



ARUNDEL LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan

The climate crisis and changes to the environment are global issues that will impact everyone. Whether it be the impact of extreme temperatures on events and competitions, or the risk of flooding that rising sea levels and severe weather pose for all tennis venues around the country, it is clearly prudent to act to secure a sustainable future for our club in whatever ways we can.

To meet its environmental goals, the club has developed an action plan. Divided into distinct topics, it details how the club pledges to implement and maintain its environmental policy.

Underpinning the action plan is the desire and commitment for us to thrive as a club and open up tennis, in line with LTA guidelines, whilst considering the impact on people and the environment. We are striving to save energy, reduce waste and pollution, protect wildlife, act sustainably overall, and make environmentally conscious choices in the way we run the club.

Our action plan targets eight key areas:

- Wildlife and nature conservation
- Water use
- Energy and carbon
- Sustainable travel
- Waste management
- Purchasing and procurement
- Training and education
- Building our green network

The actions are based on advice from sustainability experts and tailored to tennis club operations and, more specifically, our own club.

We believe the actions are realistic and achievable, but we can only do this together. Through simple behavioural changes, members, volunteers, coaches, and visitors can contribute positively to this plan.

Some actions have already been implemented, either wholly or in part. Some future actions can be implemented immediately, some are longer term initiatives. We are keen to adopt a collaborative approach and welcome input and ideas from all. If you have specialist knowledge, expertise, or interest in helping, please let us know by contacting our management committee.

The action plan is set out hereunder.

Section 1: Wildlife and Nature Conservation

We must strike a balance between the needs of a functioning tennis club and nature conservation. We will uphold our responsibility to protect wild birds, animals and plants, and endeavour to enhance the local ecology and biodiversity.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Action</i>
Protected species on club grounds and club buildings	We will identify the widespread species and protected species likely to be present in and around our club, such as bats and breeding birds. We will adapt our management techniques and operation timings to avoid impact and disturbance in accordance with the 1981 Wildlife Act and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
Invasive plant and animal species	We will survey club grounds for invasive species and make efforts to ensure that invasive plants do not spread beyond the club's boundaries; We will investigate the source of all soils and materials introduced to the site to try to ensure that invasive species are not inadvertently introduced to the club grounds; We will take action to reduce the coverage of invasive species on club grounds; We will dispose of any waste arising from the management of invasive species according to best practice guidance.
Biodiversity around the club's areas of green space	We will seek to protect and promote wildlife habitats, environmentally sensitive areas, and green spaces; We will avoid, minimise or mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity and ecological resources arising through the club's operations; Where peripheral planting has become overgrown with invasive species unsuitable as wildlife habitats, we will be replacing these over time with 'Countryside Mix' hedgerows, to: remove invasive species; improve biodiversity; and maintain and respect the rurality of the club; We will install bird and bat boxes where possible in positions away from the main playing areas, specifically on our southern boundary to the rear of courts 3 and 4; We will provide hanging baskets close to the clubhouse in summer as a source of nectar for local wildlife; We will create log piles where discarded timber becomes available; We will identify re-wilding opportunities on our land, such as wildflower habitats; We will investigate the potential for the planting of fruit trees.

Section 2: Water Use

We will endeavour to minimise our water use, and to take action to prevent any polluting of the local stream network.

Area

Recording water use and increasing water efficiency

Action

We will record quarterly/annual water usage on the club grounds and in the clubhouse and will investigate the associated financial cost;
We will undertake a water usage audit to prioritise areas for water efficiency measures and their impact;
We will undertake simple, cost-effective measures to improve water efficiency such as tap restrictors, spring-loaded taps, and low-flow WC's;
We will harvest rainwater (by water-butt) for use in irrigation systems;
We will maintain the efficient use of our 'Bio-Bubble' waste disposal system in line with our permit to use from the Environment Agency;
We will maintain an internal stopcock on our clubhouse outside tap to prevent misuse.

