



Club & Venue Sustainability Toolkit 2026–2030 Practical Guidance for Clubs and Venues

About this toolkit

This toolkit is designed to help every club and venue in Kent take practical steps towards a more sustainable future for tennis. It is aligned with Kent Tennis's Sustainability Strategy 2026–2030 and the LTA's three core pillars.

Use this document as a working guide: read through each section, complete the checklists, and record your progress. There is no expectation that clubs complete everything at once — small actions done consistently add up to significant change.

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

How to use this toolkit

- Work through each pillar section and tick off actions as you complete them.
- Use the quick-start checklist (page 1) to identify your first priorities.
- Appoint a Green Representative at your club to coordinate activity.
- Record your progress and submit your annual sustainability audit to Kent Tennis.
- Contact your Kent Tennis County contact for support, funding, and resources.

Not sure where to begin? These ten actions are low-cost, high-impact, and achievable in your first year. Tick them off as you go.

Action	Priority	Done?
Switch to a green or renewable energy tariff	High	☐
Set up a tennis ball recycling point (Circularball scheme)	High	☐
Remove single-use plastic bottles and cups from the clubhouse	High	☐
Install at least one water refill point on or near the courts	High	☐
Upgrade floodlights to LED (apply for LTA funding)	High	☐
Plant wildflowers in one unused area of your site	Medium	☐
Move to digital-only communications for competitions and draws	Medium	☐
Install a rainwater collection butt for court maintenance	Medium	☐
Appoint a Green Representative at your club	Medium	☐
Complete and submit your annual sustainability audit to Kent Tennis	Medium	☐

Kent Tennis is committed to supporting the LTA's net zero target by 2030. This pillar covers the main sources of carbon at venues — energy, lighting, and travel — and gives clubs a practical route to reducing their footprint.

Energy at Your Venue

Energy use for heating, lighting, and appliances is typically the largest source of carbon at a tennis club. Small operational changes can deliver significant savings at no cost.

Energy Actions Checklist	
☐ Switch to a green or renewable energy tariff ☐ Upgrade floodlights to LED ☐ Install timers or motion sensors on floodlights ☐ Schedule court use to minimise lighting hours	☐ Turn off appliances when venue is unoccupied ☐ Turn off heating and hot water when unoccupied ☐ Review heating controls and set seasonal schedules Display energy-saving reminders in the clubhouse

Sources of Funding

LTA LED Floodlight Funding

- The LTA offers funding to support clubs in upgrading to LED floodlights.
- LED lights use up to 70% less energy and have a longer lifespan.
- Contact your Kent Tennis County contact to find out more and apply.

LTA Funding for solar panels and other sustainable projects

- LTA Facility Loans & Quick Access Loans: The LTA offers substantial interest-free loans to registered venues for sustainability initiatives and facility upgrades.
- LTA Buying Group: The LTA partners with specialists can leverage collective purchasing power, offering member venues exclusive discounts on commercial solar installations and energy procurement.
- Contact your Kent Tennis County contact to find out more and apply.

Kent Tennis Biodiversity Fund

- Grants of up to £250 are available for biodiversity projects at your venue.
- Eligible projects: wildflower planting, tree planting, hedgerow restoration, community gardens, rainwater/flood water management, water/ fountain
- Contact your Kent Tennis County contact to apply.
- Green Venue Award presented annually at the Kent Tennis Awards.

Kent Tennis and LTA Loan Schemes

→ Kent Tennis Venue Loans: Registered clubs can apply for interest-free loans ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 (exceptionally up to £25,000) to assist with capital improvement projects. These loans are typically capped at 75% of the total project cost and are repayable over 5 years.

Also check with your local authority to see what schemes and grants might be available in your area.

Travel

Travel to and from venues — by members, coaches, and event attendees — contributes to the county-wide carbon footprint. Clubs can take practical steps to encourage lower-carbon journeys.

Travel Actions Checklist

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| ☐ Promote public transport options on your website and social media | ☐ Provide secure cycle storage at your venue |
| ☐ Share local bus and train routes with members | ☐ Include travel information in competition joining instructions |
| ☐ Encourage car sharing for away fixtures | ☐ Celebrate car-free travel at club events |

Events and Competitions

Outdoor events and competitions offer an opportunity to model sustainable practices to players, parents, and visitors. Embed sustainability from the planning stage.

