



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Purpose of this policy

This policy sets out Dorset Tennis & Padel's commitment to promoting environmental sustainability in all our operations, events, and activities. This policy encourages us to consider the sustainability implications of our activities and take steps to reduce their impact.

Who is responsible for the implementation of this policy?

The Board of Dorset Tennis & Padel are individually and collectively responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

What does this policy cover?

This policy applies to all aspects of Dorset Tennis & Padel's work and to all people who work or volunteer for us, as they conduct those roles, as well as anyone taking part in tennis-related activity which Dorset Tennis & Padel is responsible for.

What is meant by environmental sustainability in tennis?

Environmental sustainability is about "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (United Nations Brundtland Commission). This means taking steps to reduce our impact on the planet, including by limiting our use of resources, supporting nature, and reducing our carbon emissions.

To deliver a shared vision of tennis opened up, it is critical that we play our part in addressing issues related to sustainability, protecting and supporting the environment and tackling and reducing our climate impacts. It's vital that we safeguard our sport for future generations, working with and supporting the tennis community to secure a lasting future for tennis in Britain, through positive action on climate change and leadership in sustainability.

Commitment to promoting environmental sustainability in all its operations, events, and activities

This policy outlines Dorset Tennis & Padel's commitment to sustainability and provides a framework for a detailed plan that will set out **objectives** and **actions** to achieve environmental goals. It ensures that all stakeholders are aware of our responsibilities, including compliance with all relevant environmental regulations and other sustainability-led obligations, all designed to encourage continuous improvement in sustainable practices.

To achieve this, we will mirror the three themes of the [lta-environmental-sustainability-plan.pdf](#):

1. **Climate Action** - We will aim to reduce our carbon emissions from our own business operations, events and competitions whilst supporting the wider tennis community in reducing their own carbon emissions too. As a sport and as an organisation, we contribute to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions caused by our activities. Climate action is something in which all responsible organisations and citizens should be engaged. Even small actions, when multiplied through the cumulative efforts of numerous participants, will add up to an important contribution to global efforts to reduce emissions.
2. **Resource Efficiency** - We will aim to reduce our energy use and waste in our own business operations, events, and competitions, whilst supporting the tennis community to do the same. Through the LTA's engagement and insight from across the tennis community, this theme came out as the top priority. It includes the issues of single-use and short-life materials like tennis balls, and the impact of plastic pollution, which have attracted significant public attention in recent years.
3. **Natural Environment** - As an outdoor sport played on various surfaces, including grass, tennis has a close affinity with nature, and it is important that we do our utmost to sustain ecosystems, promote healthier environments and ensure a positive impact on biodiversity wherever we operate.

Agreement to follow this policy

The Environmental Sustainability Policy is fully supported by the Board of Dorset Tennis & Padel and was developed in collaboration with the LTA.

This policy will be reviewed every three years and updated as necessary to reflect advancements in sustainability practices and changes in environmental regulations.

Signed by Dorset Tennis & Padel County Chair: *Brian Cooley*

Adopted on: 16th March 2026

Dorset Tennis & Padel - Environmental Sustainability Plan

Dorset Tennis & Padel recognises the key role that we can play in delivering a sustainable future for tennis by setting the following **objectives**:

- Putting sustainability at the heart of decision-making
- Supporting greener facilities and operations
- Running sustainable events and competitions
- Promoting and championing sustainability across our community

Over the next three years (2026-2028), we will gradually integrate these practices.

The phased approach below highlights key **actions** we will be working towards over the next three years, with the aim of achieving them all by the end of the cycle.

Year 1 Actions

Within our organisation, our initial approach should include:

- An Environmental Sustainability Policy based on the following principles and the template outlined above:

The climate crisis, resource scarcity and changes to the natural environment present global challenges with the potential to impact tennis across the UK. Dorset Tennis & Padel recognises that it has a role to play in helping to tackle these issues, and in supporting our county venues in this endeavour.

Dorset Tennis & Padel will be acting to implement change through a series of actions designed to reduce our impact by:

- Educating and training our teams in environmental sustainability
- Reducing our emissions
- Promoting sustainable travel
- Investing sustainably
- Reducing our water usage
- Minimising our waste
- Purchasing sustainably
- Acting to limit impacts on wildlife and the environment

- Include environmental sustainability as part of the overall County/Island Strategic Plan, encouraging our teams to consider each of these issues in **day-to-day decision-making**.
- Display our environmental policy statement publicly via the County/Island Association **website**.
- Identify and appoint a named **environmental champion or subgroup** to drive the action of this sustainability plan forward, who can be (a) passionate and enthusiastic advocate(s) of sustainability on our behalf.
- At our next Executive Meeting, complete the **Environmental Sustainability Training** supplied by the LTA, including the environmental champion or subgroup. And add the training to the induction checklist for new management committee members.
- **Measure and record our impact** by providing a baseline measurement at the end of Year 1 for our use of:

- Water, electricity and gas, where applicable.
- Number of tennis balls purchased in Year 1¹.

