

# BMC CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

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# BACKGROUND & BMC COMMITMENT

**Adventure. Community. Action.**

**For every Hillwalker, Climber and Mountaineer.**

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the national representative body that champions the interests of climbers, hill walkers, mountaineers and ski mountaineers in England and Wales; we are also recognised by the government as the national governing body for competition climbing.





**Our Climate and Sustainability Strategy**

The urgency of the climate crisis requires swift and ambitious action to reduce emissions now.

Net zero means equally balancing the greenhouse gases we are responsible for emitting with the amount that's removed from the atmosphere, with a clear focus on emission reduction.

This is in line with a 1.5 degree scenario to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, as set out in the Paris Agreement. This commitment means we are already considering the way we operate and advocating for climate actions across our membership and with those we work with.

It is important that a carbon offset approach is not used to disguise impacts that could be reduced or mitigated in other ways. Regular reviews of activities across the organisation will be undertaken to avoid the need to offset as much as possible. The BMC recognises however that there are some activities that cannot be undertaken without emitting carbon. We will therefore ensure that any offsets purchased will be done so through a recognised carbon credit programme (e.g. the UK peatland code or woodland code) and will invest in local landscape-restoration projects that help protect biodiversity and remove, or prevent further loss of, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



**THIS COMMITMENT MEANS WE  
ARE ALREADY CONSIDERING THE  
WAY WE OPERATE AND ADVOCATING  
FOR CLIMATE ACTIONS ACROSS  
OUR MEMBERSHIP AND WITH  
THOSE WE WORK WITH**

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The BMC commits to implementing a strategy to address the climate and biodiversity emergency by:

1. reducing emissions from our own operations through energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, reduced travel and lower-carbon forms of travel.
2. investing in local landscape-restoration projects that help store carbon and other carbon reduction projects, to meet our net zero target by removing any residual emissions (once emissions are physically cut as far as possible), and to enable our members to contribute to restoration and sequestration projects that support the landscapes they value.
3. ensuring our owned crags and land are exemplars of good management practises that help sequester emissions, revitalise habitats and protect and restore species.
4. using our influence to encourage and support our members, partners, stakeholders and others to 'leave no trace' when outdoors, measure and then reduce their carbon emissions in line with science-based targets and ensure we do not take actions that prevent targets from being met.
5. promoting the role that BMC and UK-based climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers can play in increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change, and supporting upland communities already affected in the UK and internationally.
6. ensuring that climate considerations are front and centre in all our on-going policies, activities, communications, and events.





## Our Commitment

The BMC will act to tackle climate change and commit to eliminate our contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040 (10 years ahead of the Government's target for the UK of 2050). This will be done by making changes to the way we operate and reducing the emissions we produce as much as possible. Any residual emissions will be accounted for by supporting research led, nature-based solutions.

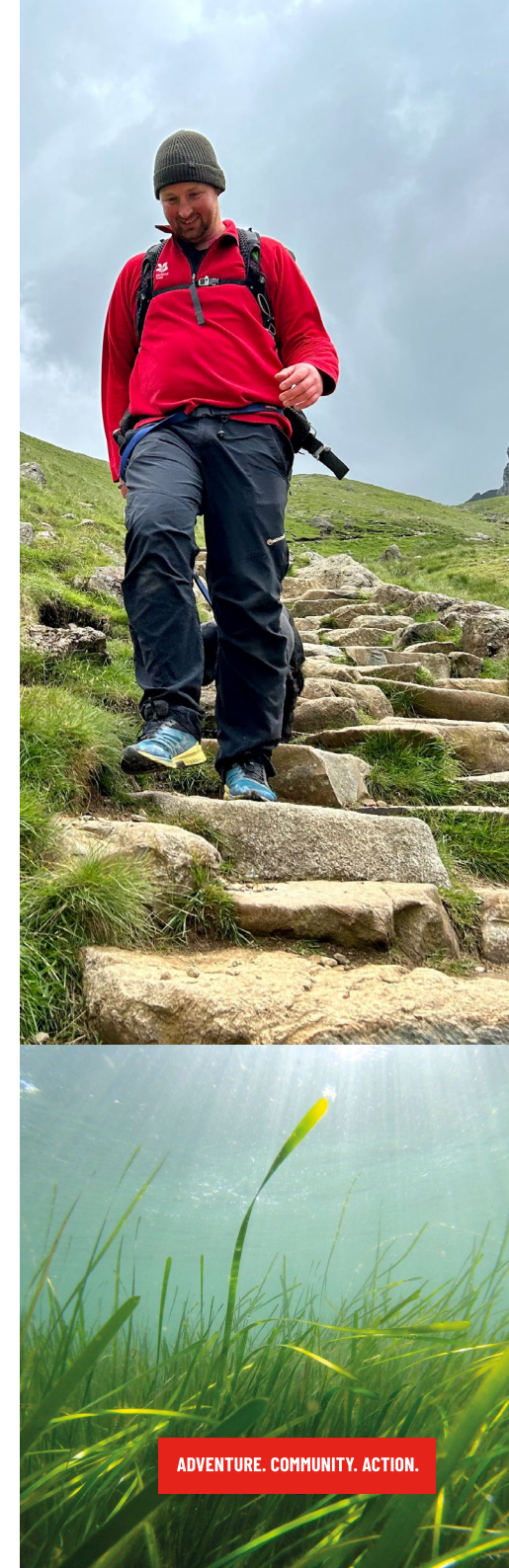
To reflect this, our net zero commitment is also to reduce emissions from our operations\* by 50% by 2030 in absolute terms from 2019 levels. Both goals are the intent of all sporting organisations who sign up to the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.

The BMC recognises that there is a climate and biodiversity emergency that is already affecting large parts of the world, including upland and mountain areas that we love, and which form the basis of our outdoor activities. As well as providing opportunities for recreation, adventure and quiet enjoyment, these mountain areas provide vital services such as flood management, carbon sinks, clean air and water, and wildlife habitats, and are home to millions of people across the world.

The BMC understands the need to respond urgently to the climate emergency across all sectors of society - to cut carbon dioxide and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to help avoid the very worst effects of climate change and to avoid reaching significant tipping points, and to adapt to a low-carbon economy and prepare for a changing climate.

The BMC also recognises the need to protect and restore nature and contribute towards the mission of the Global Biodiversity Framework to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. For the climate, there is no hope of meeting net zero without restoring nature. The BMC will discharge its objectives in a way that minimises any adverse impacts on the environment.

