

RACING RESILIENT

SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAINING OUR SPORT

BRITISH HORSERACING'S ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY



BHA BRITISH
HORSERACING
AUTHORITY

A photograph of a horse running on a track, overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The horse is in motion, with its front legs lifted and its tail slightly blurred. It is wearing a light-colored halter.

OUR VISION

**BRITISH RACING:
CHAMPIONING
SUSTAINABILITY AND
DRIVING POSITIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT**



INTRODUCTION

Racing is a sport intrinsically linked to the natural environment. We rely on the vital ecosystem services provided by nature – from healthy soils and clean water to stable weather patterns – and in turn, we are highly vulnerable to environmental challenges. In the face of escalating climate and nature crises, racing is not immune.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across our sport. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe. Beyond the weather disruptions, racing faces a broad spectrum of environmental risks, including heatwaves, drought, flooding, poor air quality, emerging diseases, and declining biodiversity. These challenges affect everything from day-to-day operations and horse welfare to the security of global supply chains and the cost of compliance with evolving environmental regulations.

With 59 racecourses across Britain, hosting more than 1,400 fixtures annually and reaching millions of racegoers and viewers, racing has a significant platform to drive awareness and action. The industry also manages extensive green spaces, with British breeders alone estimated to steward between 40,000 and 50,000 acres of land. This provides a powerful opportunity to support nature recovery, improve climate resilience, and deliver environmental benefits at scale. Through this strategy we aim to take meaningful action and inspire collective efforts that will safeguard the future of racing and contribute to a more sustainable world.

CONTENTS

05	FOREWORD
06	DRIVERS FOR CHANGE
07	OUR APPROACH
08	ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK
10	FOCUS AREAS & GOALS
16	HOW WE WILL DELIVER SUCCESS
22	WHAT NEXT?
23	ROADMAP TO 2030

FOREWORD

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. For British racing to thrive long into the future, we must embrace sustainability across all aspects of our operations, acting responsibly to protect the environmental resources on which we depend. Our sport has a unique opportunity to act as a force for good, using our reach and influence to enable and inspire positive environmental action.

With valuable support from the Racing Foundation, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) has developed this environmental sustainability strategy, shaped through stakeholder input, to guide the industry's response to environmental risks and opportunities. This strategy will help to future-proof our sport by setting out how racing can mitigate the risks of a changing climate, adapt to evolving legal and societal expectations, and build on existing expertise in land and animal management to support a sustainable future for our horses, people, and planet.

Crucially, this strategy takes into account both how environmental challenges affect our sport (outside-in) and how racing's activities impact the environment (inside-out). This approach, known as double-materiality, ensures racing is resilient to external challenges while also minimising its own impacts and creating positive contributions. It defines strategic objectives, outlines clear goals across key environmental focus areas, and presents an action plan underpinned by enabling pillars such as leadership, collaboration, and innovation. Progress will be monitored and there will be an emphasis on coordinated, collective action across the industry.

Designed as a roadmap to 2030, this strategy will evolve in line with advances in knowledge, shifting expectations, emerging requirements, and changes in environmental conditions. This simple, flexible framework will ensure the strategy remains relevant and impactful – guiding British racing to play its part in shaping a more sustainable and resilient future.



DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

Significant progress is already being made across the industry to address key challenges; however, to maximise our impact, a unified, strategic approach is essential. Many environmental challenges extend beyond the remit of any single stakeholder or organisation and are best addressed through collaboration, leveraging the collective expertise and influence of the racing community.

Partnerships will play a key role in delivery. We will actively seek to identify and collaborate with organisations, experts, and stakeholders who can support our goals – bringing specialist knowledge, innovative solutions, and resources for delivery.

Developed in consultation with industry stakeholders, this strategy forms a key part of the broader Industry Strategy. It provides a clear framework for all stakeholders to take ownership and drive meaningful action in priority areas, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the issues that matter most.

1

Commercial Imperative

For British racing to secure its long-term future, it must adapt, mitigate risks, and build resilience against environmental challenges.

2

Legal Imperative

Beyond meeting national regulations, British racing has a duty to set higher standards, with the BHA leading by example in environmental responsibility.

3

Moral Imperative

As a globally recognised sport, British racing must contribute to addressing environmental challenges. This is essential not only for our credibility and relevance but also to meet the expectations placed upon us.



