

Smart Energy Management for Pickleball & Padel Facilities

By David Anderson



From re-purposed retail spaces to newly built multisport complexes, pickleball and padel courts are filling up—and facility owners are racing to keep up with demand. But there's a hidden cost that quietly erodes profitability: energy use.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) often represent **40% to 60% of a facility's utility bill**. In sports facilities with high ceilings, frequent occupancy swings and extended operating hours, those costs can spike even higher.

The good news? With smart demand-side and supply-side energy strategies, pickleball and padel facility owners can immediately lower expenses, boost profitability and create reinvestment opportunities for growth.

The Business Case: Why Energy Efficiency Matters Now

In a competitive sports market, profitability is about more than filling courts. Every dollar saved on overhead is a dollar you can reinvest into marketing, upgraded amenities or new programming to keep members coming back.

Unlike long-term capital projects, **energy efficiency measures deliver quick paybacks**—sometimes within months.

Two forces are driving this urgency:

1. **Rising energy costs.** Utility rates continue to trend upward and peak demand charges can catch operators off guard.

2. **Customer expectations.** Players demand comfort. A poorly conditioned court leads to complaints, reduced playtime and lower repeat bookings.

Smart energy management addresses both challenges: keeping courts comfortable while lowering costs.

Case Study: DINX Social Club, Highland Park, IL

- 4 months of operation
- \$500 in documented energy savings
- Projected annual savings: \$1,500
- Achieved by deploying smart thermostats, occupancy sensors and optimized scheduling.

"The savings started showing up on

our bills right away. It's a win-win: lower costs and better comfort for our players."
— DINX Social Club Management

This early success demonstrates how even modest adjustments yield measurable results. DINX has essentially cut out the equivalent of one full utility bill per year simply by running smarter—not harder.

Demand-Side Savings: Control What You Use

According to *Energie Multisport's Smart HVAC Strategies for Pickleball Facilities*, facilities can save up to **15% annually** with minimal investment by deploying these practical tactics:

1. Zoning & Scheduling

Divide your space into functional zones—courts, lobbies, lounges, offices—and match HVAC schedules to actual usage. An "optimal start" feature automatically pre-conditions the courts before play, reducing unnecessary runtime.

2. Smart Thermostats + Remote Sensors

Instead of relying on a single wall thermostat, use multiple sensors to capture average conditions. Motion sensors detect activity:

After 10 minutes of inactivity, the system shifts to an energy-saving setback (75°F cooling / 65°F heating).

When players return, it quickly adjusts to occupied settings (72°F / 68°F).

3. Virtual Energy Management Systems

Cloud-based platforms such as **Encycle's Swarm Logic** apply AI-driven adjustments every five minutes—optimizing performance without the cost of a full building automation system. Facilities often see **10–30% HVAC savings** with these tools.

4. Demand Response Programs

During utility peak demand periods, slightly shifting HVAC operation can earn your facility **financial rebates**. This turns a cost center into a revenue stream.

Supply-Side Strategies: Stop Overpaying for Power

Demand-side savings are only half the equation. In deregulated utility markets, facility owners can also lower costs by



shopping for electricity supply—rather than simply paying the default rate from the local utility.

Stop Overpaying for Power at Your Pickleball Facility

Most facilities buy energy directly from the utility at default rates.

In deregulated markets, you can shop supply from **60+ competing providers**.

Competitive bidding often secures rates **10%–30% lower** than utility default pricing.

Options to Fit Your Club:

- **Fixed Rate Plans:** Lock in a stable price for budget certainty.
- **Indexed/Blended Products:** Capture dips in the wholesale market for additional savings.

Fast, No-Risk Review:

A quick bill analysis can reveal if you're leaving money on the table. Energie Multisport compares supplier bids, negotiates on your behalf and locks in the best option—freeing up dollars for growth.



A midsize indoor pickleball facility spending \$2,500/month on utilities could save \$250–\$500/month.

Proven Results:

Sports facilities and recreation centers in deregulated markets routinely see thousands in annual savings with this approach—without changing operations or equipment.

Two Paths to Energy Savings: New or Existing Facilities

New Facility Construction

Projects built from the ground up maintain many of the same principles and opportunities but benefit from intentional planning. Coordinating with architects and contractors during design allows owners to implement best practices:

- Proper zoning of HVAC systems to match court layouts and support spaces.
- Ductwork design that ensures even air distribution.
- Equipment sized for both comfort and efficiency.
- Smart thermostat placement for optimal sensing.
- Selection of HVAC units and controls that can integrate with AI-powered or centralized platforms.

This proactive approach ensures that facilities are future-ready, with energy efficiency designed in from day one.

Repurposed Facility Realities

Most pickleball and padel courts are carved out of former big-box retail or warehouse spaces. These renovations often involve re-using existing HVAC equipment with minimal upgrades:

- Centralized Building Automation Systems (BAS) are typically not present.
- HVAC is controlled by basic or programmable thermostats.

- Unit heaters and ventilation fans may be excluded from control strategies.
- Lighting upgrades and HVAC zoning adjustments are common but often not tied into a centralized control platform.

As a result, many facilities operate with only programmable thermostats—offering limited scheduling and no networked control. This presents a huge opportunity. Upgrading to **smart, connected systems** allows operators to:

- Dramatically improve comfort.
- Reduce utility costs.
- Extend HVAC useful life
- Position the facility for long-term cost containment as energy prices continue to rise.

Profitability Through Energy Awareness

Let's break down what this means in dollars:

- A midsize indoor pickleball facility spending **\$2,500/month** on utilities could save **\$250–500/month** through HVAC controls, scheduling and demand-response participation.
- On the supply side, locking in a lower electricity rate could trim an additional **10%–30% off the bill**.
- Combined, that's **\$3,000–\$9,000 in annual savings**—enough to fund new equipment, resurface courts, or invest in member amenities.

The DINX Social Club case shows that savings start right away, while supply-side procurement ensures long-term rate protection and stability.

Next Steps: How to Start Saving Immediately

Energy optimization doesn't require tearing out your HVAC system or breaking ground on new construction. In fact, most facilities can start with:

- **Energy Audit:** Review your current system for inefficiencies.
- **Smart Thermostat Deployment:** Install AI-powered thermostats and sensors.
- **Rebate Check:** Explore local rebate programs for instant financial support.
- **Supply Review:** If you're in a deregulated market, request a no-obligation rate comparison.

Energie Multisport specializes in tailoring both supply-side and demand-side solutions to sports facilities—turning wasted energy into profit.

The Takeaway for Facility Owners

Pickleball and padel are sports of momentum—and your business should match that pace. By embracing both demand-side and supply-side energy strategies, you can:

- Cut energy waste by up to 30%
- Secure lower energy rates in deregulated markets
- Improve player comfort and retention
- Reinvest savings into marketing, amenities, or expansion
- Future-proof your facility against rising utility costs

Smart operations lead to stronger sports. The time to act is now—because every month of delay means leaving money on the table. ■



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