GEO Certified® Report
Golf & Country Club Lauswolt

Prepared by independent verifier Paul van Kan

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

"The first construction of the golf course of the Golf & Country Club Lauswolt dates back to 1964. The current course consists of 18 holes in a very spacious course around a forest core. The holes are laid out along lines of sight from the country house that houses a five-star hotel. The area is over 100 ha, 70% of which is nature. During an (18-hole) round, you walk 10 km through a quiet and green area at the transition from sandy soils to the stream valley of the Koningsdiep.

The support for sustainability within the club is great and the high degree of self-reliance is also worth a compliment. Management of the game components and nature has been in good hands with the highly experienced headgreenkeeper / nature manager for 30 years.

The cooperation that is sought in all possible areas is also very positive. For example, there is participation in dollar spot research, precision fertilization and Player First. In the field of water management, projects are carried out together with the Wetterskip Fryslân. There is close cooperation with the Bosgroep Noordoost Nederland, Landschapsbeheer Fryslân and neighbouring estate owners. The relationship with local entrepreneurs, residents and landowners is also good.

G&CC Lauswolt has been certified since 2011 and recertified in 2014, 2017 and 2020. All points for improvement mentioned have been addressed positively. There is great confidence that sustainability will continue to have a permanent place within the association in the coming years. There are still challenges, including in the field of energy transition and storage and the purchase of raw materials. In the field of nature management, the 5-year plan of the Nature Committee forms a wonderful basis. Good luck and keep sharing!"

Paul van Kan
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golf & Country Club Lauswolt has successfully achieved GEO Certified® status for its outstanding work to foster nature, conserve resources and support the community.

GEO Certified® is the most respected certification for golf, based on a credibly and transparently developed modern sustainability Standard of best practice.

Golf & Country Club Lauswolt has:

1. Met the required certification criteria for sustainable golf operations
2. Successfully completed the official third-party verification process
3. Successfully passed the final evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd. (autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation)

GEO agreed with the conclusions of the official verification report, that, having achieved all mandatory criteria; and with specific Continual Improvement Points (CIP) set for the future and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Golf & Country Club Lauswolt should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golf & Country Club Lauswolt can therefore claim a position as a leader in advancing sustainability in golf – making important contributions in protecting nature, conserving resources and strengthening communities.

The GEO Certified® Report that follows comments on the actions undertaken against the criteria, as observed by the independent verifier during the assurance process.

Certification is nearly always the result of a dedicated team effort resulting in many practical and valuable social and environmental results around the golf course, maintenance facility and clubhouse. These dedication and leadership qualities are an important part of ensuring the resilience of the golf facility and the golf industry into the future and also as part of society's wider effort to pull together for people and planet.

We congratulate all involved.

Jonathan Smith
Founder and Executive Director, GEO Foundation
GEO Certification Ltd. Board Member

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.

Verification and Certification

Verification

The official third-party audit was carried out by an independent verifier, accredited by GEO to undertake verifications of golf facilities applying for certification.

Verification involves reviewing practices and data, using the International Voluntary Standard for Sustainable Golf Operations as the guide to ensure comprehensive and consistent evaluation of performance. A detailed verification report is submitted for evaluation by GEO Certification Ltd, a subsidiary of GEO Foundation.

Certification

GEO Certification Ltd, an autonomous subsidiary of GEO Foundation [both not-for-profit entities], undertook a full review of all content submitted through the OnCourse® online platform and the report submitted by the verifier, ensuring:

- Comprehensiveness – activities undertaken touched on all elements of the Standard
- Consistency – that the verification approach was balanced, well weighted and with consistent depth of evaluation across each theme
- Accuracy - matching the verification report with evidence submitted by the golf facility to ensure statements and claims were accurate

GEO Foundation is an international not-for-profit founded to advocate, support and reward sustainability in and through golf. Over more than ten years, the group has worked collaboratively with dozens of golf industry associations and government and non-government organisations around the world, to help golf become a sustainability leader, striving for a net positive social and environmental impact. In addition to managing and assuring GEO Certified®, GEO Foundation also provides a suite of credible, practical programmes for golf facility management, new golf developments and golf tournaments called OnCourse®, often delivered in partnership with national golf bodies. Find out more at **www.sustainable.golf**

Credibility

GEO Certified® is part of the ISEAL Alliance, a group of the world's foremost credible certification systems including Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and many others. GEO Foundation earned and retains full membership of the ISEAL Alliance global association following a rigorous evaluation against the ISEAL Codes of Credibility in Sustainability Standards and Certification. The ISEAL Codes cover standard-setting, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation. Find out more at **www.isealalliance.org**

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	• Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	• Water • Energy • Materials
Community	• Partnerships & Outreach • Golfing & Employment • Advocacy & Communications

Included below are the observations made by the Independent Verifier against each item in the Standard.