OUR APPROACH

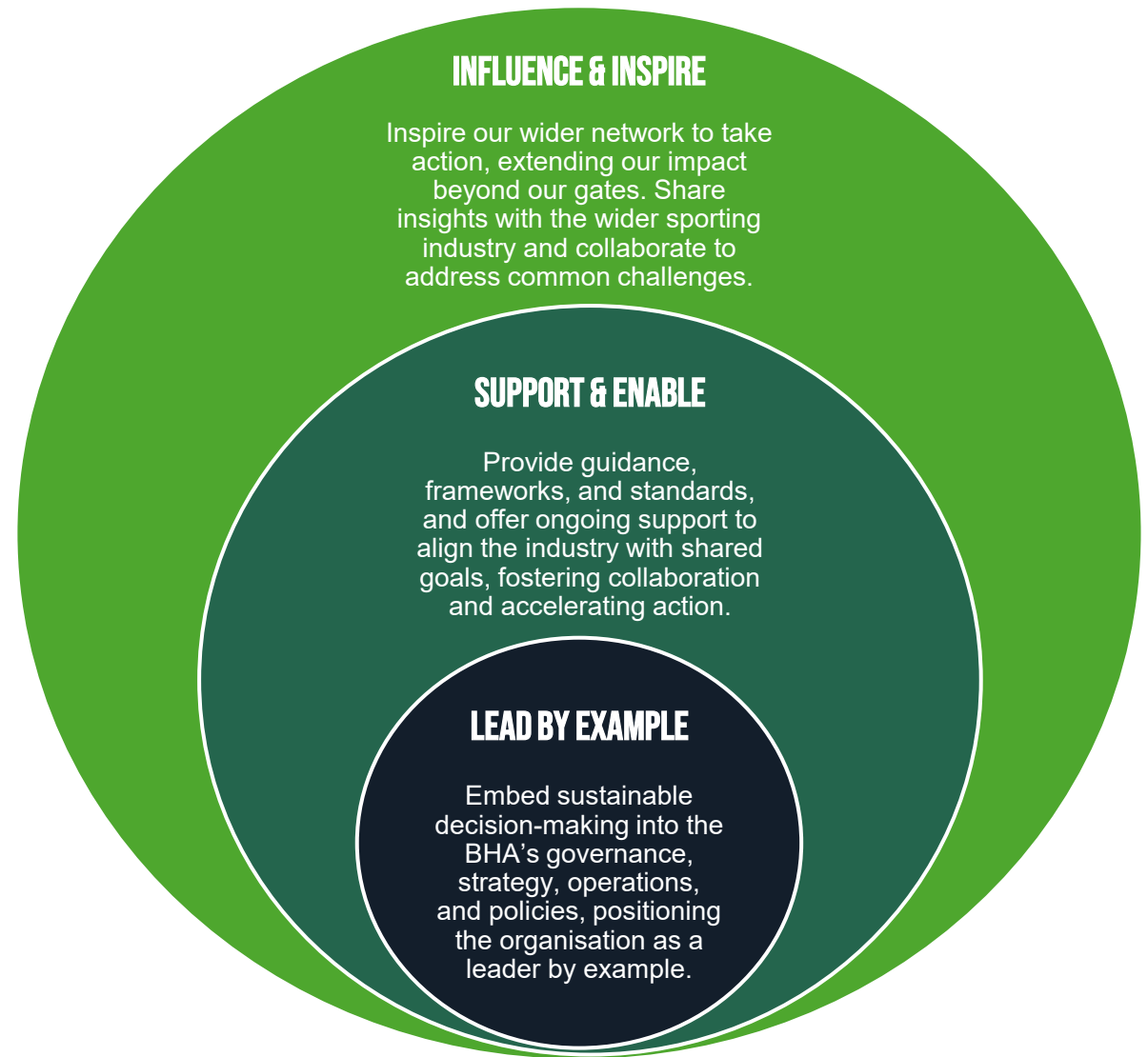
As the governing body of British racing, the BHA is uniquely positioned to provide leadership on environmental sustainability, driving change and accelerating action across the industry. It can exert its influence by:

Leading by Example – With direct control over its operations, governance, and strategy, the BHA sets the standard for sustainable and ethical practices.

Supporting & Enabling – By providing guidance, frameworks, and standards, the BHA empowers stakeholders and suppliers to adopt more sustainable practices.

Influencing & Inspiring – British racing engages fans, spectators, and media, raising awareness, shaping behaviour, and fostering a culture of responsibility.

By expanding its influence in these areas, the BHA not only strengthens its own sustainability efforts but can drive collective action across the industry.



ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

OUR VISION

BRITISH RACING CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY AND DRIVING POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Mission: Accelerate the progress of British racing in addressing environmental challenges.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Build environmental sustainability into **decision-making**.

Empower & support stakeholders to develop sustainability plans.

Research that helps the sport to **adapt, mitigate and develop resilience**.

FOCUS AREAS

CARBON

Reduce carbon emissions across all scopes and support carbon sequestration through green spaces.

WATER

Sustainable and responsible consumption, and support of clean water goals.

NATURE

Protect nature to sustain healthy ecosystems and the services they provide.

RESOURCES & WASTE

Minimise waste and promote the use of sustainable materials and chemicals.

ENABLERS



Educate,
Engage &
Empower



Data-Driven &
Technology
Enabled



Governance,
Leadership &
Accountability



Funding &
Incentivisation

FOCUS AREAS

OUR GOALS

BRITISH HORSERACING'S ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

RACING RESILIENT



CARBON

GOAL: REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS ACROSS ALL SCOPES & SUPPORT CARBON SEQUESTRATION THROUGH GREEN SPACES

Climate change is already impacting British racing through rising temperatures, extreme weather, and increased flood risks. In late 2023, record rainfall led to widespread fixture abandonments, highlighting the urgent need for action. Almost every aspect of racing's operations – energy use, transportation, buildings, agronomy – contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, making reduction efforts critical.

Racing also holds a unique opportunity to contribute to climate solutions, managing vast green spaces that support carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and environmental resilience. Addressing emissions while enhancing these natural assets is essential for racing's sustainability and long-term future.