Events Actions Checklist

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| ☐ Phase out fossil fuel generators at events | ☐ Set carbon reduction targets for events |
| ☐ Embed sustainability checklist into event planning | ☐ Share sustainability actions in event communications |
| ☐ Measure a baseline of event carbon emissions | ☐ Report event sustainability outcomes after each competition |

Target by 2030

25% reduction in county-wide carbon emissions.
70% of venues completing an annual sustainability audit.
All competitions have an embedded sustainability checklist.

2

Resource Efficiency

Minimise waste and optimise use of energy, water, and materials

This pillar focuses on cutting waste, reducing water use, and eliminating single-use materials from clubs and events. Many of these actions are free or low-cost and can have an immediate positive impact.

Tennis Ball Recycling

Used tennis balls are one of the most visible sources of waste in our sport. Although there have been problems in the past, several clubs reported earning up to £500pa from the LTA's national recycling scheme. Circularball. This scheme gives clubs a straightforward way to keep balls out of landfill, while also providing funds back to the club.

Tennis Ball Recycling Checklist

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| ☐ Join the LTA Circularball recycling scheme | ☐ Inform coaches to direct used balls to the collection point |
| ☐ Set up a labelled collection point at your venue | ☐ Include ball recycling info in new member welcome packs |
| ☐ Promote the scheme to all members | ☐ Report the number of balls collected annually |

Circularball Scheme

- Register at: <https://hubbauk.com/initiatives/circularball/>
- Collection boxes are provided — display them prominently at your venue.
- Used balls are recycled into new products, keeping them out of landfill.
- Kent Tennis target: 50+ venues participating by 2030.

Waste and Single-Use Plastics

Single-use plastics at clubhouses and events are unnecessary and easily avoided. Make the switch now to show members and visitors that your club takes sustainability seriously.

Waste & Plastics Checklist

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| ☐ Remove single-use plastic bottles from the clubhouse | ☐ Install clearly labelled recycling bins at all venues |
| ☐ Remove single-use cups from the clubhouse and events | ☐ Provide reusable cups or ask members to bring their own |
| ☐ Install at least one water refill point on or near the courts | ☐ Add a waste and plastics policy to your venue guidelines |

Water

Water use for court maintenance, watering, and cleaning can be reduced significantly through simple changes to schedules and infrastructure.

Water Actions Checklist	
☐ Install a rainwater collection butt for court maintenance ☐ Review and optimise your watering schedule ☐ Water in the early morning to reduce evaporation	☐ Check regularly for leaking taps, pipes, and irrigation systems ☐ Fix all leaks promptly. ☐ Explore water meters to monitor and reduce usage

Events and Procurement

Events and competitions are an opportunity to model good practice at scale. Digital-first communications and sustainable catering reduce waste at every event.

Events & Procurement Checklist	
☐ Move competitions to digital-only draws and communications ☐ Apply sustainable catering guidelines at events ☐ Follow LTA sustainable purchasing guidelines	☐ Eliminate paper score sheets — use digital alternatives ☐ Brief catering suppliers on your sustainability requirements ☐ Review your procurement and supply chain annually

Target by 2030

Zero single-use plastics at all Kent Tennis events.
50+ venues taking part in the Circularball or other tennis ball recycling scheme.
Majority of competitions fully paper-free.

3

Natural Environment

Deliver a net positive impact on biodiversity across Kent venues

Tennis venues often have unused land, fences, and borders that can be transformed into habitats for wildlife. This pillar is about making the most of the green space you already have.

Biodiversity Improvements

You do not need to be a gardener or ecologist to make a difference. Simple planting and habitat creation can deliver measurable biodiversity improvements with minimal ongoing maintenance.

