

## White Paper: Findings, Learning and Implications for Policymakers and Other Stakeholders related to Sustainability and Cricket Gear

### Executive Summary

The Centre for Sustainable Design® ([CfSD](#)) at the University for the Creative Arts ([UCA](#)) has recently published a White Paper on the [Findings, Learning and Implications for Policymakers and Other Stakeholders related to Sustainability and Cricket Gear](#). The White Paper is based on research undertaken as part of the UKRI CE-HUB funded project, the Circular Cricket Gear Project ([CCG](#)) that ran from September 2022 to August 2023 and addressed issues related to sustainability, circular economy, and social equity within the cricket gear industry. Developed in collaboration with leading experts in the field of sustainable and circular design, material sciences and stakeholders from the cricket gear industry, the findings highlight a series of important issues for cricket gear sector to address in relation to design, manufacture, use, reuse, repair and refurbishment.

Despite being the world's second largest sport, the environmental and social impact of cricket gear has been largely overlooked. This White Paper highlights the need for action.

Key findings from the White Paper include:

- Sustainability Awareness Gap: The research undertaken within CCG and other [projects](#) reveals that sustainability appears to be a low priority for cricket gear manufacturers. Increased effort is required to raise awareness and understanding of sustainability issues within the industry.
- Circular Opportunities: Research identified a significant amount of cricket gear waste, emphasising the need to develop infrastructure for second-life opportunities by for example, promoting the reuse of internal components in batting gloves and pads to reduce environmental impacts and cost.
- Carbon Footprint: Most cricket gear sold in the UK is produced overseas, contributing to a significant carbon footprint when imported. The White Paper proposes exploring local production and using less environmentally impactful materials.
- Access and Affordability: An [ICEC report](#) has recently highlighted that cost of cricket gear hinders opportunities in accessing the sport, particularly for disadvantaged communities and state-funded schools. Stakeholders need to address these barriers to increase participation e.g., through the use and reuse of second-hand gear by creating the appropriate infrastructure, and product design and development that supports these initiatives.
- Repair and Refurbishment: Establishing a network for repairing and refurbishing cricket gear in England and Wales should be explored to extend the life of equipment.
- Standards and Regulations: Governing bodies should work with stakeholders to develop sustainability standards, guidance, and advice for cricket gear companies, fostering innovation and sustainability throughout the industry.

The White paper identifies and offers recommendations for key stakeholders, including cricket gear brands, manufacturers, governing bodies, and organisations involved in promoting the sport e.g. state schools. By addressing these recommendations, stakeholders in the cricket gear industry can take the first steps toward a more sustainable, equitable and circular future. We hope that stakeholders across the cricket community will embrace these findings and recommendations to ensure the future of cricket is sustainable and inclusive.

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