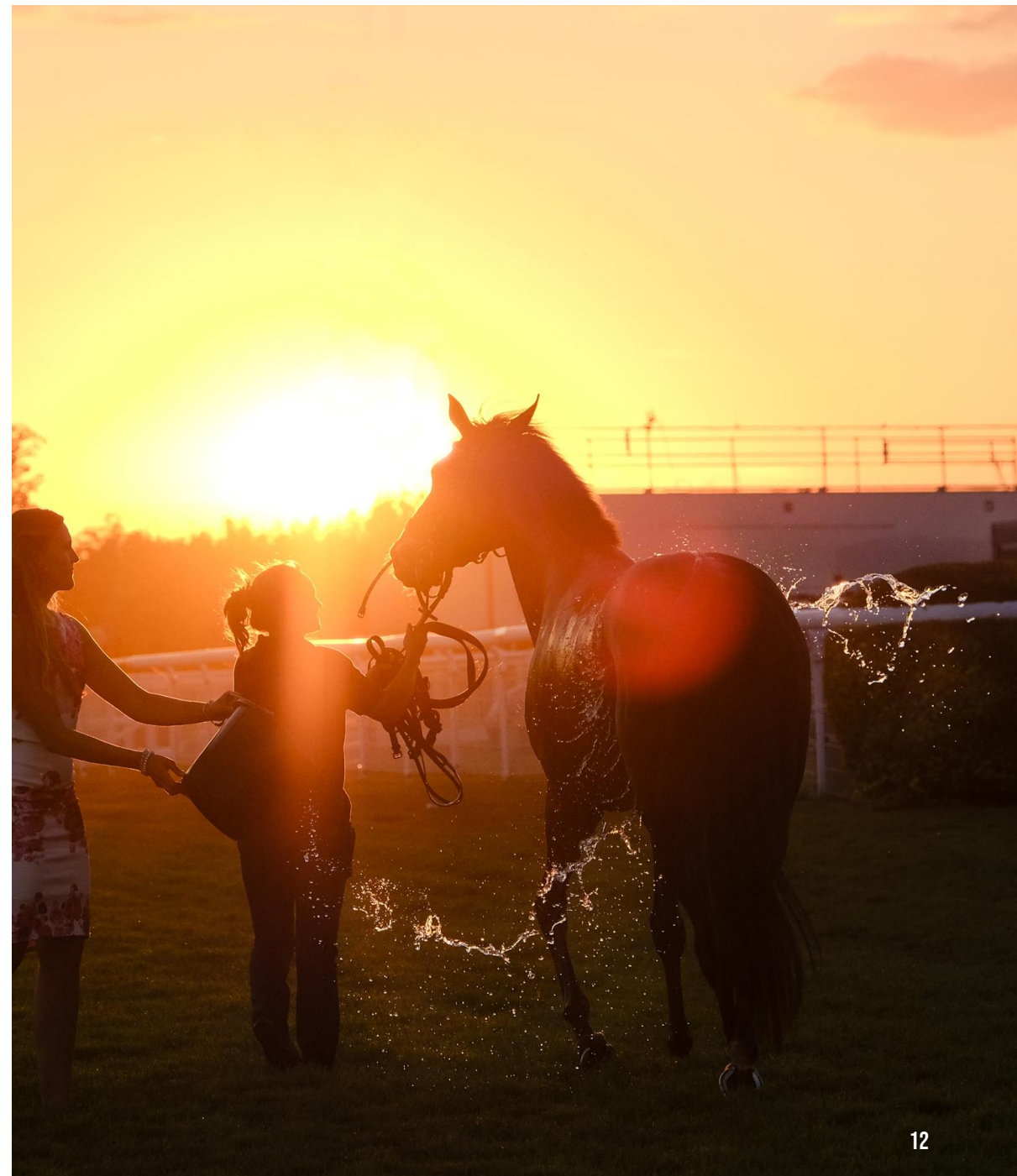


WATER

GOAL: SUSTAINABLE & RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION, & SUPPORT OF CLEAN WATER GOALS

Water is a critical resource for racing and provides vital ecosystem services for both people and nature. However, growing pressure on supply poses a significant challenge. Climate change is disrupting rainfall patterns, with the Environment Agency projecting a 15% decline in summer rainfall in England by the 2050s. Racing relies on water to maintain safe ground conditions and ensure the well-being of horses and people.

As a shared resource, we have a responsibility to protect local, regional, and national water supplies, using water sustainably and efficiently while preventing harm to water sources. Water quality and its impact on natural habitats, and water stress, vary by location, requiring tailored approaches across our stakeholder network. However, the core objective remains the same. In phase one of the strategy implementation, a detailed water impact assessment will guide targeted actions to ensure responsible water management and improve water resilience.



