



# Middlesex Tennis

## **Middlesex Tennis Sustainability Project**

### **Calling All Clubs and Parks!**

Middlesex Tennis is looking for all our venues – our clubs and parks - across Middlesex to join us on a journey towards a more sustainable future for tennis. Working with a small team of volunteers - the Middlesex Tennis Sustainability Team, we've developed a 'greenprint' to help Middlesex Tennis and its venues make sustainable changes, and we need your help to implement this.

#### **Why do we believe that this is important?**

We're sure that the big issues of today, including climate change, resource scarcity, consumerism and biodiversity loss, won't have escaped you. You may feel that, as an individual, or as a venue, you can't make much of an impact, but the reality is that **you can**. If we all step up to make even small changes, *together we can make a difference*.

We recognise that running a tennis venue is a significant responsibility and takes a huge amount of time and effort, especially for those venues run by volunteers. Our aim is to create an approach that inspires our venues and members to take part, with the associated benefits of feeling that you and your members can make a difference by taking pride in the positive changes being made, or from the money that the venue saves by taking some of the steps we are suggesting.

#### **How can venues take part?**

Caring for the planet is everyone's responsibility. However, it's our junior players who have the most to gain (or lose) and who are often the most passionate about the issues involved. We'd like to propose that you give your juniors the agency to form, or be part of, a Green Team of sustainability champions to lead this initiative at each venue, with the support of your committee.

We've come up with an Information Pack and a one pager Timeline to help your Green Team support your venue in making progress:

## Green Team Information Pack & Timeline:

INFORMATION	ACTION	DEADLINE
<p><b>Information Posters can be found <a href="#">here</a></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present to Committee and reach agreement to commit to approach.</li> </ul>	<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b></p>
<p><b>“Our 2025 Sustainability Pledges”</b>  <b>Poster</b> - We’re asking all Middlesex venues to commit to change and pledging to take the four actions described as your first steps in 2025. These initial actions are designed to reduce your impact by addressing energy use, waste management and sustainable travel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign up to the pledge and identify Green Team Leader by clicking <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Download poster <a href="#">here</a> (Print, upload to website or send link to members).</li> <li>• Display on club noticeboard.</li> </ul>	<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b></p>
<p><b>“Securing a sustainable future for our tennis venues”</b>  <b>Poster</b> - This provides your members with the rationale for change and offers actions they can take to reduce their own/the venue’s impact on the planet (which may save you some money too).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download poster <a href="#">here</a> (Print, upload to website or send link to members).</li> <li>• Recruit Green Team members.</li> <li>• Display on club noticeboard and keep up to date with progress/initiatives/achievements to keep everyone enthused.</li> </ul>	<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></p>
<p><b>Baseline Measurements</b>            One of our pledges in to take baseline measurements from individual venues so that we can build an understanding of your impact and how these figures can be improved. We will ask for an annual update at the end of each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please click this <a href="#">link</a> to record your use of electricity, water, gas and tennis ball usage in 2024.</li> <li>• We will also need to understand the number of members at the venue, as this will directly correlate with the information submitted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b></p>
<p><b>Action Plan Posters</b>  <b>(Sustainable Travel, Waste Management &amp; Energy)</b>            The Action Plan identifies key areas of impact and a list of potential actions that you, as a venue, can pursue. The good news is that some of these will help you to save money, as well as the planet.</p> <p><b>Energy</b> - we have carried out extensive research on what options are available for venues wishing to switch to sustainable energy and have negotiated a suitable deal with the goal of saving venues time and money and making it easy to switch to an eco-friendly plan*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download posters <a href="#">here</a> (Print, upload to website or send link to members).</li> <li>• In addition to recording your Baseline Measurements – there are 3 areas for you to focus on: <b>Sustainable Travel, Waste Management and Energy</b>.</li> <li>• Identify renewable energy deals available or contact Middlesex Tennis to switch energy provider.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> May 2025</b></p> <p><b>31<sup>st</sup> December 2025</b></p>
<p><b>Additional Suggestions</b>            While we’ve defined the first few steps to take, there is so much more that can be achieved. We will be putting together a list of additional suggestions for you to access, so please let us know of anything else we should be doing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please email <a href="mailto:county.office@middlesextennis.org.uk">county.office@middlesextennis.org.uk</a> to communicate any additional suggestions. If you’re keen to do more, you may find these a useful source of inspiration. We’re also keen to hear your suggestions on the focus of our 2026 Action Plan.</li> </ul>	

## How is this relevant to our venue?

We recognise that not all venues are the same, which means that different venues may have different areas of focus and impact. To help you decide where your efforts might best be focused, the Action Plan in the 'Rationale for Change' for each poster starts to categorise these actions according to effort and potential impact by using two categories:

**Big Hitters** – These are actions which we believe will help you to make the biggest impact. For example, switching your energy provider to renewable energy will result in a big reduction of emissions by avoiding the burning of fossil fuels.

**Volley Winners** – Actions which may have a lower impact individually but will contribute to the overall sustainability of the venue and may also prove useful e.g. connecting a water butt to your drainpipe to use to water plants. Amongst these, there are a few quick wins, which are easy actions that everyone can take without giving them much thought or effort e.g. switching off lights when not in use.

## We are all on a journey!

This may feel like a cliché, but we are all on this journey together. Change takes time, but the main thing is that we all try to make a difference. Together, we can make more progress as a group or by collaborating with other initiatives, such as the Middlesex Tennis Green Deal.

We have set up a Sustainability page on Middlesex Tennis where all the details contained in the Information Pack are available and can be downloaded. Please click [here](#).

We are also going to use this link to share venue sustainability wins across Middlesex, so please do send us your latest news and updates - including photos of your Green Team in action!

We will also be sharing our approach with other counties across the UK, so that tennis players across the country can show how they and their venues can make a positive difference. We have also been invited to share our approach with other countries across Europe. We hope you'll take pride in playing a key role in enabling a powerful set of actions for change!

## Feedback

We've worked hard to create a 'greenprint' for this initiative, but we don't profess that it's going to be perfect. All feedback is welcomed to the Middlesex County Office ([county.office@middlesextennis.org.uk](mailto:county.office@middlesextennis.org.uk)), and we will work to improve on this approach year on year. You may even get an invitation to join the Middlesex Tennis Sustainability Team!

\*The Middlesex Tennis Environmental Sustainability Working Group consists of volunteers who are passionate about tennis and the planet and who have worked to put together the initial steps of an easy-to-implement environmental sustainability plan for venues to follow. As part of this plan, we have carried out extensive research on what options are available for venues wishing to switch to sustainable energy and have sought to identify and negotiate a suitable deal with the goal of saving venues time and money and making it easy to switch to an eco-friendly plan. The offer provided is the best deal we could identify based on our research and information available to us at the time. However, the information and recommendations provided by Middlesex Tennis on this website are not intended to constitute binding advice, and we can neither guarantee that the deal outlined is the cheapest in the marketplace nor that it will be suitable for a particular venue. When signing up for a deal with this offer it is your sole responsibility to ensure that it is the most appropriate choice for your venue. We endeavour to regularly review available offers. If you are aware of another deal in the marketplace that may present a more attractive offer, we welcome your feedback and comments.

All information, content and materials made available in our overall toolkit are for general information only. Information in the toolkit may not constitute the most up-to-date information. This toolkit contains links to other third-party websites. Such links are provided only for the convenience of the reader, user or browser. Middlesex Tennis does not endorse the contents of the third-party websites.