Year 2 Actions

Within our organisation, our aim is to build on these actions year on year. Our actions for Year 2 are:

- **Add ‘Sustainability Action Plan’** as a standing item on our Executive Meeting agenda twice a year:
 - Discuss how the actions outlined for Year 1 were (and continue to be) implemented and address how to achieve the additional actions outlined for Year 2
- Continue to **measure and record our impact** (as outlined in Year 1 above) at the end of Year 2, comparing these figures with the baseline measurements, with the aim of reducing these figures year on year. Consider tennis ball usage as well as the numbers purchased.
- **Encourage sustainable travel** choices when travelling to meetings, matches and events (including walking, cycling, taking public transport and car sharing) where possible.
- **Reduce waste** by:
 - Discouraging the use of single-use materials on site and at Dorset Tennis & Padel run events (examples of single-use materials include plastic water bottles, food packaging, printed leaflets, tickets and other single-use marketing materials).
 - Maximising the life spans of tennis balls:
 - Encourage playing with balls for as long as possible; provide new balls only when necessary.
 - Where balls are still playable, consider using them for training or coaching, juniors, etc.
 - At end of use:
 - Explore partnering with LTA ball recycling schemes, e.g. Circularball.
 - Consider other ways to extend use, e.g. for charities to sell, as balls for dogs.
 - Using other products for as long as possible and reusing or recycling at the end of use.
- **Reduce our energy use and carbon impact by:**
 - Maintaining/switching to renewable energy, where applicable.
 - Endeavour to implement energy-saving measures where possible.

Year 3 Actions

In Year 3 we will build on these actions year on year, by:

- **Continuing to address our ‘Sustainability Action Plan’** as a standing item on our Executive Meetings agenda twice a year:
 - Discussing initiatives implemented in Years 1 and 2 and ensuring steps are in place for these actions to continue.
 - Agreeing on how to achieve additional actions (outlined below) for Year 3.
- Continuing to **measure and record our impact** (as outlined in Year 1), comparing these figures with previous years’ measurements, with the aim of reducing these figures year on year.
- Consider our impact when **purchasing products**, by buying:
 - Durable products, which will stand the test of time.
 - Reusable, rather than disposable products, where possible.

¹ Using a figure which enables a year-on-year comparison to be made.

- Products containing recycled content and those that can be recycled at the end of their use.
- For county-owned or run facilities, consider how we can **support Wildlife and Conservation**, for instance by mowing the grass less frequently, collecting rainwater to use for watering and avoiding the use of pesticides.

A tracking sheet to review these actions and progress is available via Excel or Smartsheet.

For those ready to go further, the more detailed approach below provides extra guidance, ideas, and the reasoning behind each step, to further help reduce environmental impact with the support of the LTA and our venues.

A more comprehensive approach to Environmental Sustainability Planning

As an enhancement to the basic approach outlined above, this section provides extra guidance, ideas, and the reasoning behind each step towards a more environmentally sustainable future. Where feasible, you can choose additional elements to enhance the basic approach.

Environmental Sustainability Policy and Plan

Many climate scientists agree that a powerful way to address the climate crisis is to have open conversations about the challenges we face and exchange ideas and perspectives.

As part of our Environmental Sustainability Policy, we can work towards this by:

- Developing, implementing, and embedding an environmental policy statement.
- Ensuring that environmental sustainability forms part of the overall County Strategic Plan.
- Displaying a commitment to Environmental Sustainability publicly via the County Association website.
- Seeking feedback from members, participants, and stakeholders to enhance our sustainability knowledge and initiatives.
- Adding 'Sustainability Action Plan' to the Dorset Tennis & Padel Executive Meetings each year, committing twice a year to providing a forum to:
 - introduce the actions of this 'Sustainability Action Plan' into the day-to-day running of Dorset Tennis & Padel
 - report on progress made (impact report)
 - discuss issues arising
 - share thoughts and ideas with representatives
 - encourage a wider discussion to suggest potential additional initiatives that might be supported by the wider membership
- Supporting our Clubs and Venues in following our lead by advocating a pathway for them to follow. [Become a more sustainable venue | LTA](#). These guidelines can also be reviewed by county-owned or run facilities.

