



Low Carbon Club Guide

Practical steps for clubs and venues — 2026 onwards

This guide is for tennis clubs and venues across Kent. It sets out simple, practical steps you can take to reduce your environmental impact across three areas: Climate Action, Resource Efficiency, and the Natural Environment. You do not need to do everything at once — start where you can and build from there.

1. Climate Action

Reducing the carbon footprint of your club is the single biggest contribution you can make. Most actions are low cost or free, and many will also save money.

Energy at Your Venue

- Switch to a green energy tariff — contact your current supplier or compare alternatives online.
- Upgrade floodlights to LED — LTA funding may be available to support this.
- Install timers or motion sensors on floodlights so they are not left on unnecessarily.
- Schedule court use efficiently to reduce the number of hours lighting and heating are needed.
- Turn off heating, hot water boilers, and appliances when the clubhouse is not in use.

Travel to Your Club

- Promote public transport options on your website and in event communications.
- Encourage car sharing among members for away fixtures and competitions.
- Provide secure cycle storage if possible.

Events and Competitions

- Phase out fossil fuel generators — use mains power or hire electric alternatives.
- Add a short sustainability checklist to your event planning process (template available from Kent Tennis).

Quick wins for Climate Action

- Switch to a green energy tariff today — it takes one phone call
- Put a timer on your floodlights
- Add public transport info to your next competition invite
- Ask the LTA about LED floodlight funding

2. Resource Efficiency

Reducing waste, water use, and single-use materials saves money and reduces your environmental impact. These changes are visible to members and visitors, helping to build a culture of sustainability at your club.

Tennis Ball Recycling

- Join the LTA's national tennis ball recycling scheme — Circularball
- Set up a labelled collection point at your venue for used balls.
- Promote the scheme to members so balls are not simply thrown away.

Waste and Single-Use Plastics

- Remove single-use plastic bottles and cups from your clubhouse and events.
- Install a water refill point on court and in the clubhouse.
- Provide clearly labelled recycling bins alongside general waste bins.
- Encourage members to bring reusable bottles and cups.

Water Use

- Install a simple rainwater collection butt for court maintenance and watering.
- Reduce or retime watering schedules — early morning is most efficient.
- Check for leaking taps, pipes, and irrigation systems regularly.

Events and Communications

- Move to digital-first communications — eliminate paper draws and printed programmes.
- Adopt sustainable catering guidelines for events: locally sourced food, reusable crockery, minimal packaging.
- Work with your venue or caterer to reduce food waste.

Quick wins for Resource Efficiency

- Sign up to the LTA tennis ball recycling scheme
- Replace plastic cups with a water refill point
- Set up two recycling bins — one for cans/plastic, one for paper
- Send your next competition draw by email, not printout

3. Natural Environment

Tennis venues — whether grass, hard court, or indoor — often sit within or alongside green spaces. Small changes can deliver real benefits for local biodiversity and make your club a more welcoming place.

Biodiversity at Your Venue

- Plant wildflowers along fences, banks, or unused corners of the site.
- Create a small pollinator area with native plants — low maintenance once established.
- Restore or extend hedgerows rather than replacing them with hard fencing.

- Plant trees where space allows, choosing native species.
- Consider a community garden or growing space if your site has the room.

Everyday Practices

- Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Allow grass in non-playing areas to grow a little longer during summer.
- Put up bird boxes, bat boxes, or insect hotels — these are inexpensive and effective.

Kent Tennis Nature Fund

Kent Tennis offers grants of up to £250 per venue to support biodiversity projects. Eligible activities include wildflower planting, tree planting, pollinator areas, hedge restoration, and community garden spaces. Ask your county contact for details.

Quick wins for the Natural Environment

- Scatter a wildflower seed mix in an unused area this spring
- Apply for a Kent Tennis Nature Fund grant (up to £250)
- Put up a bird box or insect hotel — they cost under £20
- Stop using weedkiller on non-playing surfaces

Support and Resources

Kent Tennis can provide the following to help your club take action:

Resource	Where to find it
Sustainability Audit Template	Kent Tennis website
Event Sustainability Checklist	Kent Tennis website
LTA LED Floodlight Funding	LTA Club Support team
LTA Tennis Ball Recycling Scheme	Circularball
Kent Tennis Nature Fund (grants up to £250)	Online form available on website
Template sustainability policy for clubs	Kent Tennis website
Green energy tariff comparison	uSwitch or your current supplier

Green Representatives: Kent Tennis encourages every club to appoint a Green Rep — a volunteer who takes a lead on sustainability at club level. If your club has a Green Rep, or you would like to become one, please let us know.

Six-monthly network meetings are held online to share ideas, progress, and best practice across Kent clubs. All Green Reps and interested members are welcome.