It is true that there are inherent contradictions in publishing our climate and sustainability action plan when the very nature of the BMC's business involves the sale of travel insurance, supporting climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in their passion for adventure, and enabling the GB Climbing Team to travel globally for training and competition, including Olympic and World Championship campaigns. Real reductions are possible, and the BMC will focus on these, but carbon offsetting will be needed in the short term to address travel and the emissions produced by the very nature of our sport.





### Establishing our baseline: the GHG Inventory Report 2019-2021

For credibility of commitments and to understand our baseline emissions the BMC has undertaken an analysis of our scope 1,2 and 3 emissions (categories that are material to total emissions and where data allows them to be measured sufficiently).

From this report, we can see that the largest part of the BMC's operational footprint comes from staff and volunteer travel as well as the indirect impact of its operations including greenhouse gases produced as a result of the goods and services it buys and participant travel to the events it organises. The scope of our footprint covers all activities undertaken by and paid for by the BMC.

Each year, the BMC will measure, reduce, and report its GHG emissions and communicate on climate action to inspire society at large. From this, we will be able to set realistic targets, refine objectives and develop a roadmap to help reach net zero.

### Our Vision and Aim

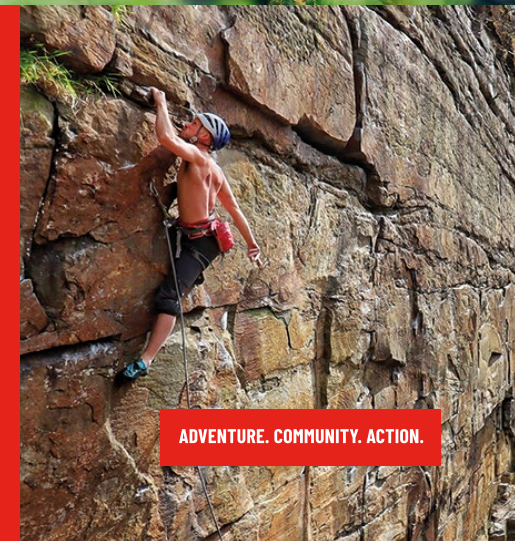
The BMC believes the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community can play a key role in making that happen and we are committed to lead by example. Our vision is to make the BMC a healthy, green, more diverse, and inclusive organisation that people wish to join and be inspired by, and help ensure that our uplands, moorlands and mountain environments, including crags and cliffs, are protected and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing our world today. It is in the interests of everyone that we see systemic change that averts climate catastrophe and decarbonises the way we operate.

While vital efforts to reduce GHG emissions still have the potential to limit the extent of global temperature rises, the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community is already experiencing impacts of extreme temperatures, storms, heat waves, shorter and less predictable winters, wildfires, air pollution and sea level rise.



**OUR VISION IS TO MAKE  
THE BMC A HEALTHY, GREEN,  
MORE DIVERSE, AND INCLUSIVE  
ORGANISATION THAT PEOPLE WISH  
TO JOIN AND BE INSPIRED BY**



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The BMC is aware of the value of these sensitive environments to climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, but also recognises their intrinsic value as landscapes and habitats, and in respect of the environmental services, such as retention of flood water, the sequestration of carbon in bogs and homes for wildlife that they provide. This is clearly outlined in our Environmental and Sustainability Policy which acts as a high-level statement of intent.

Several nationally and internationally protected flora and fauna species are found in the mountain environment and other areas valued for their wild land character in England and Wales. The BMC actively supports the protection of their habitats and will work with conservation bodies and land managers to ensure that appropriate restrictions are in place to remedy biodiversity loss, protect our most important habitats and positively support nature's recovery. On particularly sensitive sites, the BMC will also support research and monitoring to ensure conservation programmes are effective, and on our owned and managed sites, we will undertake an assessment of how best we can use nature to help remove emissions.

### Member of UN Race to Zero Framework and UN Sports for Climate Action Framework

The BMC joined the Sports for Climate Action Framework in 2021 and as such joined the global sports community to try to combat climate change, through commitments and partnerships. As such we commit to adhere to a set of five principles and incorporate these into strategies, policies and procedures, and mainstream them within the sports community, thus setting the stage for a wider dissemination of the message and long-term success.

The five principles are:

- **(a) Principle 1:** Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility;
- **(b) Principle 2:** Reduce overall climate impact;
- **(c) Principle 3:** Educate for climate action;
- **(d) Principle 4:** Promote sustainable and responsible consumption;
- **(e) Principle 5:** Advocate for climate action through communication.



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These commitments are weaved into the BMC Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.

All Sports for Climate Action signatories are also requested to adhere to the following process:

- **Pledge.** By the head of the organisation. Commitments to adopt the targets will also require a pledge at the head-of-organisation level to reach (net)-zero by 2040.
- **Plan.** To help facilitate action towards emissions reductions targets, participants of the Framework must issue plans on how they are aiming to achieve interim targets. These plans will often be iterative.
- **Proceed With Action.** All signatories are requested to take immediate action toward their climate goals, reflecting the urgency of rapid emissions reductions.
- **Report.** For credibility of commitments and to maintain signatory status, all signatories are to submit annual public reporting from 2021 onwards.
- The BMC Climate and Sustainability Action Plan also addresses these processes.

### **Member of the UN Sport for Nature Framework**

The BMC joined the Sport for Nature Framework in 2024. It is designed to complement the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework and address the nature crisis both in outdoor and indoor environments where sport takes place. The Sports for Nature Framework has one overall objective: to deliver transformative nature-positive action across sports by 2030 and beyond. It supports sports to make measurable contributions for nature and asks organisations to work towards four principles and linked goals.

The Sports for Nature principles are:

1. Protect nature and avoid damage to natural habitats and species;
2. Restore and regenerate nature wherever possible;
3. Understand and reduce risks to nature in your supply chains; and
4. Educate and inspire positive action for nature across and beyond sport.

Therefore, the BMC commits to undertake ambitious and measurable action for nature by upholding the Sports for Nature principles. These are also embedded within the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan.



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# SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE BMC

## Our vision

To conserve and protect our climbing, hill walking and mountaineering landscapes across the United Kingdom for people and nature so they remain sanctuaries for sustainable recreation. To be a sector leader for outdoor recreation and an advocate for environmental sustainability.





Our work across the organisation reflects the United Nations Global Compact sustainability principles and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to promoting all the goals but those where we can have the biggest impact. The BMC staff and volunteers strive to be as sustainable as possible in our day-to-day work and activities, wherever we operate.

The BMC’s head office is in a former church in Didsbury, and we currently have a staff of over 50 people.

