

Football Foundation Approved List of Recycling Companies for Artificial Grass Pitches



Introduction

The Football Foundation is the charity of the Premier League, The FA and Government. We deliver outstanding grassroots football facilities, meaning more games, better games and more people playing - helping transform communities where demand is greatest, and impact will be strongest.

Founded in 2000, we are now the largest sports charity in the UK. So far, we have used the investment from our Partners to award 22,838 grants towards grassroots football projects worth more than £770m – including 922 artificial grass pitches, 5,714 natural grass pitches and 1,170 changing facilities. This has attracted an additional £1.1bn of partnership funding – totalling over £1.8bn investment in grassroots football.

The Football Foundation has developed a Framework for delivering artificial grass pitches (AGPs) as a ‘turnkey’ package that ensures best value for its grant funding by guaranteeing high quality performance and longevity of playing surfaces. The Framework is in its third iteration, having first been established in 2011.

As part of this Framework the Football Foundation wishes to take a proactive approach to the end of life disposal of AGPs whenever they grant aid towards a project that involves the resurfacing or conversion of an existing artificial grass sports pitch.

To ensure that end of life AGPs are processed in a way considered acceptable by the Football Foundation, a *Football Foundation Approved List of Recycling Companies – Artificial Grass Pitches* is being developed. Only the recycling companies and their listed processes will be authorised for use on AGP Framework funded projects. The Football Foundation will publish the list and encourage other UK sports’ governing bodies and users of artificial sports surfaces to incorporate the list into their AGP replacement project specifications.

Note - inclusion of a recycling company/process on the Football Foundation List will not remove the need for the recycling company, or anyone using its services, from ensuring all aspects of an AGPs removal, handling and recycling are undertaken in accordance with UK legislation.

Details of the criteria a company needs to satisfy to appear on the list are described in Annex A of this document.

Annex A – Criteria for inclusion on the Football Foundation Approved List of Recycling Companies – Artificial Grass Pitches

This annex defines the necessary requirements for companies and their recycling processes to be included on the Football Foundation list.

End of life disposal of artificial grass pitches comprise a number of different components and the requirements of the Football Foundation AGP Framework apply to all of them. Companies on the *Football Foundation Approved List of Recycling Companies – Artificial Grass Pitches* may recycle all or some components as listed. This includes:

- Synthetic turf carpets
- Performance infill
- Stabilising infill
- Pre-fabricated shockpads
- In-situ laid shockpads and elastic layers

Criteria for Football Foundation Approval

Companies wishing to appear on the *Football Foundation Approved List of Recycling Companies – Artificial Grass Pitches* should apply and provide proof of compliance with the following criteria:

- 1 Operate a process that has been audited and verified under a recognised environmental technology verification (ETV) scheme, such as:
 - BS EN ISO 14034¹
 - European Union's - Environmental Technology Verification pilot programme
 - BS EN 15343²
 - Plastics Recyclers Europe - EuCertPlast programme
 - or an internationally recognised equivalent scheme
 - 2 Operate a quality management system complying with BS EN ISO 9001³.
 - 3 Operate an environmental management system certified to BS EN ISO 14001⁴
 - 4 The operator of any UK recycling site shall either:
 - have an appropriate Environmental Permit
 - or be registered with the Environment Agency for an appropriate Waste Exemption.
- Note: Appropriate means that the permit or exemption states that the applicable European Waste Code (EWC) for waste synthetic turf surfacing can be accepted and that the operations to which the waste will be subjected, are permitted at the specified site.
- 5 Operators of recycling sites located outside the UK shall provide proof that their operations and site have all necessary permits, etc, as required by the national regulations applicable in the country of operation.

¹ BS EN ISO 14034 Environmental Management: Environmental Technology Verification

² BS EN 15343 Plastics. Recycled plastics. Plastics recycling traceability and assessment of conformity and recycled content

³ BS EN ISO 9001: Quality Management System

⁴ BS EN ISO 14001: Environmental management systems.

- 6 All works are undertaken in full compliance with all appropriate environmental and waste management / handling regulations.

Application for Approval

A company may apply to be included on the Football Foundation list of approved recycling companies at any time. Companies wishing to apply shall submit full details of the company, their process(s), production locations, and certifications.

Applications should be submitted to:

Email: kathryn.severn@footballfoundation.org.uk (preferred method)

Or alternatively:

Dr Kathryn Severn
Framework and Procurement Manager
The Football Foundation
10 Eastbourne Terrace
Paddington
London
W2 6LG

The Football Foundation reserve the right to remove any company that is initially approved and subsequently found to fall below the specified criteria, for whatever reason, at any time.