Section 3: Energy and Carbon

We seek to use the minimum amount of energy possible, whilst meeting the needs of a functioning club.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Action</i>
Governance objectives	<p>A committee member (elected to be the Grounds Maintenance Officer) shall take responsibility for delivering energy through developing, implementing, and monitoring a club-wide energy strategy.</p> <p>Responsibilities of this role include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ongoing monitoring and reporting on energy cost and use;- Benchmarking performance, identifying exceptions and instigating corrective actions;- Communicating with members and guests to encourage all to be energy aware and play their part;- Providing support and advice to all members and guests where necessary;- Identifying and implementing opportunities for reducing energy consumption and for using alternative lower carbon sources of energy, so far as is possible;- Keeping abreast of, and managing, relevant regulatory requirements and new technical developments;- Identifying sources of external funding for energy efficiency investment and support.
Recording energy and carbon	<p>We will record quarterly and annual energy usage for the club grounds and clubhouse and investigate the costs;</p> <p>We will endeavour to utilise the Carbon Trust's 'Carbon Footprint Calculator';</p> <p>We will undertake an energy audit to identify the main energy use areas and prioritise areas for energy efficiency measures;</p> <p>We will compare our energy consumption to previous quarters to track consumption variances;</p> <p>We will undertake simple, cost-effective measures to improve energy efficiency and will research possible initiatives using the LTA's sustainability guidance, 'Introduction to Saving Energy';</p> <p>We will ensure that members and guests are aware of their responsibility to switch off electrical equipment when not in use, and not leave items on standby;</p> <p>We will install a timer on any item of equipment that requires recharging after use.</p>
Heating	<p>We will manage the use of the club's water heaters, ensuring that they are switched off after use;</p> <p>We will heat the clubhouse using our Butane gas heater, but only on very limited occasions;</p> <p>We will provide training and operating instructions for the switching on and off of the Butane gas heater and make all aware of their responsibilities to switch the apparatus off when leaving.</p>

Lighting

We will use posters and visual aids to remind people to turn off lights when not in use;
We will make use of up-to-the-minute LED bulbs for our court floodlights;
We will label light switches so only the required lights are used;
We will install automatic lighting where appropriate;
We will examine exterior lighting needs and use movement detectors for security lighting.

Section 4: Sustainable Travel

We seek ways to encourage sustainable access to our club to reduce vehicle emissions and reduce congestion to our car park.

Area

Action

Sustainable Travel

We will encourage our members to walk or cycle when visiting the club;
We will also encourage members who live further afield to use public transport to access the club, providing information when requested using the Southern Rail website and the West Sussex County Council 'Bus-it' website;
We will provide bicycle stands adjacent to the clubhouse;
Where vehicular transport is required for away matches, we will strongly encourage the use of one single vehicle for all four players;
We will share information on cycle-friendly routes and public footpaths accessing the club.

Section 5: Waste Management

We will take effort to reduce, re-use, and recycle waste as much as is practicably possible.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Action</i>
Recording waste	We will initiate a waste audit to record the quantity and type of waste produced annually; We will use this audit to prioritise taking action on waste streams based on the waste hierarchy.
Reducing and re-using waste	We will undertake simple, cost-effective measures to reduce and re-use waste and will research possible initiatives; We will consider upcycling, repairing or re-using items before purchasing something new; We will not supply plastic drinking straws, or other single-use plastic items, and will phase out the use of plastic bottles.
Recycling and waste disposal	We will make every effort to extend the use of tennis balls for as long as possible, using a sequential strategy, from initial use, through secondary and tertiary uses, use with the ball machine, and ultimately recycling using our arrangement with Recycaball Ltd (UK); We will provide both waste bins and recycling bins; Lawn cuttings shall be retained on site and allowed to rot down in allocated positions around the club grounds, away from the playing areas; We will avoid any build-up of waste, storing it in line with best practice for as shorter time as practicable and emptying all bins on a weekly basis; We will ensure that any non-recyclable waste is disposed of at an approved waste management site; Foul waste will continue to be processed on site by use of our Bio-Bubble; Grey water shall be directed to the soakaway; We will encourage all members and guests to contribute to our recycling efforts, communicating our plans directly, on social media, and on our website.

Section 6: Purchasing and Procurement

We will attempt to make ethical, mindful and sustainable decision-making when selecting products and services.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Action</i>
Club Procurement Policy	We will try to minimise product packaging where possible and seek packaging which is recycled, contains recycled content, or can easily be recycled; We will ask suppliers to provide information on product manufacture/origin and will endeavour to choose local suppliers to reduce costs and carbon footprint; We will consider energy efficient ratings when purchasing electrical equipment.

Section 7: Training and Education

Informed members and guests are better equipped and motivated to save energy, support our environmental policy, and help the club reach its goals.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Action</i>
Training and Education	We will provide a forum, through our management committee, for members and guests to contribute energy saving ideas, liaison being the responsibility of the Grounds Maintenance Officer; We will arrange committee member training on increasing energy efficiency; We will minimise paper used for printing and publications.

Section 8: Building our Green Network

The club will seek to collaborate and network with local groups committed to protecting the environment and improving sustainability

Area

Action

Networking

We will research 'green' bodies in the community with the potential to advance the club's environmental agenda;
We will become involved with relevant local groups to have a say in our local community, such as the local Chamber of Commerce.