All BMC departments and staff are committed to delivering our sustainability actions as set out in the Plan. To support this, each department has identified a Sustainability Champion who will help shape our work going forward.

The BMC’s Climate and Sustainability Working Group consider the BMC’s work and operations to fulfil the following UN Sustainability Goals. These will be reviewed regularly:



**TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF OUR SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS, EACH BMC DEPARTMENT HAS IDENTIFIED A SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION WHO WILL HELP SHAPE OUR WORK GOING FORWARD**



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The BMC Membership

Our vision:  
To inspire all BMC members to take meaningful action to reduce their carbon emissions and help protect the places we love.

The BMC is a membership-based organisation with a current membership of 83,500 made up of 58,500 individual members and 288 affiliated clubs with 25,100 members.

The structure of our organisation provides an opportunity to directly influence our membership and affiliated organisations with respect to sustainability and biodiversity issues.

Most of our members are hill walkers as well as climbers and mountaineers. Many join us for our wide-ranging travel insurance cover. We also provide Combined Liability insurance (for club and individual members) and Personal Accident cover (for individual members).

The BMC as a Charitable Organisation

Our vision:  
For the BMC Charities to be environmentally sustainable across all of our activities, and to help influence our partners and grant recipients to do the same.

The BMC is the sole member of three charitable subsidiaries: the BMC Access and Conservation Trust, the BMC Land and Property Trust and the Mountain Heritage Trust. The BMC will work to support these charities to become as environmentally sustainable as possible and have a net zero impact on the environment alongside the BMC’s ambition.

The BMC Club and Hut network

Our vision:  
To support clubs, community groups and hut operators to share vital knowledge and to become as environmentally sustainable as possible.

The BMC will work to support climbing huts to become as environmentally sustainable as possible and have a net zero impact on the environment. The BMC currently has 288 affiliated clubs across England and Wales and we will help to support this network to take meaningful steps to reduce its emissions and adopt new environmentally sustainable practices.

The BMC is involved in the management of three huts which are in great locations for hill walkers and climbers. The Don Whillans Memorial Hut is under the Roaches in the Staffordshire Moorlands (England) with the Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut (Ballachulish) and the Glen Brittle Memorial Hut (Skye) both in Scotland.





The BMC as an organiser of sustainable events in the UK

Our vision:  
To lead the sector in organising sustainable outdoor events; designing and producing events in a way that takes account of their environmental, social, and economic impacts and that makes the best use of resources to build a stronger brand and event reputation.

Currently, the BMC arranges over 200 national events each year from climbing competitions to climbing festivals at outdoor venues and we have a big presence at Mountain Festivals. These are already single-use-plastic-free and our stands are made from pallets and recycled materials – we aim to have a zero-waste policy at all of our events.

BMC National Competition Climbing

Our vision:  
Climbing walls help build and unify our community and our competitions allow climbers to achieve their ambitions and spectators to feel inspired. Competition climbing provides a platform to help educate and raise the profile of the climate challenges ahead.

The growth in indoor climbing has rocketed in the past few years, particularly since climbing featured in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. As well as operating the GB Climbing Team, the BMC organises a number of events around the UK and is creating a talent pathway for young talented climbers to realise their potential and begin competing in their selected disciplines.

Each year, the BMC hosts over 20 national competitions including the British Boulder Championships and British Lead Championships, the Para-climbing Series as well as the Youth Climbing Series.



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**The BMC as a National Governing Body (GB Climbing)**

Our vision:  
**For sustainability to be at the centre of developing an exciting future for competition climbing in Great Britain and for athletes to feel empowered to become global climate change ambassadors.**

The BMC is supporting elite athletes to create opportunities to build a legacy and inspire a nation.

In the summer of 2020 in Tokyo, climbing finally reached the heights of becoming an Olympic sport for the first time. Olympic climbers at Tokyo competed in the combined event which put together the three disciplines: lead, boulder and speed climbing. Looking ahead to Paris 2024, and beyond, speed climbing will be a sport of its own, separated from lead and boulder.

GB Climbing is an internal department of the BMC and is designated with looking after and giving future direction to all things connected with competition climbing. The Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG) oversees GB Climbing and is formed of a group of experts who work with, advise and plan the future of GB Climbing.

The GB Climbing Team is made up of the Senior Team, the Junior Team, the Ice Climbing Team, the Ski Mountaineering Team, and the Paraclimbing Team.

Going forward, the BMC will be incorporating emissions reporting and sustainability action plans into our future bids for grant funding from SE and UKS.



**GB CLIMBING IS AN INTERNAL DEPARTMENT OF THE BMC AND IS DESIGNATED WITH LOOKING AFTER AND GIVING FUTURE DIRECTION TO ALL THINGS CONNECTED WITH COMPETITION CLIMBING**





# THE BMC CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The Plan serves as a statement of intent and a practical roadmap for addressing environmental and climate concerns, setting out what we believe the BMC and the climbing, hill walking and mountaineering community can and should be doing to contribute to a healthier and more sustainable society. It is based on seven clear themes.





The Plan’s Themes

The BMC Climate and Sustainability Plan is based on seven clear themes:

- 1. Governance p 16
- 2. BMC office and operations p 19
- 3. Delivering and supporting sustainable events p 25
- 4. Delivering sustainable competition climbing events p 27
- 5. Delivering sustainable projects and partnerships p 30
- 6. Influencing and educating climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers p 33
- 7. Supporting nature-based solutions p 36

Reviewing the Plan

The Plan will be reviewed every year. This will be essential to reassess progress on actions and take stock of where efforts and resources may need to be refocused. The Plan is:

- Focused on core delivery 2024–2040
- Based around seven themes
- Developed with staff and volunteer input from every department
- Evidence-based, prioritising actions that deliver impact
- A holistic management approach, not just a net zero strategy
- Aimed at creating meaningful and sustainable change, embedding climate-informed decision-making.

To implement the Plan, and for it to be most effective, certain actions must be taken earlier than others. Our timeline spans four phases: immediate (2024-2027), short (2027-2030), medium (2030-2035), and long-term (2035-2040).

Each BMC Department has a responsibility for making sure specific sets of actions are achieved.

Measuring Progress

We will continuously review and improve this plan as we monitor progress and address new circumstances and objectives. We will review and adjust the Action Plan every two years (starting at beginning of 2025). Some of the medium and long-term actions may also be initiated earlier but will only be fully executed in future years. Every year, progress will be reported to the Board and KPIs will be weaved into BMC Departmental work programmes each year. In addition, the BMC will report each year on its GHG emissions (scope 1,2 and 3), as required by the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.





