Uncertainty	Change vs S2	Explanation for Change
Replica Kit						
Sponsors	25	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	- 83%	In S2, we ordered to League requirements, which we found to be too much. However, in S3, we only ordered what we need.
Replica Kit	3,350	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by supplier	Low	- 40%	Considerably fewer fan kits given away on match days.
Schools Programme	44	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	+ 43%	An expanded Schools Programme resulted in more t-shirts given away. However, reusing leftover Replica Kit from S2 meant this number was considerably lower.
Development Programme	69	Recycled Polyester (68 kg); Virgin Polyester (1 kg); Virgin Polypropylene (1 kg)	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	NEW	The creation of Desert Vipers' Development Programme resulted in the need for kit for this.
Net Bowlers	15	Recycled Polyester	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	+ 87%	Slightly more materials ordered for net bowlers in S3.
Samples	0	Virgin Spandex	Material composition shared by PALMFIT	Low	- 96%	Fewer samples required.
Food & Drink						
Water Bottles Purchased (Team)	263	Virgin PET	Quantities ordered calculated from receipts, with each 500 ml bottle weighing 15 g.	Medium	- 7%	Fewer water bottles ordered for League requirements.
Soft Drinks Purchased	131	Virgin PET (66 kg); Recycled PET (66 kg)	Quantities ordered calculated from receipts, with each 500 ml bottle weighing 15 g. Assuming 50% virgin PET, 50% recycled PET based on auditing.	Medium	+ 46%	Soft drinks were ordered to League requirements in S3, whereas in S2 we only ordered what we needed.
Energy Bars/Gels	0	N/A	N/A		- 100%	No plastic packaging in S3.
Cutlery (Stadia)	6	Virgin PET	216 hospitality guests for each home match, with each cutlery set consisting of 1 fork, 1 spoon, and 1 knife, plus plastic packaging. Average cutlery weight of 5 g per piece. Plastic cutlery served at two home matches (then wooden cutlery was requested by DV for remaining matches)	High	- 50%	Requests for wooden cutlery were granted at most, but not all, games.
Cups (Stadia)	4	Virgin PET	216 estimated hospitality guests for each home match. On average, 1 in 4 people will buy a drink which comes in a plastic cup. Therefore, 54 cups per match. Each cup weighs 15 g, so 0.81 kg per match. 4 x home matches serving alcohol, and 2 x neutral matches (therefore taking half the share) in knockout rounds = 5 matches in total = 4.05 kg	High	0%	Similar number of drinks purchased in S3 vs S2.
Other						
Bus Wrapping	19	Virgin PVC	12m coach so 129 m ² of wrapping required.	Very High	0%	Bus was once again wrapped in S3, and was the same size as S2.

GLOSSARY

HERE ARE SOME OF THE TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

DP WORLD ILT20

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) SPORTS FOR NATURE FRAMEWORK

A joint initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Olympic Committee (IOC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy. It aims to deliver transformative action for nature across sports, by 2030 and beyond, enabling sports to champion nature and contribute to its protection and restoration.

LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

A methodology for assessing the environmental impacts associated with all the stages of the life cycle of a product, process, or service.

PET

Polyethylene terephthalate. The most common thermoplastic polymer resin of the polyester family and is used in fibres for clothing, containers for liquids and foods, and other applications.

PLASTIC FOOTPRINT

The value showing the total amount of plastic from an activity or organisation. It is commonly reported in tonnes (or kilograms).

PVC

Polyvinyl chloride. The world's third-most widely produced synthetic polymer of plastic.

PLASTIC FOOTPRINT COMPARISONS:

15 g – The average weight of a 500 ml plastic bottle.

3.65 kg – The average plastic waste per person per year in India.

73 kg – The average plastic waste per person per year in the UAE.

77 kg – The average plastic waste per person per year in the UK.

120 kg – The average plastic waste per person per year in New Zealand.

594,000 tonnes – Microplastics in the surface ocean in 2020.

459,750,000 tonnes – Global plastics production in 2019.

5,250,000,000 – Amount of plastic waste floating on the surface of the world's ocean in 2013.



AUTHORS & CONTRIBUTORS

This report was authored by Ben Hardy-Jones with support from Matt Bailey and Yoganand Malligorai Kannan (all Desert Vipers). Designed by Jamie Rivers (Carbon Happy World).