Biodiversity Actions Checklist	
☐ Plant wildflowers along fences, banks, and unused areas ☐ Create a pollinator area with native planting ☐ Restore or extend hedgerows rather than replacing with hard fencing ☐ Plant native trees where space allows	☐ Consider a community garden or growing space ☐ Install bird boxes, bat boxes, or insect hotels ☐ Allow grass to grow longer in non-playing areas in summer ☐ Promote dual use of green space alongside community access

Everyday Practices

Everyday Practices Checklist	
☐ Reduce or cut pesticide and herbicide use ☐ Use wildlife-friendly alternatives to chemical treatments ☐ Avoid cutting grass in biodiversity areas during nesting season	☐ Leave leaf litter in borders over winter for hibernating insects ☐ Add nature information boards to engage members and visitors ☐ Involve junior members in biodiversity projects

Kent Tennis BiodiversityFund — Apply Now

- Grants of up to £250 per venue for biodiversity projects.
- Eligible: wildflower planting · tree planting · hedgerow restoration · community gardens rainwater/floodwater management
- Fund aims to support 20–30 projects per year.
- Protect Where We Play Award presented at the Kent Tennis Annual Awards.

Target by 2030

100+ biodiversity projects delivered across Kent venues.
 Green Venue Award presented annually.
 All venues with available land undertaking at least one biodiversity project.

Governance, Reporting & Support

Sustainability will only succeed if clubs, coaches, and players are actively engaged. Kent Tennis provides practical support at every stage.

Your Green Representative

Every club and affiliated venue should appoint a Green Representative. This person does not need specialist knowledge — they need enthusiasm and the ability to communicate with members and the committee.

Green Representative Checklist

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| ☐ Appoint a Green Representative at your club | ☐ Encourage the Green Rep to attend Kent Tennis network meetings |
| ☐ Add the Green Rep role to your committee structure | ☐ Give the Green Rep time and resource to implement actions |
| ☐ Brief the Green Rep on the Kent Tennis Sustainability Strategy | ☐ Celebrate and communicate sustainability wins internally |

Annual Sustainability Audit

All clubs and venues are requested to complete an annual sustainability audit. This is a simple online tool that captures your progress across the three pillars and helps Kent Tennis track county-wide improvement.

Annual Audit Checklist

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| ☐ Complete the annual sustainability audit (provided by Kent Tennis) | ☐ Share your audit results with your club committee |
| ☐ Report on progress against your previous year's actions | ☐ Use audit findings to prioritise actions for the next year |
| ☐ Submit your audit by the annual deadline | ☐ Nominate your club for the Sustainable Club recognition |

Resources and Support

Kent Tennis provides a range of free resources to help clubs take action. All materials are available through your county contact and the online resource hub.

Resource	Details
Template sustainability policies	Ready-to-adopt policies for clubs to customise
LTA LED floodlight funding	Funding available — LTA or County lead
Circularball tennis ball recycling	hubbauk.com/initiatives/circularball/
Kent Tennis Biodiversity Fund	Grants up to £250 — online form – Kent Tennis website
LTA sustainability hub	https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/venues/environmental-sustainability/
Sport England	https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/sustainability
BASIS- British Association of Sport & Sustainability	https://basis.org.uk/resources/sport-environment-and-climate-coalition-resource-hub/

Buddle	https://buddle.co/learning-and-support-resources/environmental-sustainability/climate-change-and-environment#simple-actions-list-33211
Six-monthly network meetings	Online meetings to share progress and ideas — all clubs/venues welcome

Annual Progress Tracker

Use this page to record your club's progress each year. Complete a row at the end of each season and share it with your Kent Tennis County contact as part of your annual audit submission.

Indicator	2026	2027	2028	2029–30
Annual audit completed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Green Rep appointed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
LED floodlights installed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Circularball scheme active?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Single-use plastics removed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rainwater/flood water management	☐	☐	☐	☐
Water refill point installed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Biodiversity project completed?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Renewable energy tariff in place?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Competitions paper-free?	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sustainability policy adopted?	☐	☐	☐	☐

KPIs — Kent County Targets by 2030

Key Performance Indicator	Target
Venues completing annual sustainability audit	70%
Reduction in county-wide carbon emissions	25%
Biodiversity projects delivered	100+
Venues taking part in tennis ball recycling	50+
Competitions fully paper-free	Majority
Clubs and venues engaged in sustainability initiatives	75%

Kent Tennis Sustainability Strategy 2026–2030

kenttennis.co.uk · Contact your county representative for support and resources
Climate Action · Resource Efficiency · Natural Environment