# THEME 1

## GOVERNANCE

### Strategic Goal

To embed sustainability in our daily operations and decision-making.

The BMC Board of Directors (the Board) is responsible for the strategy and direction of the BMC, monitoring progress against organisational objectives set to implement the strategy, ensuring its financial viability and that it meets legislative requirements. It also has the responsibility to ensure that decisions made consider any impact on the climate or natural environment.

The Board works with the CEO, Senior Management Team and staff who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the BMC and ensure climate-related issues are at the forefront of decisions made on a day-to-day basis; and the Members' Council which acts as the representative body for the members.





Both the Board and staff gain support from a number of committees, in particular the BMC Access Management Group and specialist sub-committees, who will report on progress being made with the Action Plan and who can provide world-class expertise around conservation and climate change.

### Environmental Social Governance

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) or environmental social governance (ESG) is about the impact an organisation makes on society, the environment, and the economy. Having effective CSR/ESG programmes contributes positively to all stakeholders as well as adding value to the organisation itself, and ensures it operates in a sustainable way.

The Board must ensure it factors environmental social governance into the decisions it takes and the actions it implements. Stakeholders are increasingly interested in an organisation's approach in this area and the BMC will share its organisational policies related to sustainability, actions taken and/or performance delivered as well as partnerships formed to support sustainable practices.

### Outcome

The BMC understands that for sustainability to be successful across the organisation, it must become a natural part of everyday operations. We will achieve this through leadership commitment, and by implementing appropriate policies and procedures. Sustainability will be integrated systematically into our decision-making processes and daily activities.



**SUSTAINABILITY WILL BE  
INTEGRATED SYSTEMATICALLY  
INTO OUR DECISION-MAKING  
PROCESSES AND DAILY ACTIVITIES,  
ACROSS THE BMC ORGANISATION**



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## Governance Actions

### Achieved:

- Assign responsibility for sustainability within the Senior Management Team and across each Department of the organisation
- Implement the organisational procurement policy to ensure environmental and social sustainability considerations, as well as financial stability, are incorporated in processes for tenders and selection of suppliers
- Ensure Core funding is available to roll out the action plan from 2025
- Develop and implement supporting policies such as the BMC Sustainable Transport Policy
- Develop and implement a series of guidelines outlining what we require for partners that we work with
- Review HR policies to ensure that they meet the commitments to the Twelve Principles of the UN Global Compact
- Incorporate sustainability criteria in grant and other funding allocations
- Transparently share our successes, challenges and lessons learned through public reporting (first sustainability report was issued in early 2022 and every two years thereafter)

- Agree and develop a comprehensive implementation plan that outlines roles, responsibilities, and timelines for all BMC departments. The plan should consider short, medium, and long-term goals for reducing our impact
- Secure training for staff and Board members to strengthen knowledge and awareness, moving towards a delivery model in which sustainability across BMC operations is a fully shared responsibility

### To Do - Scope 3:

#### Immediate (2024-2025)

- Identify a staff member to check the emissions of voting providers for recording AGM results and factor this into the choice of who to use
- Work with the Directors of the BMC Charitable subsidiaries to assess and review the effectiveness of their operations so that they are line with the BMC Climate and Sustainability Action Plan

#### Short term (2026-2030)

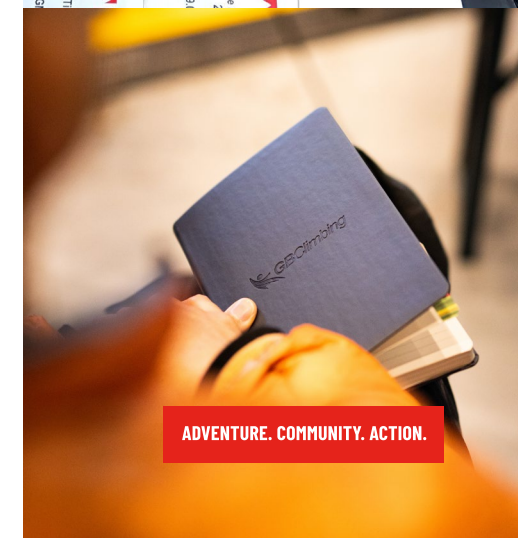
- Work with funded partners, the IFSC, UIAA and ABC to develop an action plan for Sustainable Indoor Climbing

#### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- Develop a Sustainability Management System for the BMC office in accordance with an international standard (such as ISO 20121:2012) or equivalent, including mechanisms to monitor, evaluate and improve performance and to report on progress.

#### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



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## THEME 2 OFFICE & OPERATIONS

### Strategic Goal

To reduce our impact on the environment, and to prioritise climate action and circular economy (re-using, repairing and recycling). This pillar focuses on how we can reduce our own operational footprint and make operational decisions that continue to minimise our organisation's impact on the environment.

### Outcome

The BMC will reduce its carbon footprint by at least 50 percent by 2030, relying only on offsetting for unavoidable emissions (the greenhouse gas emissions that remain after all practical measures have been taken to reduce our carbon footprint) as per the UN's Sport for Climate Action Framework requirements, and reach net zero by 2040.





**The BMC as an Organisation**

Establishing our baseline: the GHG Inventory Report 2019-2021.

Each year, the BMC will measure, reduce, and report its GHG emissions and communicate on climate action to inspire society at large. From this, we will be able to set realistic targets, refine objectives and develop a roadmap to help reach net zero.

**i / Building and Office Operations**

The BMC has an office recycling and waste policy. We also continue to use renewable energy for office needs.

In particular, our focus is on:

- **Energy and emissions:** To minimise GHG emissions from all sources including buildings, equipment and other operational sources, including emissions from non-energy sources such as refrigeration.
- **Waste Management:** To minimise the generation of waste. All unavoidable waste is to be reused, recycled, or recovered with no waste sent for incineration or landfill.
- **Water and Effluents:** To use water efficiently and effectively, to dispose of wastewater appropriately, and to avoid watercourse pollution.
- **Materials and Chemicals:** To use sustainable, healthy, non-toxic products and raw materials with low embodied energy which are sourced locally and made from reusable, recyclable and/or recycled resources



**EACH YEAR, THE BMC WILL  
MEASURE, REDUCE, AND  
REPORT ITS GHG EMISSIONS  
AND COMMUNICATE ON  
CLIMATE ACTION TO INSPIRE  
SOCIETY AT LARGE**





## Building and Office Operation Actions

### Achieved:

- Ensure staff are aware of and using the BMC sustainability checklists for the office and meetings
- Measure our impact and collect data on all aspects of our operations annually (scopes 1,2 and 3)
- Turn radiators down to 3 and thermostats down to 21
- Adopt new hybrid working arrangements
- Use renewable electricity
- Create a network of BMC sustainability champions (staff), who will help each team to consider and address its impacts

## To Do- Scope 3

### Immediate (2024-2025)

- Carry out an audit of the BMC-owned office to understand what changes can be made to maximise the environmental sustainability of the building
- Identify a dedicated staff member to review office procurement
- Deliver free Carbon Literacy Training to each staff member and offer it to key volunteers
- Begin to weigh and record the weight of domestic rubbish alongside the amount being recycled
- Begin to understand and record our cloud computing emissions
- Request all contractors and partners to share their Environmental / Sustainable Goals and ask if they are measuring their GHG emissions
- Aim to achieve a 10% reduction in facilities energy use per annum, the target to be reviewed annually.

