



Going Greener Makes Environmental and Business Sense: Here's how we're going about it

Water usage. Reduce, re-use, recycle. Bicycles and e-bikes. Electric cars. Energy-efficiency building design.

All these environmental considerations are being incorporated into the Steamboat Tennis & Pickleball Center's expansion plan and our ongoing operations because it makes both environmental and business sense to do so.



Let's take a closer look at how CS4L is "going greener."

Water usage –

- **Clay tennis courts** – We were shocked when we researched the water used to maintain our three outdoor clay tennis courts. We estimate that each of our three clay courts used over 2,000 gallons *per day*, or 6,000 gal/day combined! (For context, the average Steamboat household uses 4,000 gallons *per month*.) We cannot in good conscience continue to use that much water in our dry climate for little-used facilities, especially during drought. Therefore, **we have made the difficult decision to build only hard courts in the Phase 1 renovation of the outdoor facilities**, even at significant additional upfront expense, and gel-coating them for a joint-friendly playing experience.

Another environmental benefit of this decision is the reduction in the use of herbicides on our campus. And from a business standpoint, we are saving hundreds of hours of labor and tons of dusty Har-Tru top dressing materials that were needed each year to prepare the clay courts.

- **Lawn** – We are reducing our projected water usage by replacing the existing irrigation system that is leaking and in disrepair with a new system that will use up to 30% less water. The new sod mix will also be more drought tolerant and use less water.

Reduce, reuse, recycle –

- On a smaller scale, we have been saving water and reducing waste since 2017 by removing courtside water jugs and paper cups, now providing water bottle filling stations both indoors and outdoors.
- We reuse and recycle our tennis balls! For example, balls provided for league play are added to teaching carts, then used for the ball machines, and finally offered to dog owners and schools and nursing homes for putting under chair and walker legs.
- We recycle packing materials from pro shop inventory and office supplies. If you can make use of foam, bubble wrap or boxes, just contact us.

- The exterior skin (metal panels) of the new Pickleball Center can be recycled at the end of the building's life span of 50-100 years.

Bicycles – This summer, Phase 1 construction will drastically reduce our parking area so we'll be providing extra bike racks, thanks in part to a grant we successfully applied for from the Steamboat Chamber. Please, leave your car at home! **And every time you do, be sure to enter our "Leave Your Car at Home" monthly drawing for a \$25 Pro Shop gift certificate.**

Electric cars and e-bikes – As part of the parking lot redesign, the City will place two EV charging stations on the south side (near the fields) to charge up to 4 electric vehicles. Eventually, new bicycle racks will be available equipped with chargers for e-bikes.

Energy-efficiency –

- **HVAC and insulation** – The mechanical system for the new Pickleball Center will have an economizer mode that will pull in 100% outside air when the air temperature is cool enough to provide cooling to the building. This system uses less energy than a traditional cooling system in warmer months. In colder months, R-25 insulation in the walls and R-41 in the roof will dramatically improve heat retention compared to the current Tennis Center.

We are also exploring ways to make the current building more energy-efficient by replacing the antiquated HVAC system and replacing the failed insulation. We'll communicate more when plans are firmer.

- **Lighting** – LED lights in the new Pickleball Center will require as little as half the wattage as fluorescent bulbs, both a cost savings and better stewardship of our natural resources. If budget allows, translucent fiberglass windows will also provide diffused daylight into the courts without glare, reducing the use of the lighting system during daylight hours to save on energy.
- **Snow management** – One of the challenges of the current building is the need to remove falling snow quickly and constantly at significant expense and with the risk of damaging the "skin." (You can see many, many patches near the base where snowplows have inadvertently torn the fabric over the years.) The new Pickleball Center will retain snow on its roof, reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by the snow removal equipment as well as the risk of damage and the cost of repair.



Thank you for doing *your* part in making us "greener" – ride your bike or carpool to the Center, drop your higher quality used tennis balls into teaching baskets and the more "well-loved" ones into the basket in the entry vestibule, and bring your own refillable water bottle.

In fact, if you'd like a free Court Sports 4 Life double-walled stainless steel 30 oz. water bottle, just join the "Power of 3" Partners with a **pledge of \$3,333.33!** That's only \$92.59/month or \$3/day for 36 months.

To pledge or donate, please visit courtsports4life.org/donate.