NATURE

N1 Habitats and Biodiversity

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
N1.1 Understand the site and surroundings	**N1.1.1 Sound understanding of the nature and landscape value of the site**	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	The golf course is located in the estate zone near Beetserzwaag on a landscape gradient from cover sand to stream valley; nature is researched and registered on the basis of the 'habitat method'; Landscape Management Fryslân helps with inventories; last inventory of 2018; restart in 2025 (5-year plan nature committee).
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course; Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable	Stream valley Koningsdiep (NNN) is an important link between two Natura 2000 areas; Estate has been subject to the Nature Conservation Act since 2019; ecological work protocol (2024) in collaboration with codes of conduct for forest management and nature management; 3 employees follow a forest maintenance course; Monitoring tree safety starts winter 25-26.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	3 landscapes determine the identity: estate, forest, stream valley identity features strengthened such as avenue system and construction of water structures in stream valley; old fields, avenue structure from 1860, medieval dike and watershed ('Walle'); minimal signage ensures a quiet landscape, attention to experience; promotion of Stinzen plants in estate.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	**N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass**	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	Natural bunker edges, sometimes full of heather; herb-rich grasslands (coordinated mixture) at 5 locations; where play allows: heather development (by shallow sods, scraping); **CIP: Natural bunker edges are beautiful and an addition to biodiversity: where possible, bunker edges can be further designed and managed in this way.**
N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife	**N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf**	Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting	Course management plan (2014), Nature management plan concept 2024 (Nature Committee); Forest management plan 2017-2026 (Bosgroep NO Nederland); forest management by Bosgroep in collaboration with golf club: thinning for vitality forest cores; sheep grazing stopped due to net negative effect due to fertilization (phased mowing appears to be more effective for impoverishment); seepage used in stream valley in combination with controlling water circulation via weirs

		Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	and pipes **CIP: Edges are often very hard: add more gradient in phases, with inlets and mantle-hem structure. Implementation by selective felling and planting of shrub layer with local species of sandy soil (rowan, currant, sporkehout, etc.). Start on the most promising edges (sun exposure).**
N1.4 Conserve key species	**N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species**	Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site	Pitrus, pipe grass and sometimes reed bottleneck: keeping mowing or scraping off soil is a solution; owl boxes, hotbeds, pools, branch rills, sand martin box (in preparation); bat boxes not necessary (after investigation it appears that there are sufficient natural habitats)
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	**N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	Choice of grass optimally tailored to soil, plant vitality is paramount; festuca and agrostis (greens, tees and fairway), agrostis (rough); Poa annua hardly any problem, felting does require attention; Greenkeeper ensures minimal disruption through minimal cultivation management so that no holes in the turf (scarifying is not, sanding is).
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition	No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements	Plenty of attention for healthy soil; construction of the course is on original soil with internal soil balance; boulder clay with a layer of sand above it determine the possibilities; boulder clay causes strong fluctuations in groundwater availability; in Beekdal (expansion), rich topsoil has been excavated to build greens, making the surrounding soil poor and promising for nature.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Test and monitor soil pH; Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	'Precision fertilisation' (optimal alignment with grass needs) as a starting point; fertilizer doses on green and tee very low (P not at all, organic fertilizer contains a lot of P and is therefore little used), fertilizer doses on fairway negligible; use liquid fertilizer, promotes rapid absorption.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	**N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management**	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Change hole locations frequently	Prevention and non-chemical control is the starting point; pilot dollar spot prevention NGF and foreign jobs: exchange of best practices: mould prevention by sweeping and morning irrigation; more and more data-driven control, e.g. in the case of mould pressure; only act when and where necessary: cost savings and quality increase: damage caused by

			badger and crow on grubs: constant repair as a solution; nematodes (on grubs) and starlings (leatherjackets) as a natural solution.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	**N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues**	Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	No longer applicable last 10 years.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use legally registered and approved products; Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease; Follow legal requirements; Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides; Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	No longer applicable last 10 years.
N3 Pollution Prevention			
N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site	**N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations**	Document procedures for emergency spill responses ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	Environmental Care Plan (2014); no chemical control: fertilizer doses very low and at a distance of more than 6m from water and nature; oil hoses replace hybrid machines, minimizing the risk of leakage.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Environmental Care Plan (2014); certified cleaning company, no use of chemicals.

		pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations		
		N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Environmental Care Plan (2014); Floors washing area, fuel storage and sludge trap approved (inspection autumn 2025); indoor washing area (liquid-tight floor) with drainage to the outside on sludge tank and pit; wells are emptied annually (certified). **CCIP: Inspect the liquid-tight facilities (floors) every year, including cracks, seams and edges. A checklist is usually attached to the inspection report. Archive reports of this.**
	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	**N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances**	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	Environmental Care Plan (2014); Diesel, petrol, oil and waste oil above drip trays, in fire-retardant enclosed space with liquid-tight floor; double-walled diesel tank Kiwa 2009 (last inspection in 2025); clippings storage on concrete slab (maximum 2 months).
	N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	**N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge**	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation; Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	Environmental Care Plan (2014); Grey water from clubhouse, shed and washing area to public sewer, via grease and oil separators; annual emptying and inspection of oil and sludge trap sewers; sanitary facilities on the course (2019) with discharge of waste water according to IBA (i.e.: pre-treatment, biological treatment via reed bed and post-treatment after which infiltration into the soil or discharge into surface water)

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	**R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Water consumption for irrigation of the course very low (small surface, based on TDR); new water system in stream valley so that water is retained longer in spring, so irrigation starts later; sprinkler system underwent renovation (2022) and adjustment (2025); annual professional inspection of the irrigation system; individually adjustable nozzles, sector nozzles aimed at greens.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	**R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course**	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	Irrigation tailored to soil moisture measurements, weather; Application of water agents.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.); Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff	Water consumption in buildings low; savings through: motion sensors, water-saving shower heads, economical dishwasher.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	**R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water**	Water abstraction permit, if required; Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	Obligation to report groundwater extraction to the province, permit not applicable; analysis of water quality by Wetterskip Fryslân at two locations (publicly accessible); in collaboration with Wetterskip Fryslân worked on water management, including water system in stream valley (2023).

R2 Energy

	R2.1 Reduce energy demand	**R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance**	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	Mowing frequency low and therefore energy consumption, due to low fertilization strategy; Machinery under own management and maintenance, which limits transport.
	R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	**R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings**	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	Last energy audit in 2020; electricity and gas consumption low; ambition to switch to heating buildings by means of heat pump; clubhouse well insulated (walls, roof, windows), sensors, timers, LED lighting; kitchen 100% electric (new fridge-freezer installations, energy-efficient appliances); use of daylight in clubhouse (large windows facing south); use of daylight Greenkeeperslood
	R2.3 Source energy responsibly	**R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy**	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	320 m2 on roof driving range (2019); own solar energy currently provides 1/3 of total consumption (net); gradual switch to electric machines (ball picker, green mower, robotic mowers, hand tools) **CIP: Utilization of own electricity will become increasingly efficient. Nevertheless, the purchase of electricity (and for the time being also gas) remains necessary. Please switch to purchasing green energy.** **CIP: Promote transport by bicycle. The storage with shelter is already a plus. In addition to charging stations, electric cars also facilitate cyclists with charging stations and an electric bicycle pump. Promoting bicycles can be done by coming up with a playful action for this.**
	R3 Materials			
	R3.1 Reduce materials demand	**R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	Only fertilisation on tees and greens ('precision vertification') **CIP: In the coming years, emphasize the critical approach to procurement: can it be more sustainable or less? What is the impact of transporting purchased materials? And on the environment? For example, investigate alternatives to annual sanding, with a view to the future.**
	R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	Golf club works closely with Hotel Landgoed Lauswolt (green key gold); no joint purchasing, but overlap in suppliers, resulting in less transport; catering golf club is hired, with a focus on the purchase of sustainable products **CIP: Stimulate sustainable purchasing: organic, fair trade, Rainforest Alliance, regional products. Start with coffee, tea and dairy.**