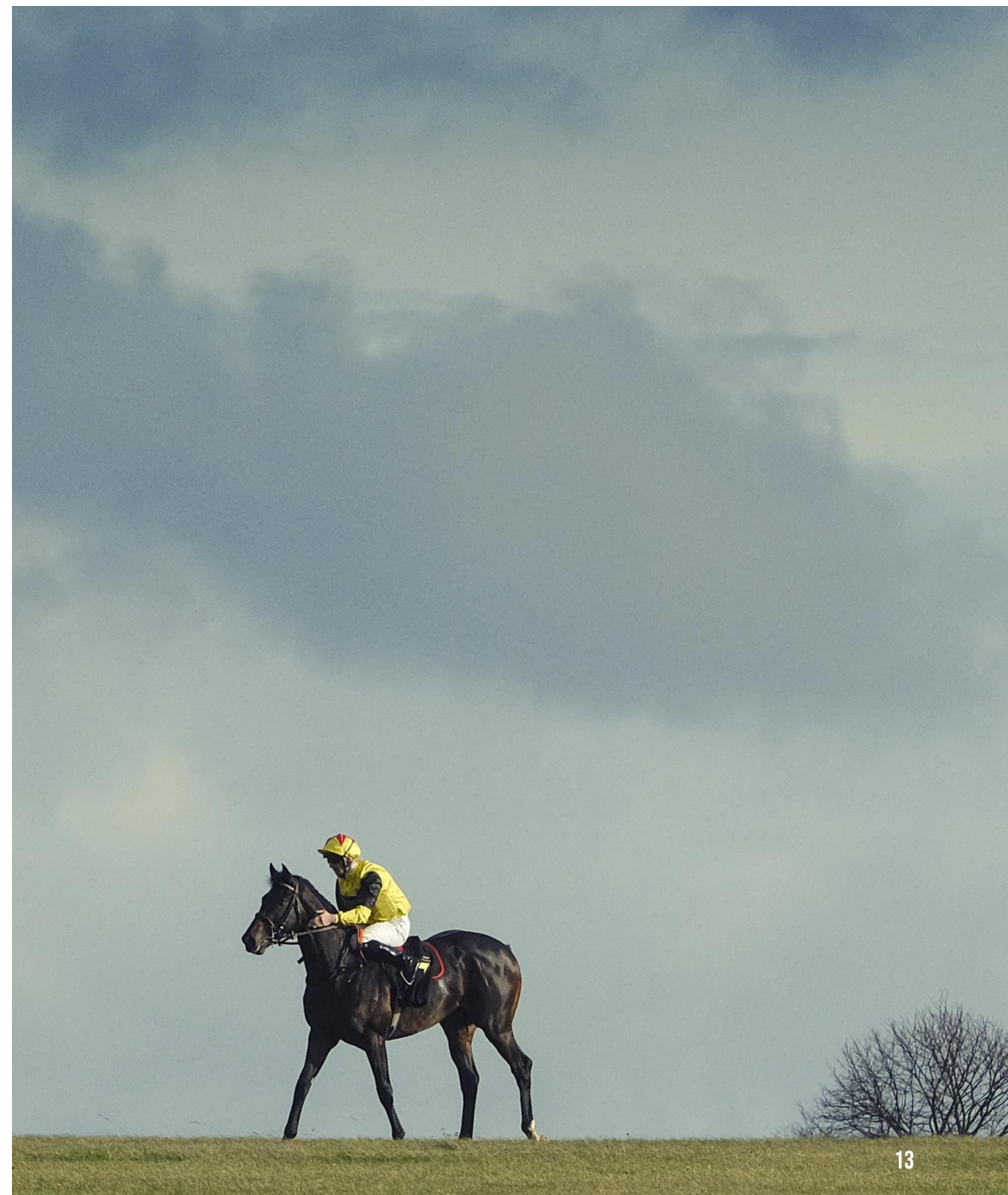
NATURE

GOAL: PROTECT NATURE TO SUSTAIN HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS & THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE

Biodiversity loss, driven by habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and unsustainable land use, threatens the ecosystems that provide essential services like food production, water purification, flood control, and disease regulation. Nature-related risks are as significant as those from climate change, impacting both economic and social well-being.

Nearly 200 nations, including the UK, committed at the 2022 Biodiversity COP15 to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. British racing can support this goal as many racecourses, training centres, and stud farms are located near protected landscapes, offering a unique opportunity to contribute to national nature recovery targets. More urban settings within racing provide vital havens for nature. Looking beyond the national challenge, global biodiversity decline threatens supply chains, posing risks to costs, availability, and overall operations within the sport.

Enhancing biodiversity also aids climate mitigation, with racing's green spaces playing a role in carbon sequestration.