## Short term (2026-2030)

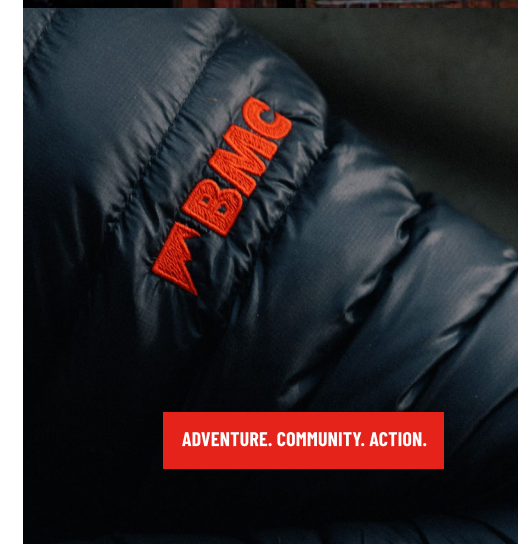
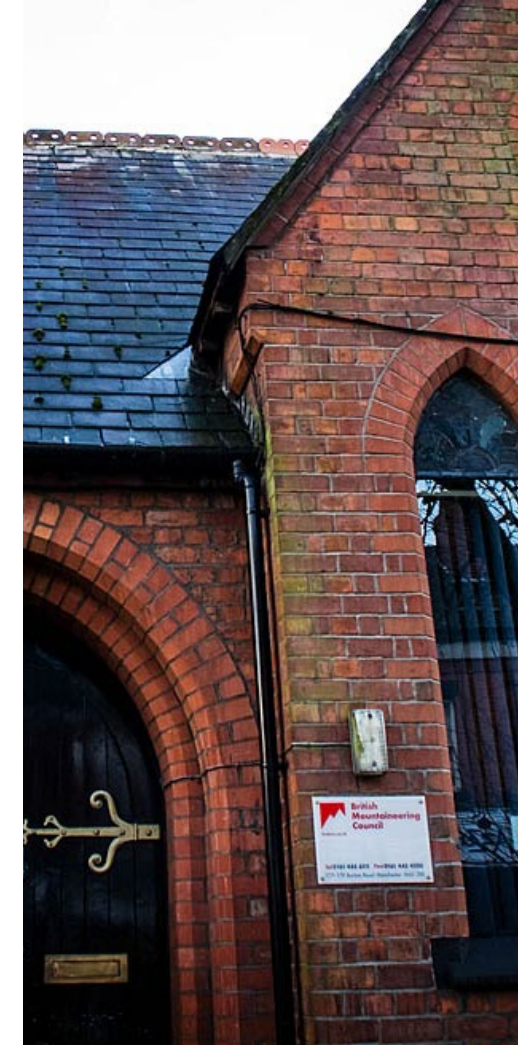
- Develop a Zero Pollution and Zero Waste Pathway with the aim of eliminating waste and pollution and looking to circular economy principles
- Replace old doors at the back of the building with insulated ones
- Install motion light sensors and timers
- Replace the office boiler, moving away from gas
- Look at ways to maximise the energy efficiency of the office building and plan through (for example) the installation of solar panels, insulation, ground source pump heating.

## Medium Term (2031-2035)

- Maximise the energy efficiency of the office building through the installation of equipment such as solar panels

## Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.





## ii / BMC Huts

### BMC Huts Actions

We will work in conjunction with the BMC Huts Group to achieve the following:

#### Achieved:

- List a range of funding opportunities available for all climbing huts to address the energy and climate crisis and help ensure huts can be maintained in an environmentally sustainable way

#### To Do - Scope 3:

##### Immediate (2024-2025)

- Work with the Huts Group to help implement and deliver their Vision of a Sustainable Future for Mountain Huts (e.g. energy efficiency)

##### Short term (2026-2030)

- Work with EUMA and their work on European huts which includes an assessment of the environmental impact of each hut and scope of works to improve each hut.

- Carry out an audit of the two BMC-owned huts to understand what changes can be made to improve the environmental sustainability of the buildings and reduce their environmental impact
- Help improve the environmental sustainability of mountain refuges, through advice and information sharing. In particular, factors such as the integration of renewable energies, improved efficiency and insulation, the use of dimmable lights, deactivation of outside lights when they are not being used and flow limiters in showers as well as sustainable waste opportunities

##### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- Support hut owners and managers to install off-grid renewable energy sources and/or install measures to reduce energy use, particularly at huts using oil or bottled gas as heating sources

##### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

## iii / BMC Membership and Membership Services

### Membership Services Actions

#### Achieved:

- Continue to email BMC membership cards
- Move to an online version of Summit magazine

#### To Do - Scope 3:

##### Immediate term (2024-2025)

- Continue to identify new partners and review membership benefits with a focus on sustainable products and services

##### Short term (2026-2030)

- Work with travel partners to consider advertising fewer foreign travel destinations in our Summit Magazine and more sustainable travel options to reach destinations.

##### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

##### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



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#### iv / Staff & volunteer travel

Through the BMC's Sustainable Transport Policy we have determined four spheres of action:

- In our own operations, we have set policy and requirements for staff and volunteer travel
- We will provide guidance, tools, inspiration and incentives for our members and others taking part in outdoor recreation to travel more sustainably
- We will use our influence to try to change national and regional policy and engage partner organisations in the sector to support sustainable and active travel infrastructure
- We will demonstrate what is possible and help find better solutions by representing the views of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in sustainable travel programs, and learning and sharing what works to change behaviour and reduce impact in upland areas and national parks

#### Staff and Volunteer Travel Actions

##### Achieved:

- Encourage the use of web conferencing and remote meetings to reduce the need to travel / hybrid working
- Support staff members to hire hybrid or electric vehicles when required for business trips
- Record in more detail, the exact mileage/ travel and accommodation needs of all staff and volunteers
- Reduce the number of face to face meetings abroad and limit numbers attending e.g. IFSC meetings
- Try to time meetings to ensure they coincide with public transport links
- Encourage lift-sharing by providing shared transport solutions and promoting of BMC Lift Share site and app to staff, volunteers, and members.

