



# Sustainability Strategy 2026 – 2030

## Vision & Purpose

Kent Tennis will contribute to a sustainable future for tennis in Kent, ensuring that facilities, competitions, and communities are environmentally responsible, resilient, and accessible. This aligns with the LTA's ambitions to reduce environmental impact, support the wider tennis community, and safeguard the sport for future generations.

The strategy is organised around the LTA's three core pillars:

| Pillar                 | Focus                                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Climate Action      | Reduce carbon emissions from venues, events, and travel    |
| 2. Resource Efficiency | Cut waste, water use, and reliance on single-use materials |
| 3. Natural Environment | Enhance biodiversity and protect green spaces              |

## Pillar 1 — Climate Action

**Goal: Support net zero tennis in Kent by 2030, aligned with the LTA national target.**

Kent Tennis will work to reduce carbon emissions across facilities, competitions, and travel, supporting clubs in transitioning to low-carbon operations.

### Energy at Venues

- Switch to a green or renewable energy tariff.
- Upgrade floodlights to LED — LTA funding is available to support this.
- Install timers or motion sensors on floodlights.
- Schedule court use efficiently to minimise lighting and heating hours.
- Turn off appliances, heating, and hot water when the venue is unoccupied.

### Travel

- Promote public transport options to members and event attendees.
- Encourage car sharing for away fixtures and competitions.
- Provide secure cycle storage where possible.

### Events and Competitions

- Phase out fossil fuel generators at events.
- Embed a sustainability checklist into event planning.
- Measure a county-wide emissions baseline and set reduction targets.

#### Tools available to clubs

- Sustainability audit template
- Low Carbon Club Guide (this document series)
- Template sustainability policies for clubs to adopt
- LTA LED floodlight funding — ask your county contact

## Pillar 2 — Resource Efficiency

**Goal: Minimise waste and optimise the use of energy, water, and materials across tennis operations.**

### Tennis Ball Recycling

- Join the LTA's national tennis ball recycling scheme – Circularball
  - o <https://hubbauk.com/initiatives/circularball>
- Set up a labelled collection point at your venue.
- Promote the scheme to members so used balls are not simply discarded.

### Waste and Single-Use Plastics

- Remove single-use plastic bottles and cups from clubhouses and events.
- Install water refill points on court and in the clubhouse.
- Provide clearly labelled recycling bins at all venues.

### Water

- Install rainwater collection for court maintenance and watering.
- Review and optimise watering schedules — early morning is most efficient.
- Check regularly for leaking taps, pipes, and irrigation systems.

### Events and Procurement

- Move competitions to digital-first communications — no paper draws.
  - Apply sustainable catering guidelines at events.
  - Follow sustainable purchasing guidelines aligned to the LTA sourcing code.
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## Pillar 3 — Natural Environment

**Goal: Deliver a net positive impact on biodiversity across tennis venues in Kent.**

### Biodiversity Improvements

- Plant wildflowers along fences, banks, and unused areas of the site.
- Create pollinator areas with native planting — minimal maintenance once established.
- Restore or extend hedgerows rather than replacing with hard fencing.
- Plant trees where space allows, preferring native species.
- Consider community garden or growing spaces where land permits.

### Everyday Practices

- Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use.
- Allow grass to grow longer in non-playing areas during summer.
- Install bird boxes, bat boxes, or insect hotels.
- Promote dual-use of green space — tennis alongside community access.

### Kent Tennis Nature Fund

An annual grants scheme offering up to £250 per venue for biodiversity projects, including wildflower and tree planting, pollinator areas, hedge restoration, and community garden spaces. The fund aims to support 20–30 projects per year at a total annual cost of £5,000–£7,500. A Protect where we play Award to be presented at the Kent Tennis annual awards.

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## Enabling the Community

Sustainability will only succeed if clubs, coaches, and players are actively engaged. Kent Tennis will provide practical support through:

- An online resource hub with club/venue toolkit document with resource list, audit templates, checklists
- Green Representatives appointed at club and venue level.
- Six-monthly online network meetings to share progress and ideas.
- Annual Sustainable Club biodiversity award.
- Youth engagement through schools and parks tennis programmes.

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## Governance & Reporting

A Kent Tennis Sustainability Lead will be appointed and supported by a Sustainability Working Group drawn from clubs and stakeholders. Progress will be reported annually in line with the LTA framework, tracking carbon reduction, the percentage of clubs with sustainability plans, waste reduction rates, and biodiversity improvements.

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## Timeline

| Phase   | Period    | Key Priorities                                                                                                                                                |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phase 1 | 2026      | Launch toolkits · Establish annual sustainability audit by end March 2027.<br>Nature Fund · 20-30 projects annually<br>Circularball recycling · 25% of venues |
| Phase 2 | 2027–2028 | Expand ball recycling and audit return to 50–60% of venues · Grow biodiversity projects · Introduce sustainability accreditation scheme                       |
| Phase 3 | 2029–2030 | Merge and maintain programmes · Share success stories · Position Kent as a national leader in sustainable tennis                                              |

## Key Performance Indicators — by 2030

| Indicator                                                         | Target   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Venues completing annual sustainability audit                     | 70%      |
| Reduction in county-wide carbon emissions                         | 25%      |
| Biodiversity projects delivered                                   | 100+     |
| Venues participating in tennis ball recycling                     | 50+      |
| Competitions fully paper-free                                     | Majority |
| Measurable reduction in single-use plastics at events             |          |
| Clubs and Affiliated venues engaged in sustainability initiatives | 75%      |

## Summary

This strategy translates the LTA's national ambitions into practical local delivery for Kent Tennis. It is built on three pillars — reducing carbon emissions, cutting waste and resource use, and enhancing the natural environment, underpinned by a commitment to community participation.

The key shift is from policy to participation: empowering clubs, coaches, and players across Kent to take meaningful action. Progress will be measured, reported, and shared annually, with the ambition of positioning Kent as a model county within the LTA network by 2030.

**The three pillars at a glance**

- Climate Action — net zero aligned operations by 2030
- Resource Efficiency — zero single-use plastics, county-wide ball recycling, paper-free competitions
- Natural Environment — 100+ biodiversity projects, Green Venue Awards, Kent Tennis Nature Fund