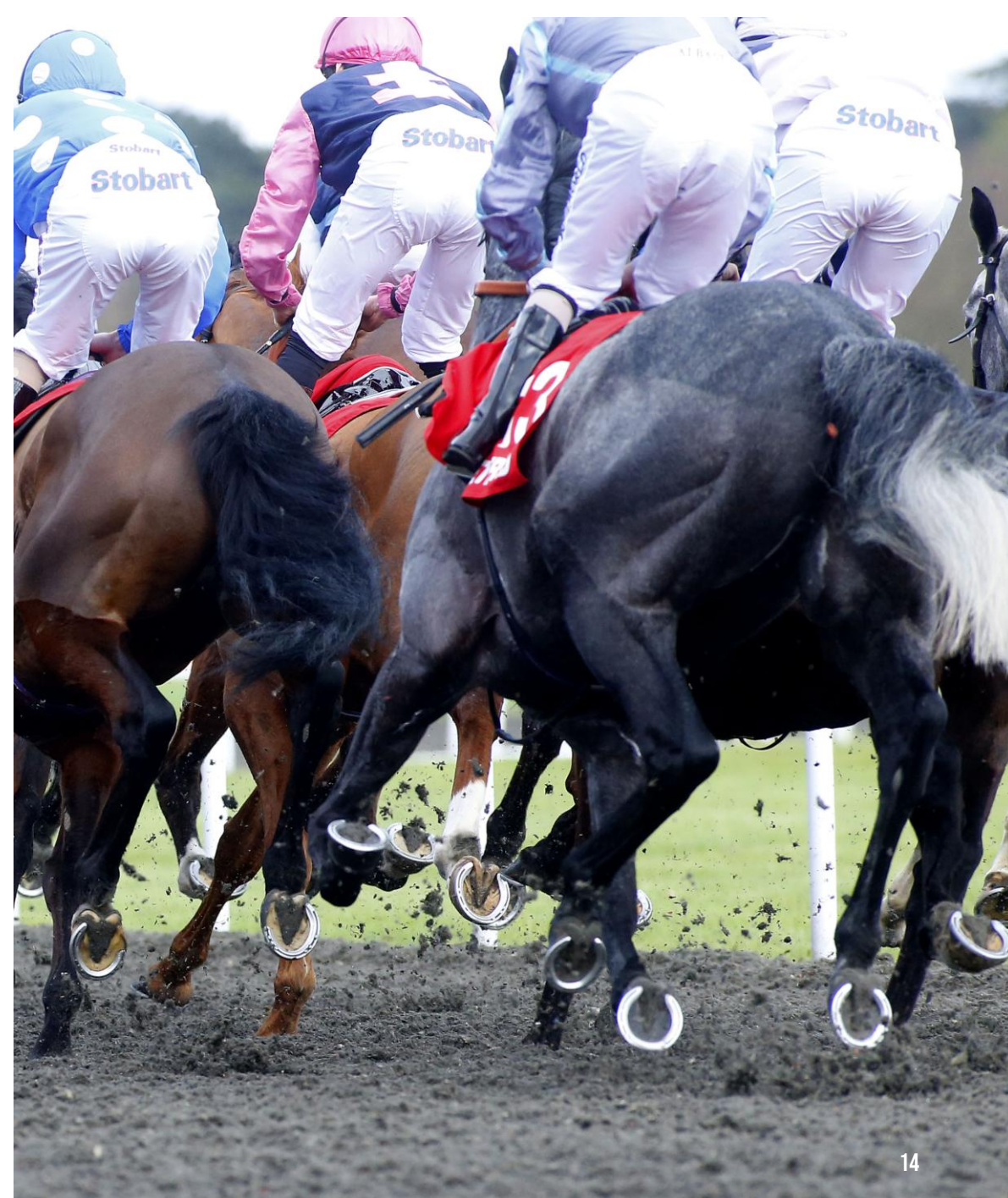


RESOURCES & WASTE

GOAL: MINIMISE WASTE & PROMOTE THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS & CHEMICALS

Waste is a growing global problem. Racing must assess how its operations contribute to waste streams and adopt a whole lifecycle approach to resource use, looking beyond immediate suppliers to understand the full value chain. Our industry has varied waste and resource streams which pose their own challenges, from training and breeding through to raceday operations. By shifting to a circular economy mindset – reducing waste generation, reusing materials, and designing waste out of the system – racing can reduce pollution, cut costs, and lessen its climate impact.

Sustainable sourcing is vital to racing's long-term resilience, ensuring the materials and products we rely on – such as feed, bedding, medical supplies, agronomy inputs, and infrastructure – are environmentally responsible. Prioritising non-toxic, sustainable, and locally appropriate products reduces pollution, protects ecosystems, and enhances soil and water health.



OUR COMMITMENT

British racing's manifesto for action to help us to achieve our goals.

CARBON

- We will reduce emissions from our direct operations.
- We will work with our supply chain to reduce indirect emissions.
- We will advocate for the development of more sustainable equine transport options.
- We will support and encourage our fans to travel more sustainably.
- We will look for opportunities to enhance land management to maximise carbon sequestration.

WATER

- We will conduct a water impact assessment to gauge the challenge.
- We will promote responsible and efficient consumption.
- We will investigate opportunities to diversify water sources to improve water resilience.
- We will explore measures to retain and use water more efficiently.
- We will promote the protection of water quality and prevention of pollution.

NATURE

- We will protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species.
- We will restore, regenerate and enhance nature wherever possible.
- We will educate and inspire positive action.
- We will understand the impact of our supply chain and reduce risk.

RESOURCES & WASTE

- We will embrace the reuse, recycle, recover model.
- We will promote the use of non-toxic products and materials.
- We will support research and development of sustainable materials for use within our operations.
- We will engage our supply chain to reduce waste and develop more sustainable solutions.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER SUCCESS

ENABLER 1

EDUCATE, ENGAGE & EMPOWER

Driving change starts with building understanding. Education provides the knowledge and skills to act, while engagement creates shared ownership of environmental goals. Empowerment turns awareness into action and embeds sustainability into racing's culture. Communication will be key to building momentum, raising awareness, and showcasing progress. In parallel, the ability to influence policy through clear, informed advocacy will ensure racing has a voice in shaping the regulatory and funding environment that supports sustainability. Without widespread awareness, active participation, and a clear external voice, even the most well-designed strategies risk falling short of their potential impact.

INTENDED IMPACT

- 1 Encourage behaviour change and innovation.
- 2 Help embed sustainability into daily operations.
- 3 Increase support for long-term goals.
- 4 Strengthen racing's voice through advocacy.