Training and Education

The climate crisis, resource scarcity and changes to our natural environment represent global challenges that are likely to affect tennis at all levels. By increasing our understanding of these issues and exploring the practical actions we can take to reduce our impact, we can all play a part in helping to build a more sustainable future for tennis.

Within our organisation, we can work towards this by:

- Ensuring that our staff, volunteers, committees, and management board are adequately trained to understand why we all need to act. This includes making sure that they are aware of the impacts of our sport on the environment and empowering them to reduce those impacts in their everyday actions.
- Using the diverse backgrounds, experiences and expertise of staff and volunteers to develop a collaborative approach to sustainable development.
- Providing a forum/platform for staff and volunteers to contribute to positive environmental sustainability ideas.
- Identifying and appointing a named environmental champion or subgroup who can be (a) passionate and enthusiastic advocate(s) of sustainability on our behalf, to drive the action of this sustainability plan forward, including by engaging local clubs and venues.

Across the county, we will consider implementing some of the following actions:

- Advocating and driving engagement with registered venues and coaches through initiatives such as LTA Pledgeball Leagues, Tennis Ball Recycling schemes and other resources when appropriate, including via our County Association website and social channels, supported by the LTA.
- Identifying venues applying good practice locally and sharing with the LTA nationally, so we can celebrate the positive impact venues are having on the environment. [Share our sustainability highlights.](#)
- Through county funding schemes, promote the development of a sustainability policy and plan from venues (make it a condition of funding).
- Including environmental awareness modules in coach education and player development programs (e.g. the impact of sport on the planet, personal actions for change).
- Creating a 'green' code of conduct for players (participating in county-staged events), coaches, and venues outlining expected behaviours and commitments.
- Creating player pledges, e.g. launching a "Green Champion" initiative, where players commit to specific actions (e.g., using a reusable water bottle, reducing single-use plastics, using their tennis balls for longer, buying more sustainable, durable products and repurposing/recycling at the end of use).

1. Climate Action

Energy and Carbon

Greenhouse gases are contributing to global warming and changes in our climate. Reducing emissions to reach net zero will be an important step in helping to limit further temperature increases.

Within our organisation, we can work towards this by:

- Reducing our energy use and carbon impact by:
 - Maintaining/switching to renewable energy, where applicable.
 - Considering what energy-saving measures can be taken.
- Regularly reviewing and assessing the environmental impact of our operations and setting measurable goals for improvement

For county-owned or run facilities (or working with those venues which are regularly used by the county), we can work towards this by:

- Researching the energy deals available and switching to a renewable energy provider.
- Identifying what our annual energy usage is across electricity and gas and creating a baseline.
- Monitoring annual electricity and gas usage, together with associated costs, and taking steps to reduce these levels, setting progressive annual targets for reduction of energy usage.

- Considering what energy-saving measures can be taken.

Sustainable Travel

Since car travel is a significant source of emissions and air pollution, even small changes - like walking, cycling, car sharing, or using public transport - can help reduce our collective carbon footprint when travelling to and from venues.

Within our organisation, we can work towards this by:

- Prioritising virtual coaching sessions, workshops, and strategy meetings where feasible.
- Offering incentives for car sharing/pooling among players and families (e.g., recognition programs, travel grants).
- Promoting train and public transport travel for travel to all Dorset Tennis & Padel's regional tournaments and other events.
- Educating players and parents on carbon-conscious choices when travelling.
- Calculating the travel emissions across county activities and creating a baseline, with progressive annual targets to be set for reducing travel emission over subsequent years.
- Minimising the Dorset Tennis & Padel travel footprint, optimising competition calendars wherever possible to reduce unnecessary travel.

Sustainable Investment

For those Associations in a position to invest funds, we can choose to invest sustainably. Sustainable investing is about seeking financial gains through investments that reflect our environmental and social values whilst creating a positive impact.

- When making financial investments, we can seek information about the wider impact of the businesses we are investing in and consider how our funds could be invested to be a source for good.
 - E.g. Supporting those businesses driving sustainable agendas, combined with avoiding sectors such as fossil fuels, tobacco or weapons, is a powerful way to make positive change and can be financially rewarding too.²

2. Resource Efficiency

Water Usage

Climate change is contributing to more frequent droughts and water shortages, while demand for water has risen with population growth. By building water efficiency measures into our operations, we can take a responsible approach to this vital resource.

For county-owned or run facilities (or working with those venues which are regularly used by the county), we can work towards this by:

- Identifying what our annual water usage is, together with its associated financial cost, and create a baseline.
- Setting progressive annual targets to reduce our water usage.