			CIP: Please make a sustainable purchasing protocol with objectives: less purchasing, fewer or combined deliveries, as many (local) suppliers as possible with sustainability certificates.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	**R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity**	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability; Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Construction of a golf course based on a closed soil balance, i.e. no supply of foreign material; paths from the residual product of the local limestone factory; sand from ponds has been used for sanding; during renovation of the clubhouse, old furniture was reused; clippings and garden waste to composting company; leaf blown into forest or used for grass snake heaps.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	**R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations**	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Waste streams separated (about 60% residual waste, 40% recyclable); processing by a recognised waste processing company; separate disposal of glass, paper, plastic, oil, residual waste (fixed frequency), swill (on demand); clippings removed 2x a year (lies on concrete slab for a maximum of 2-3 months (compost company)

COMMUNITY

C1 Health & Wellbeing

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	**C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities**	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	Professional emergency plan (2014), incidents go directly to the course committee; Marshalls play an important role in safety management: AED on buggie, BHV; 5 shelters equipped with lightning rods and instructions; participant Wildfire Prevention.

C1.2 Be open and inclusive	**C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies**	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	Separate committee introduction new members, everyone welcome, warm welcome; attention for youth members and new members is great, schools environment regularly invited; socially involved: charity action, open day, team Handygolf, member Handycarts.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	**C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development**	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	Internships and work experience places at greenkeeping and clubhouse; golf club has 10 people in paid employment, catering is an independent business. Lauswolt follows legislation and health and safety, confidential doctor; training especially in the field of safety
C2 Outreach & Inclusion			
C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	**C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility**	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	Recreationists welcome in the forest, except for the holes (walkers, ATB-ers); walking and cycling paths connect to the network environment; no activities stimulated or facilitated due to the relationship between the local catering industry
C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	**C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	100 volunteers active: ad hoc or in committee (including pulling weeds and trees, building maintenance, nesting box brigade, charity tournament support); annual charity campaign (Foppe Fund); Cooking together every year for a good cause.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	**C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups**	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	Natuurcommissie is responsible for GEO together with Baancommissie; Knowledge and experience is widely available for all themes; headgreenkeeper (very experienced and involved) is in close contact with the board, nature committee and the coordinator of the GEO committee; club is a member of 'Sustainable Golf Course Management' (pilot dollar spot, disseminating expertise, contact NGF); The Lauswolt estate and golf club reinforce each other; close cooperation with Bosgroep, Landschapsbeheer Fryslân, neighbouring estate owners ('Green Pearls'), good contacts between the province and the municipality; work in consultation with neighbours, e.g. light driving range, installation of nets
C3 Communications & Advocacy			

	C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	**C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors**	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	Club experience will receive plenty of attention for the next 5 years; Player First, Leading Tours; interviews with greenkeeper to clarify work; digital monthly newsletter with GEO themes; regular birding excursions, participant in national nature work day; **CIP: The area around the clubhouse lends itself to an inspiring border with ecological added value (bees, butterflies). Use large groups of plants with grasses, which fits particularly well with the buildings and environment ('Dutch Wave'). The planting plan can consist of partly native species.**
	C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	**C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community**	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Information boards in 2025: 1x per hole plus 3x general (info: stream valley, lanes and migratory birds); Lauswolt Open: large publicly accessible tournament; attention from the local press on new developments (e.g. solar panels roof); website very informative with attention to GEO, greenkeeping and nature management.
	C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	**C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action**	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	There is great confidence that sustainability will continue to have a permanent place within the association in the coming years. There are still challenges, including in the field of energy transition and storage and the purchase of raw materials. In the field of nature management, the 5-year plan of the Nature Committee forms a wonderful basis. Good luck and keep sharing!”

Golf and Sustainability

Among all sports, golf has a particularly close relationship with the environment and communities, golf facilities can bring many benefits to people and nature - from the protection of greenspace and conservation of biodiversity; healthy recreation for all ages; local supply chains; and jobs, tourism and other forms of economic value.

Adopting a more sustainable approach is also good for golf. It's about presenting a high-quality golf course and providing a memorable experience in natural surroundings. It's about being as efficient as possible. And it's about supporting the community in a range of ways that bring increased recognition, respect and contact.

At a broader level, it's important that golf credibly demonstrates its commitment, and its social and environmental value – strengthening the sport's image and reputation for the long term.

Golf facilities that participate in OnCourse®, an international sustainability initiative assured by the non-profit GEO Foundation, are taking a comprehensive approach and striving to be leaders in the community.

Find out more at www.sustainable.golf