ENABLER 2

DATA-DRIVEN & TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED

Accurate, timely, and relevant data is essential for informed decision-making, measuring progress, and identifying areas for improvement. Technology, including AI, can streamline data collection, enhance predictive capabilities, and optimise resource use. It allows the industry to track emissions, water use, waste, and nature impacts efficiently and at scale. Technological advancement will play a key role in racing's ability to decarbonise, particularly as we seek more sustainable travel options for our equine athletes.

INTENDED IMPACT

- 1 Enables evidence-based actions and reporting.
- 2 Improves efficiency and reduces environmental footprint.
- 3 Supports transparency and accountability.



ENABLER 3

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Strong governance provides the structure, policies, and accountability needed to deliver on environmental goals. Leadership – from organisations, governing bodies, and key figures – sets the tone, drives momentum, and ensures that sustainability is embedded in strategic priorities. It also helps align environmental objectives with broader industry values and long-term vision. We need to build strategic partnerships to bring in expertise, strengthen delivery, and create impact that reaches beyond racing – benefiting communities and the environment.

INTENDED IMPACT

- 1 Ensure strategy is prioritised and properly managed.
- 2 Build trust and alignment across stakeholders.
- 3 Drive consistency, coordination, and compliance.
- 4 Strengthen capability through collaboration.



ENABLER 4

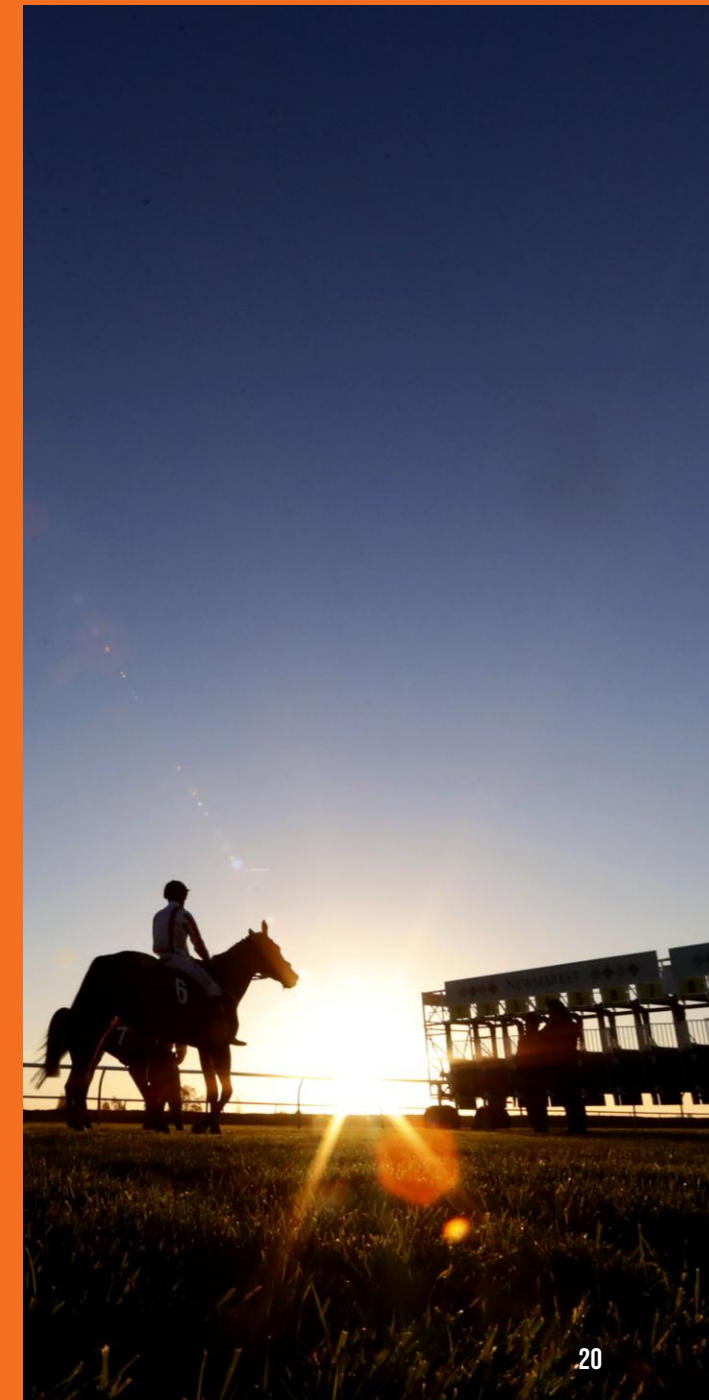
FUNDING & INCENTIVISATION

Financial support is essential to enable sustainable initiatives, from infrastructure upgrades to innovation in operations. Work to date would not have been possible without the financial support of the Racing Foundation.

