

Footy For Climate

Footy for Climate (FFC) was founded by two AFL players, Tom Campbell (Melbourne, St Kilda, North Melbourne and Western Bulldogs) and Jasper Pittard (North Melbourne and Port Adelaide) in the wake of the 2020 Black Summer bushfires.

Tom and Jasper were North Melbourne teammates when their training was forced indoors due to hazardous air quality caused by those fires. This led to a conversation about climate change and the role AFL and AFLW players can play in supporting the communities being impacted by extreme weather caused by climate change.

The organisation has used the platform of Footy to drive climate action in many ways, including Victorian Parliament activations - attracting politicians from across the spectrum - professional player appearances, podcasts, video content series and more. One of FFC's larger initiatives is the flagship "Power Forward" program. As part of this initiative, FFC helps community clubs install solar, battery storage and other sustainable upgrades. These projects can reduce operating costs, improve resilience during extreme weather events and free up funds that clubs can reinvest into players, facilities and programs.

Recently, FFC have celebrated two Power Forward programs, including a project at Mansfield, which is now saving them \$8,000 in energy costs yearly, and a project at Myrtleford, which can now provide the community with backup power in the face of energy instability and climate-related adversity. FFC are targeting 500 Power Forward clubs by 2030, and the program is projected to deliver \$5 million in annual energy savings and reduce carbon emissions by 15,000 tonnes yearly.

Notably, the goal of the Power Forward program is not just to

reduce carbon emissions, but is also about transforming local clubs into hubs of climate resilience and driving climate action amongst footballing communities.

Sport has always had the power to shape culture. When football clubs, players and communities take action, it sends a powerful message that climate solutions are practical, positive and something everyone can be part of.

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Figure 1: Footy For Climate Members.



Figure 2: Victoria Parliament Group 2024.

Footy For Climate are always looking to connect with clubs, businesses, supporters and community organisations who share that vision - If there's scope for us to work together, please reach out to team@footyforclimate.org.au

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