² The latest CDP research shows that those companies that are seen to identify climate-related risks and take mitigative action, including by addressing their environmental impacts, benefit from a “disclosure dividend”. Source: CDP (2025). *The Disclosure Dividend 2025*. Available at: <https://cdp.net/en/insights/disclosure-dividend-2025> (Accessed 7 Aug 2025)

- Prioritising the areas of highest impact to introduce water efficiency measures (see [Become a more sustainable venue | LTA](#) for suggested initiatives)
- Investigating the feasibility of:
 - rainwater harvesting for irrigation systems
 - installation of an automated irrigation system
 - implementing other water loss reduction methods

Waste Management

The earth has limited resources, so it's a good idea to consider what we actually need to use and try to avoid waste. There are lots of ways to reduce waste, and not just by recycling. When we throw something away, have we ever stopped to consider where 'away' is?

For county-owned or run facilities (or working with those venues which are regularly used by the county, we can work towards this by:

- Starting to measure our waste; consider and then implement ways to reduce waste generation. Remembering that where there's waste, there's cost, so we may be able to save money too.
- Exploring partnering with LTA ball recycling schemes initiatives (e.g., Circularball) to reduce waste, once balls are no longer suitable for play.
- Trying to extend the use of tennis balls in their existing form, e.g. establishing ball collection bins at training venues and competitions, and then collaborating with local schools to provide them with used balls after events, or to dog walkers.
- Working to minimise the use of single-use plastics at events by promoting the use of reusable alternatives.
- Reducing, reusing, and recycling materials at all events and facilities, by considering what we can provide (e.g. refill stations for reusable water bottles) and ensuring proper waste management and recycling facilities are available.
- Minimising paper used for printing, publications, meetings, and events:
 - E.g. considering the carbon footprint of marketing, including by only printing where necessary.

Purchasing and Procurement

Given limited resources, it helps to choose good quality products that are used thoughtfully and then made available to other users when we have finished with them.

Within our organisation, we can work towards this by:

- Considering procurement processes and endeavouring to seek out more sustainable choices, including by:
 - supporting suppliers who follow sustainable practices.
 - learning more about product manufacture/origin to select products which are working to minimise their carbon footprint.
 - choosing local suppliers to reduce costs and our carbon footprint.
- Encouraging players to select eco-friendly equipment (e.g., rackets with recycled materials, balls from sustainable brands, biodegradable grip tapes).
- Partnering with brands that offer recycled or recyclable tennis balls and sustainable clothing lines.
- For event planning, implementing sustainable practices in the planning and execution of tournaments, leagues, Championships, and events, including:
 - the use of sustainable venues

- the promotion of more sustainable accommodation
- considering whether event merchandise is necessary or appropriate.

3. Natural Environment

Wildlife and Conservation

We can make a positive contribution by working alongside nature and helping to support biodiversity.

Within our organisation, we can work towards this through:

- Initiatives including community outreach, e.g. by involving players in local sustainability projects such as beach clean-ups, tree planting, biodiversity campaigns.

For county-owned or run facilities (or working with those venues which are regularly used by the county), we can work towards this by:

- Collaborating with gardeners (volunteers or otherwise) to create an inventory of what the facility or venue is already doing to support wildlife and conservation.
- Considering what more we can do by choosing actions from the following list:
 - Plant native flowers/wildflowers; a diverse range of plants will support different wildlife, while choosing plants that flower throughout the year will support pollinators such as bees and butterflies for a longer period. Consideration also needs to be given to planting drought-resistant plants.
 - Connect water butts to drainpipes, to collect rainwater and provide a free source of water for watering plants.
 - Mow the grass less frequently to allow weeds to flower, which also supports pollinators.
 - Leave an area to rewild/grass to grow, encouraging invertebrates to shelter and breed, while providing food for birds and mammals. Long grass captures pollutants and has cooling properties; it also soaks up rainwater and is less likely to go brown during dry spells.
 - Create log piles, provide bird boxes, or plant hedgerows to develop habitats where local fauna can thrive.
 - Use peat-free composts; we need to leave our peat bogs intact to capture and store carbon.
 - Avoid using pesticides, which are toxic to many plants and animals. If we must use fertiliser, make our own or use organic fertiliser sparingly, introducing excessive nutrients damages soil health and risks polluting water sources.

Appendix 1: Related documents

Please also see the following documents for further context and information:

- [LTA Environmental Sustainability Plan](#)
- [Venue Support Toolkit](#)
- [Become a more sustainable venue | LTA](#)