#### To Do - Scope 3:

##### Immediate term (204-2025)

- Limit the use of internal UK domestic flights by staff and volunteers for BMC events and meetings except in exceptional circumstances where no other mode of transport is available.
- Better advertise the BMC Lift Share Platform

##### Short term (2026-2030)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

##### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

##### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.





**v / Procurement and circular economy**

The BMC recognises that procuring goods and services can have an impact on the environment, depending on the practices of the suppliers selected. The BMC will therefore incorporate economic, social and environmental considerations into all procurement and employment decisions.

We will also factor sustainability criteria into our due diligence assessments before committing to corporate sponsorship and aim to create partnerships with those who can demonstrate their sustainability credentials.

The BMC has already stopped the use of single-use and short-life materials. We have revised branding and signage to eliminate short-life materials (marketing materials, event signage and banners etc.) and stopped all single-use packaging in deliveries (only paper or cardboard including tape). We also use a print-on-demand service for any clothing we produce (volunteers and athletes).

Prior to selecting the supplier, the BMC staff or volunteer must consider a number of criteria, outlined in our Procurement Policy.

**Procurement and Circular Economy Actions**

**Achieved:**

- To draft and finalise the Commercial Partners policy to ensure we are only partnering businesses with sustainable credentials
- Understand the emissions impact of our insurers and our public liability/travel insurance providers and start to factor these into our own decisions.

**To Do - Scope 3:**

**Immediate term (2024-2025)**

- Record in more detail the quantities and details of material items purchased
- Analyse the results of the baseline survey to understand our purchasing patterns, sources and quantities with the intention of reviewing these and making changes / eliminating where possible

**Short term (2026-2030)**

- Review our investment policies for reserves and pensions, and ensure that the policies of our investment partners align with our sustainability objectives
- Get advice from an ethical banking expert for the management of our finances – banks and building societies who fund and invest in socially responsible organisations that aim to bring about positive societal change..

**Medium Term (2031-2035)**

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

**Long term (2030-2040)**

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



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## THEME 3

# DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Strategic Goal

To ensure all BMC events are net zero by 2040 while prioritising sustainability, climate action, circular economy, and environmental protection. Events, including the impacts of participants and spectators, are a significant component of BMC activities. For mitigation activities, we will take responsibility for the travel and operational activities managed by ourselves, while the overall operation of the events will be accounted for by the event host.

### Outcome

The BMC will begin to deliver carbon neutral events from 2024 which will include minimising the amount of waste that is created through the course of the event, reducing the consumption of water and electricity, as well as the levels of air, noise, and light pollution. Each event will also support local communities by using local businesses and will support a local nature-based project.





The BMC should work towards prioritise existing venues that already operate to high sustainability standards (e.g. energy management systems and water conservation measures in place). We have also produced a sustainable checklist for events and meetings which staff and volunteers are encouraged to use when planning an event. The focus of this is on considering factors relating to:

- Venue
- Outdoor events
- Food and drink
- Travel and transport
- Marketing displays and meeting papers
- Merchandise and consumables
- Recycling and waste
- Educate and inspire
- Biodiversity

Currently, our portfolio of BMC meetings and events includes specialist committee meetings; BMC local area meetings; Members' Council meetings; Board meetings; the AGM; crag clean-up events; Fundamentals of Climbing courses; Charitable Trust meetings; coaching courses; squad training days; volunteer conservation days; hill walking events; hiking essentials

workshops; clubs and huts seminars; Make Winter Count seminars; student safety seminars; climbing festivals; staff team building events; specific fundraisers and specific conferences.

### **Sustainable Events and Meetings Actions To Do - Scope 3:**

#### **Immediate term (2024-2025)**

- Ensure BMC departments work together to ensure best practice from a sustainability perspective is embedded in courses as existing courses are reviewed and new courses develop
- Improve communication regarding BMC sustainable values and how attendees can help before BMC events
- Carry out post event analysis and reflect on lessons learnt

#### **Short term (2026-2030)**

- Implement a system for measuring athlete and spectator travel – a central event registration system
- Plan events well in advance to ensure the right location (if face-to-face is needed) is secured and can be accessed by public transport etc. including local area meetings

- Host two BMC carbon neutral events (not climbing competitions)
- Develop a plan and associated learning on how to reduce GHG emission at BMC events – share best practice
- Collaborate with event venues and local organisers to reduce the carbon footprint of events by 50 percent by 2030, without relying on offsetting.
- Collaborate with event organisers to achieve a 50% reduction in single-use and short-life items by 2025, and an 80% reduction by 2030. Ensure BMC outdoor events have a measurable positive effect on the natural environment

#### **Medium Term (2031-2035)**

- Define a reduction plan for fan travel and transport, by developing alternative event engagement opportunities

#### **Long term (2030-2040)**

- To be added to as Plan progresses.





## THEME 4

# DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE COMPETITION CLIMBING EVENTS

### Strategic Goal

To deliver high-quality climbing competitions that are as sustainable as possible, inspiring and supporting athletes, staff and spectators to take significant steps to reduce their emissions.

Events, including the impacts of participants and spectators, are a significant component of BMC activities. For mitigation activities, we will take responsibility for the travel and operational activities managed by ourselves, while the overall operation of the events will be accounted for by the event host. We are already recording the travel of our GB Climbing athletes and the travel patterns of our coaches.

The BMC has the decision-making power to choose when and where domestic climbing events are held, and we can set contractual sustainability requirements for the hosts to follow and monitor their implementation.





## Outcome

To host net zero climbing events by 2040 and inspire athletes and spectators to take positive climate action as well as leave a positive social, environmental and economic legacy for the community hosting the event.

## Sustainable Climbing Competitions Actions To Do - Scope 3:

### Immediate term (2024-2025)

- Understand and record the impact (travel, accommodation and expenses) of coach development, training events, parent and home coaching as well as the footprint of volunteers

### Short term (2026-2030)

- Implement a system for measuring athlete and spectator travel to climbing competitions – a central event registration system
- To host two carbon-neutral climbing events whilst cutting physical emissions towards net zero
- Where possible offer a shuttle bus service from the train station to the climbing venue

- Work in partnership with climbing wall partners (e.g.; ABC and IFSC) to publicise good practice and integrate relevant sustainability obligations
- Identify athletes who feel empowered to become global climate change ambassadors for our sport.
- Develop a plan and associated learnings on how to reduce GHG emissions at BMC climbing competitions
- Develop alternative event engagement opportunities to reduce fan travel and transport (e.g. online screening options).

### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- Understand and record the carbon footprint of all BMC Climbing competitions (spectator and athlete travel as well as the footprint of the venues themselves).

### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



**WE AIM TO HOST NET ZERO CLIMBING EVENTS BY 2040 AND INSPIRE ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS TO TAKE POSITIVE CLIMATE ACTION**



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## GB Climbing and International Performance

The GB Climbing Team travels globally for training and competition, including Olympic and World Championship campaigns – this can't be avoided. Real reductions are possible and will be made whenever possible but carbon offsetting will be needed to address international travel by the GB Climbing Team.

### GB Climbing Actions

#### To Do - Scope 3:

##### Immediate term (204-2025)

- Understand the impact of coach development, training events, parent and home coaching as well as the footprint of volunteers
- Ensure volunteers are aware of our desire to reach net zero by 2040 and the pathways to making this happen
- Develop a plan and associated learning on how to reduce GHG emissions at domestic GB climbing competitions, including
- Where possible, plan training events and influence the programming of open meetings to minimise return to base travel. Work with coaches and other subcontractors to improve logistics and reduce the number of journeys taken.

##### Short term (2026-2030)

- Improve domestic training facilities
- Review methods of travel (including lower impact flights) to European training destinations to reduce air travel by 25% by 2030
- Include a sustainability charter in athlete contracts to encourage behaviour change and to improve data recording
- Identify athletes who feel empowered to become global climate change ambassadors for our sport.
- Ensure training events are as sustainable as possible and reach net zero by 2030

##### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

##### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



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## THEME 5

# DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS

### Strategic Goal

To partner with like-minded organisations to create more opportunities for participation, develop good practices across the sector, and through collaboration, work together to address climate change and influence people's behaviours.

The BMC seeks to build mutually beneficial relationships and projects with partners based on shared goals and values, that bring positive impacts to society and the environment, and to partner with those organisations to share expertise and networks to drive positive action on climate change.

### Outcome

The BMC will use its influence to encourage and support its partners, stakeholders and others to reduce their environmental impact and carbon emissions, and to raise awareness through joint initiatives and campaigns.





The BMC will actively influence our partners to work with us to support our Plan.

We seek to work with partners who:

- have appropriate policies and programs in place to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts, including a commitment to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and Sustainability Development Goals
- are developing or have in place a Climate Action Plan, including a target to reduce GHG emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and the requirements of the science-based targets initiative.
- have a target to reduce the generation of waste in their organisation, ideally to achieve net zero waste, and a commitment to reduce single plastic use and consumer waste to help create a transparent and circular economy for plastics.
- are committed to compliance with human rights principles in their own operations and in their supply chains, including commitment to elimination of all forms of modern slavery, human trafficking and corruption
- are developing or have an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy and action plan.

### BMC Funded Partners

Funding from Sport England has seen the BMC successfully working in closer collaboration with its four Funded Partners: Mountain Training UK & Ireland, (MTUKI) Mountain Training England (MTE), The Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) and National Indoor Climbing Award Schemes (NICAS.)

The five-year funding aims to build a fully inclusive network of opportunities that spans a wide range of adventurous activities, providing opportunities for a broad demographic of participants.

Both UK Sport and Sport England are also members of the Sport Environment and Climate Coalition (SECC) set up to lead and coordinate the sector's efforts on climate change and environmental sustainability. The group will harness the sector's collective resources to help reduce the environmental impact of sport, recreation and physical activity and contribute to the UK's transition to net zero.

### Partners Assembly

A sector-wide collection of outdoor organisations, committed to delivering impactful, collaborative projects.

### Training, Professional and Networking Bodies (Sustainability)

The BMC is a member of several organisations with a focus on sustainability and sport. In particular, we are a signatory of the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework; British Association for Sustainability in Sport; Fit for the Future network, and the Climate Coalition – these all provide opportunities for shared learning, information and training for sustainability professionals.





**BMC Advocacy**

The BMC will also use its influence and partnership work to raise awareness through joint initiatives and campaigns. In particular, we seek to:

- Campaign collectively to increase our influence on the protection of our natural environment and sustainable access to the places we love
- Work with our partners to create awareness of their responsibilities towards a sustainable low-carbon environment and work in collaboration with them to share learning, raise awareness, and reduce our collective carbon footprint
- Work with the Outdoor Industries Association (OIA) and the European Outdoor Group (EOG) to support joint initiatives around the production and recycling of outdoor clothing and equipment
- Work with other organisations to press the government and the Welsh Assembly for greater action responding to the biodiversity and climate crisis as well as on other sustainability issues around landscape protection, planning, resources and waste

- Seek to influence planning and policymakers at local and national levels. Influence local, sustainable development within communities where and when appropriate; deal with threats to our natural landscapes on a case by case basis through the local area structure; lobby government on climate change action.
- Lobby for better protection of habitats and upland landscapes, with no reduction in the current level of protection, and positively support nature recovery
- Encourage green and sustainable forms of transport by seeking to amend planning guidance so that it promotes a shift towards walking, cycling and green public transport as the main forms of transport.

**Commercial Partnerships and Sponsorships**

See Partner statement

**Sustainable Partnerships and Projects Actions**

**To Do - Scope 3:**

**Immediate term (2024-2025)**

- Through our partnerships we will work to identify more nature-based solution projects that we can support sector-wide
- Through our partnerships we will work to identify more volunteer opportunities to help preserve the upland environment and protect wild habitats
- Support our Funded Partners in developing their own action plans, in place by summer 2026 in advance of them being part of future funding bids

**Short term (2026-2030)**

- Identify with our sector partners how best to advocate climate change issues and share knowledge and good practice

**Medium Term (2031-2035)**

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

**Long term (2030-2040)**

- To be added to as Plan progresses.



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## THEME 6

# INFLUENCING & EDUCATING CLIMBERS, HILL WALKERS & MOUNTAINEERS

### Strategic Goal

To support, promote and encourage sustainable practices across the membership to help reduce carbon emissions.

The BMC has an opportunity to stimulate thinking about the impacts of climate change on our upland, mountains and outdoor community, and by utilising our position as the representative body in England and Wales lead by example. In addition, we need to highlight the damage that can be caused by outdoor activities and promote good practise so we all 'leave no trace'. We have a responsibility to help members understand and know how best to address the environmental and wider sustainability challenges we all face.

