

CLUB SUCCESS STORY

STRIVING TO BECOME A CARBON POSITIVE TENNIS CLUB

The phenomenal success of Halton Project Zero

Halton Tennis Centre, Buckinghamshire



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BACKGROUND

Halton Tennis Centre in Buckinghamshire offers a choice of 16 indoor and outdoor courts for year-round play. The premier facilities include a clubhouse/cafe, fully equipped gym and pro shop, and the coaching programme is accessible and inclusive. Besides offering a great tennis experience, Halton strives to demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability. In 2014, in response to the 'climate emergency' they embarked on a new challenge to become one of the first carbon neutral tennis clubs. Following the launch of **Halton Project Zero**, they are planning to become carbon positive within the next 5-10 years with the aim of encouraging the world of sport to transition to zero carbon.



We knew it made sense for the club to be financially sustainable and a great place to play tennis, but we realised we needed to ally this with being environmentally sustainable. We call this our three-legged stool - financial/tennis/environment. We had lots of support from staff & members which was critical, and they love the changes made so far.”

Nick Leighton, Founder Director & CEO, Halton TC

HALTON PROJECT ZERO – PHASES 1-4

A future-focused club, always looking over the horizon, Halton desires to operate with positive social, environmental and economic impact. Reducing carbon emissions and improving the club's environmental performance through Halton Project Zero will, in turn, support the health and wellbeing of staff, customers and members. How long before our Carbon footprint becomes just as important as our physical facilities for potential new members?



TOP TIPS!

- Does environmental sustainability feature in your venue's strategy?
- Is the topic discussed at your management committee meetings?
- Do you have a sub-committee focusing on your venues environmental impact?
- Do you have the skill set on your management committee? If not, consider some skills-based recruitment. It could already exist within your membership. Ask!
- Think short term and longer term!
 - What can you do now? What quick wins exist? E.g., switching lights off, switch clubhouse lights to LED, water saving devices etc.
 - Identify longer term projects and start planning now e.g., floodlighting upgrades, alternative sources of energy
- Research solutions now. Your management committee or sub-committee could be tasked with conducting some simple desktop research?
- Join the LTA Buying Group, who could support you to significantly reduce your running costs, its free and is another excellent benefit of LTA Venue Registration.

HALTON

PHASE 1: UNDERSTANDING

Halton engaged the Carbon Free Group - a community interest company to advise on carbon neutrality, analyse the club's operations and help design a plan with clear targets and goals. It was key for the club to understand the types of clean sources of energy available and relevant grants to fund investment.

PHASE 2: MEASURING

The next phase involved understanding our carbon footprint by measuring our energy consumption (lighting, heating etc.) and identifying how energy was being used across the site. As this was rather complex and needed to consider seasonality, it took 12 months plus historic analysis. At this point, the club's carbon footprint measured 282 tonnes of CO2. That is the equivalent of powering nearly 200 homes each year.

PHASE 3: SOLUTION-SOURCING

With an idea of the scale of the challenge and armed with data, Phase 3 examined technology 'lean - clean - green' solutions. Presented with a range of micro projects, the team realised that this project would be more of a journey, with pace determined by available finances. Budgeting for every element was critical.

PHASE 4: TAKING ACTION

The club started to implement changes – the fun part! Securing the quick wins first, Halton also switched from 2000w halogen bulbs to 900w LEDs on 13 courts. The savings were enormous, both financially and on reducing carbon emissions.

Plans to be rolled out include:

- Installation of 6 EV car charging points, an additional member benefit as well as attracting local drivers to the club & supporting the local community. EV charging points can also be financially self-sustaining for a relatively small upfront investment. Traffic analysis of staff and members/visitors suggests a current ratio of over 20 petrol/diesel cars for every electric/hybrid. The total estimated CO2 was 260 tonnes of CO2 per annum - 3 times as much as much as the whole site.
- Reducing energy consumption and introducing renewables will allow the club to power EV charging points with clean energy
- Replacing the six boilers on site with alternative options, including air source and ground pumps
- Solar energy – panels for all our suitable buildings
- Switching our 2 Air halls (which account for over 50% of our energy use) to fixed structures with Solar panels.

Read more about Halton's pioneering Project Zero [here](#).



RESULTS SO FAR

- In 2014 the club was producing 282 tonnes of CO2. By 2019, this reduced to 121, the equivalent to powering over 100 homes
- Switching 13 courts from halogen to LED floodlighting has proved very popular with members. The on/off switch reducing waste as well as much cheaper running costs (in excess of £15k per annum) and longevity of the bulbs. Estimated energy savings from LED retrofits were nearly 25,000 kw per annum, and 5.2 tonnes of CO2
- Overall energy consumption has reduced by 33% compared to 2014 when the project began.

Halton wishes to demonstrate leadership in energy, carbon and sustainability, influencing others to follow suit. The initial goal is to achieve carbon neutrality, then become carbon positive within 5-10 years, setting the standard for other ambitious UK and international sports clubs.



I was so pleased to introduce the vision of embarking on a journey to becoming carbon neutral at HTC some years ago. It is great to see the progress being made by the team under Nick Leighton's leadership with a reduction in our energy of over 30% significantly improving our carbon footprint. I believe we can build Halton to be one of the first truly carbon neutral sports facilities as well as delivering superior value to our members and customers, creating a brilliant environment for personal growth."

John Walker,
Founder Director & Chairman, Halton TC

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