Funding mechanisms help ensure that sustainability is not only a goal but a viable and achievable pathway for all parts of the industry. Incentivisation motivates participation and accelerates the adoption of sustainable practices, particularly where initial costs or perceived risks might deter action.

INTENDED IMPACT

- 1 Remove financial barriers to sustainable practices.
- 2 Encourage innovation and early adoption.
- 3 Ensure equitable participation and long-term commitment.



HOW WE WILL **DELIVER** SUCCESS

A list of strategic initiatives which will support the delivery of the goals of the strategy between 2025-2030

EDUCATE, ENGAGE & EMPOWER

- Provide Carbon Literacy Training for those in roles with environmental responsibilities.
- Develop a free-to-access “Environmental Sustainability in Racing” module on the Racing2Learn platform.
- Develop and signpost tools and resources.
- Develop a communication plan for environmental content for internal and external stakeholders.

DATA-DRIVEN & TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED

- Conduct a double-materiality assessment and use results to develop a prioritised action plan.
- Provide access to a carbon calculator for our racecourses.
- Expand the Stud Farm Carbon Calculator for use by the training community.
- Establish British racing’s carbon footprint.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Develop partnerships to support implementation and enhance impact.
- Adopt a “plan, do, check, act” model of continuous improvement and report against our progress.
- Publish an environmental code of conduct.
- Establish a GHG emissions reporting mechanism and investigate an environmental accreditation system for racing.

FUNDING & INCENTIVISATION

- Develop a funding framework linked to strategic goals.
- Identify and signpost funding opportunities for environmental initiatives and innovation.
- Continue to celebrate success and identify or develop additional opportunities to recognise positive contributions.
- Investigate the potential for development of British racing’s own Environmental Fund.

WHAT NEXT?

Our approach is rooted in science. In phase one, we'll focus on data-gathering and analysis, conducting a double-materiality assessment to identify our biggest impacts, risks and opportunities, and establishing an industry-wide emissions baseline. In the complex landscape of sustainability, not all actions are of equal importance. A successful strategy requires us to prioritise initiatives based on their potential impact and feasibility. The insights gained in phase one will allow us to address the most pressing environmental issues first and to target our resources.

Prioritisation allows for a focused, strategic approach, ensuring that the most critical areas are tackled to deliver the greatest positive change in the shortest time. Taking this approach will enable British racing to be **effective, agile, and future-focused** in the implementation of this environmental strategy.



ACTION & REPORTING

This strategy provides a clear framework for action. It outlines how the BHA will act and demonstrates the industry's commitment to the environment.

We expect all stakeholders to understand their environmental impacts, to develop a plan, and to act.

We will track progress and share updates regularly to ensure transparency, build accountability, and celebrate success across the industry.



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

The BHA will seek to identify and develop partnership opportunities that support the delivery of this strategy, drawing on expert advice and external insight where needed.

Collaboration is key; we encourage stakeholders to tackle challenges in partnership with others, share best practice, and engage in environmental networks.

The BHA is a member of BASIS and actively engages with the wider sports industry on environmental issues.



EVOLUTION

This strategy retains flexibility to respond to emerging data and evidence, and the direction of travel of national and global policies.

This is only the first chapter; phase one implementation, a deeper dive into the data, will see a more detailed and comprehensive plan developed.

As our understanding develops, so too will our actions – driving improvement, encouraging innovation, and ensuring racing adapts to future environmental challenges.

ROADMAP TO 2030

PHASE ONE: BUILD CAPABILITY & DEVELOP DATA-LED APPROACH

- Carbon baselining
- Double-Materiality Assessment
- Develop educational tools & resources
- Nature impact assessment
- Water impact assessment
- Waste & resources impact assessment
- Desktop review on potential funding sources
- Development of prioritised action plan

2025-2026

PHASE TWO: TAKE ACTION

- Implement prioritised action plan
- Establish strategic partnerships
- Accreditation scheme launched
- Supply chain impact assessment
- Racecourse Environmental Sustainability plans in place

2027-2029

PHASE THREE: REVIEW & REASSESS

- Reassess carbon footprint
- Review progress to date
- Realign with industry strategy
- Realign with national & global targets

FROM 2030



BRITISH
HORSERACING'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
STRATEGY



SUPPORTED BY