### Outcome

BMC members are leading by example and are inspired to make meaningful changes to address climate change and adopt the skills and ethics that enable us to Leave No Trace.





### **Sustainable Steps Campaign**

The BMC's umbrella campaign Sustainable Steps, tries to capture useful information and advice on a host of sustainability issues including:

- A series of checklists on how to reduce your own personal carbon footprint and lessen your impact on the environment
- Day to Day Checklist
- Office & Organisational Checklist
- Events & Meetings Checklist
- Our BMC Community Liftshare site, to make it easier for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers to get to the mountains and crags
- BMC Recycling Centre – listing where you can re-use, repair or recycle outdoor gear in the UK
- Climate articles to inform and inspire

### **The Climate Project**

BMC members have the opportunity to donate and support the work of Moors for the Future in the Peak District National Park as they try to transform the moorland landscape and the underlying blanket peat – a healthy peat bog has a huge carbon sequestration capacity (see pillar 5).

### **Green Guide Series**

The BMC produces a number of good practice guides for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers. These give a wide range of essential information on topics from how to minimise your impact while in the hills or at the crag, to how to go about restoring a crag and how to spot rare species. We will continue to produce good practise films under our Respect the Wild series as well as online materials and informative articles.

### **Protecting nature**

Working with landowners and managers we will continue to advise on visitor usage and appropriate access and conservation improvements, promote good practice and responsible behaviour to climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, and ensure members adhere to access restrictions for the protection of wildlife and habitats through its Regional Access Database (RAD).



**WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS  
AND MANAGERS WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO ADVISE ON VISITOR USAGE  
AND APPROPRIATE ACCESS AND  
CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS,  
PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICE**



**ADVENTURE. COMMUNITY. ACTION.**



## Influencing and Educating Actions

### Achieved:

- Engage with other grassroots sports organisations and governing bodies to share best practices and key lessons learned through programmes such as UK Sport Accelerator Programme, Sport England initiatives and the British Association of Sustainability in Sport
- Integrate sustainability questions into regular member surveys.

### To Do - Scope 3:

#### Immediate term (204-2025)

- Work with our Funded Partners and Plas y Brenin, to ensure we are all advocating good practice messages to our members / customers
- Include a carbon calculator on our website that may have pledge functionality, to enable our members to calculate their own travel or domestic carbon emissions

#### Short term (2026-2030)

- Develop the BMC Climate Film Award to inspire members to record changes or take action

- Actively participate at a national level in discussions on the future model of sport events (including GB Climbing) to ensure they are compatible with the world's current sustainability challenges

#### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

#### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

### The BMC Club network - Club Actions

The BMC will work closely with the BMC Clubs Committee, BMC clubs and local areas to inspire and facilitate change wherever possible.

### To Do - Scope 3:

#### Immediate term (2024-2025)

- Complete and publish a climate checklist for clubs
- Develop a BMC club sustainability statement and a sustainable club working group.
- Include environmental sustainability as a standing agenda item in regular club/hut meetings

#### Short term (2026-2030)

- Further promote car share options to clubs and club members
- Plan for training events (carbon literacy for example) for club volunteers to be delivered online.
- Develop guidance, templates and tools on environmental sustainability for use by affiliated clubs
- Help investigate and implement systems for clubs to publicise their impact and actions
- Encourage all BMC-affiliated clubs to develop their own sustainability plans and be monitoring and reporting on progress by 2030

#### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- Develop a platform for clubs to share knowledge, best practices, case studies and raise awareness on sustainability.

#### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.





## THEME 7

# SUPPORT NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

### Strategic Goal

To invest in local landscape-restoration projects that help protect biodiversity and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

There is a growing awareness that nature-based solutions play a key part in mitigating carbon emissions. These solutions involve conserving, restoring, or better managing ecosystems to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere or prevent emissions from being released. They also provide a wide range of other important benefits, such as cleaner air and water, economic benefits, and increased biodiversity.

### Outcome

BMC members regularly invest in nature to help protect, restore, and better manage our natural resources and landscapes





## The Climate Project

### Sphagnum planting

Through the work of Moors for the Future in the Peak District, who are transforming the moorland landscape and bringing the underlying blanket peat into good condition, the BMC has been able to offer members the chance to donate to this nature-based project– specifically the money is being used to purchase sphagnum moss which is a key (and final) part of the peatland restoration story, helping to save at least 62,000 tonnes of avoided carbon loss per year.

### Seagrass planting

The Seagrass Ocean Rescue project is aiming to protect the seagrass in Wales by planting British Seagrass Meadows off the coast of North Wales to help sequester carbon dissolved in our seas. The project engages with volunteers, local community groups and stakeholders to get involved with seagrass planting.

Members can donate to the projects at the point of purchasing travel insurance or joining the BMC as well as through targeted marketing.

## BMC Owned Craggs and Huts

The BMC owns eight crags across England and Wales, and actively supports the management of many others for the benefit of climbers, walkers and the environment. We will continue to protect these areas by improving natural habitats and environmental land management for recovering nature and help manage these areas so they can actively sequester emissions, revitalise habitats and protect and restore species.

In addition, we will consider small scale rewilding initiatives around mountaineering/ club huts with land to create, for example, wildlife corridors.

## Nature-based Actions

### To Do - Scope 3:

#### Immediate term (2024-2025)

- Identify and help support more nature-based projects under the Climate project banner
- Promote opportunities for affiliated clubs and our Funded Partners to support the Climate Project
- Promote opportunities for our partners and the wider outdoor sector to support the Climate Project.

#### Short term (2026-2030)

- Understand the potential of our owned sites to sequester emissions and identify changes needed to help improve this
- Install Climate Project banners at climbing walls, BMC events and outdoor retailers, with QR codes to enable visitors to find out more and donate
- Develop other promotional and awareness-raising initiatives and campaigns on sustainability and climbing

#### Medium Term (2031-2035)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.

#### Long term (2030-2040)

- To be added to as Plan progresses.





Links

- [BMC Climate Emergency Statement](#)
- [BMC Environmental and Sustainability Policy](#)
- [BMC Sustainable Transport Policy](#)
- [BMC EDI Strategy](#)
- [Sustainable Steps](#)
- [Climate Project](#)
- [BMC Procurement Policy](#) (to follow)
- [BMC Partners Policy](#) (to follow)
- [BMC Office Waste Policy](#) (to follow)

Commitment

The BMC Board and Senior Management Team are committed to delivering this Plan and upholding the commitments outlined within it.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Plan will be reviewed every two years.

Images

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