



**Sutton United**

**SUNS**

*the Sutton United Newsletter for Sustainability*

**Issue Seven**

**March 2025**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Assessment**

We were delighted to learn that we were scored at 100% in this year's LB of Sutton Green Mark scheme. We are now submitting data to demonstrate progress against our carbon reduction target.

Last year we became just the third EFL club to be certified under their Green Clubs scheme, and the EFL has now published a brief case study around our efforts. <https://www.greencode.world/members/sutton-united-fc>

We already recycle our waste, with zero to landfill, but recently undertook an audit of the waste produced at our stadium and have liaised with Biffa, our waste contractor, to agree the changes needed to ensure we comply with the new Simpler Recycling Regulations which take effect on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Essentially, we must have a new segregated waste stream that is for food waste only. Further information can be found at the end of this newsletter and will be publicised via posters and our social media.

### **Initiatives**

We continue to circulate posters as part of our Energy Efficiency campaign. The most recent poster has been circulated, and a copy is on display on the club noticeboard. We also produce a monthly energy consumption/efficiency report and this helps shape our response towards our carbon reduction targets. Currently, there is scope for us to become more energy efficient.

We are just about to launch a boot recycling scheme, hopefully to both return footwear in good condition to beneficial use by others, or to recycle boots that are beyond hope. This is part of a national scheme in partnership with Utilita. We will also have an additional collection point for boots and kit specifically for Sutton United Gambia FC. Many thanks to Liam McSherry for facilitating this.

We are looking to take advantage of the offer from the supplier of a free water audit.

With frost hopefully soon consigned to last winter, we hope to be able to set up and plant out our two new raised beds over the coming weeks.

## **SOCIAL VALUE**

The Paul Alan Project, our Lead Charity Partner, held a ground collection on 1<sup>st</sup> March when we hosted Spennymoor Town, to raise funds more defibrillators and first aid training in the local area. It was their most successful collection so far.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Prostate Project will visit us and invites fans to discuss their health concerns and have a non-invasive check-up.

Our new venture in walking football for those with Parkinson's Disease continues to go well, and we have now also introduced boxing sessions which we are told can be of great benefit to people who have neuro and mobility limiting conditions

Our disability football teams recently enjoyed a great day of football at Arsenal's Hub venue. Head of Disability Football Steve Kings has revealed that we are in the process of setting up a brand- new team dedicated to those with cerebral palsy.

Our Foundation also arranged a multisport session in February at the Phoenix Centre in Wallington, with professional coaches, aimed at introducing home-schooled children aged 10 to 15 to new sports and, most of all, having fun. They also organised a Meet & Greet opportunity for our young fans in February to get to know our first team squad

As mentioned above, we are hoping to collect old and unwanted kit and boots to send to our African friends at Sutton United Gambia, this would be in partnership with a charity whose main aim is to promote football in Gambia. We have also been trying to raise the online profile of SUFC Gambia to help them try to find a sponsor or partner towards their annual running costs of £2,000

Dave Farebrother CEnv

## Sustainability Lead

### SIMPLER RECYCLING

From 31<sup>st</sup> March, businesses in England and Wales that employ more than ten people must comply with new waste management regulations. We have two main sources of food waste, our kitchen and matchdays.

Food waste from our kitchen, including plate scrapings, will be addressed by providing biodegradable bags for all food waste. These will then go into new dedicated bins provide by Biffa. Inside the stadium we will designate some of our wheelie bins for food waste only, colour coded and signed accordingly, and will seek to promote the new arrangements to spectators through posters and guidance on our website and social media. The greatest difficulty, which many public-facing sectors will have, is to promote effective segregation of the waste to our customers. In practice, this will mean providing clear guidance that not even packaging (such as sandwich wrappers) can go into the food waste stream and that food must not go into the DMR (Dry Mixed Recycling) bins.

### GROUND CLEARANCE

We currently have an extra skip near the bins in the car park. This is **not** to be used for general rubbish, or recycling, as this provision is already in place through Biffa in the waste bins area. This additional skip is provided by one of our sponsors and is for **specific bulk waste only** as we continue to tidy up around the stadium. Should items be added to the bin that aren't authorised, we will be charged for waste collection unnecessarily.

If anyone has any questions or concerns in this regard can they contact either Tim Allison or Mike Chenery.