



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Buna Vista Golf Sagogn

Prepared by independent verifier Hector Forcen

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2029

"Buna Vista Golf is a beautiful golf course perfectly integrated into the alpine landscape. It's a good example of combining the sport of golf with nature, with numerous natural areas integrated on the rough and biotopes along the river.

They are aware of the need to do things a little better every day and proof of this is that the facility has been transformed over the past number of years to improve their course playing conditions and environmental credentials. Wildflower meadows, naturalized roughs and maintained turf are professionally managed, along with creating awareness of the local habitat and biodiversity.

It is always a pleasure to walk the greens and see the Fescue/Agrostis perfectly prepared for the arrival of summer and the high golfing season. An experienced Greenkeeping team who perfectly combine the traditional mechanical techniques of greenkeeping with the use of microorganisms and modern filtration systems.

The clubhouse produces with solar panels 20% of the energy consumed and the maintenance facilities could easily be the example of sustainability and architecture necessary for many other clubs in the country.

I look forward to seeing the results of the efforts that will be made to improve the facility in the coming years. I am sure these will bring numerous advances in sustainability and energy efficiency.

All of the above is creating awareness and education within the community, staff and membership.

I, Hector Forcen, Golf Environment Organization independent accredited verifier, recommend that Buna Vista Golf, to be awarded the GEO Certified® ecolabel."

Hector Forcen
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Buna Vista Golf Sagogn 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.

Buna Vista Golf Sagogn 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, Buna Vista Golf Sagogn should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Buna Vista Golf Sagogn 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 – that 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.isealliance.org



Verifier's Report

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	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Buna Vista Golf is located in Sagogn, canton of Grisons next to the river Vorderrhein. Kurt, the Head Greenkeeper has a landscaping maintenance plan with maps and areas redacted with the local government. CIP: Please upload existing habitat plans and what we saw in the office on the day of my visit to the OnCourse Documents Library.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	The club cooperates closely with local authorities and associations. There are no known legal designations on the property and is not aware of any rare or endangered species found on the site. The golf course area is of significant importance as it is home to the largest known bat species. For this reason, together with ProNatura and the canton, an ambitious project has begun to plant trees and shrubs on the golf course. This will help the bats travel from one mountain to another in the valley, crossing the golf course. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fa2C2WmyKSs CIP: Please conduct a survey and / or create a list of different flora and fauna species, monitoring these annually.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No archaeological, historical, or cultural designation are present (or known) on the course.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	There are many naturalized areas and biotopes along the course. Most of the biotopes are concentrated in the southern part of the property as it is the area adjacent to the river course. CCIP: Please track the movements of players to identify underutilised areas with potential for further naturalization.

N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	The club is working, for several years, with local environmental groups. There is a written document prepared by the local government which describes the maintenance to be carried out in the different zones and natural areas of the course, accompanied by maps and plans. A new insect hotel has been installed to the right of the 10th fairway. On the 16th hole, one of the fairway bunkers has been removed, creating a natural area with plants and piles of branches that serve as a home to numerous insects and small mammals in the area. CIP: Please upload the Cantonal Habitat Management Plan and any other related information to the OnCourse Documents Library.
	N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species	The original fescue seeded in greens are maintained. There are fruit trees of rare varieties that are maintained and cared for in various areas of the rough. There are action protocols developed by the canton, ProNatura, and the Head Greenkeeper, which establish the mowing times for different natural areas of the golf course, as well as the plan for new tree and shrub plantings and their maintenance. Protective buffers zones are established around lakes and wet areas of the golf course.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	The Head Greenkeeper has extensive experience and perfectly knows the specific conditions of the course. The sward is 40 % Agrostis, 40 % Fescue and 20 % Poa annua. Poa annua and Lolium are predominantly species across fairways, and tees. The greens are overseeded with new Agrostis varieties. These are more performant and tolerant.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Good cultural practices are undertaken to reduce thatch, reduce compaction and to encourage deeper rooting. Topdressing and solid tinning are normal maintenance practices on the greens.

	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Kurt inspects the course with the fertilizer supplier every year discussing the best products and possibilities. The applications are made mainly of liquid making his own mixes. The use of beneficial microorganisms has been a common practice of Kurt for quite some years. Soil analyses are carried out every two to three years. All staff use appropriate protective equipment supplied by the club. Sprayers and treatment machines are regularly inspected, and receipts are neatly stored in the Head Greenkeeper's office. CIP: It would be advisable to carry out annual soil analysis and organic matter tests at different depths. This will help to adjust the fertilization plan and topdressing programme. CIP: Synthetic products, especially fertilisers, could be progressively reduced.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Mowers cylinders and blades are sharpened using the club high quality grinding equipment as much as needed to cut with the best quality possible daily. Machines are washed every time after they have been used. Dew moisture is removed to keep the turf as dry as possible. Standard good practices (daily inspections, local weeding etc) are used to reduce chemical use to the minimum. The management of microorganisms is a technique that Kurt has been using successfully for several years.
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds	The Head Greenkeeper tries to minimize the need and use of pesticides. He scouts the course daily. Weather conditions and past events are monitored and discussed. The maintenance crew report any signs of stress or indications of pests and diseases. Only one preventive treatment done before the winter. The rest of the year they treat, if needed, but only curative.

			The current season they are reducing half the number of applications in comparison with last. During the month of June, they installed various traps with pheromones to attract the males of <i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>.
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf .	Only legislated chemicals are used. The maintenance facility has adequate rooms for stock chemicals and products. They are stored in a separate, locked, and secure storage with a very good system for ventilation. The applications are made by the Head greenkeeper and assistant. Both are trained and qualified using the necessary security measures. Ecological conditions and weather are considered before the application is carried out. Untreated turf areas are used for disposal of diluted leftovers. CIP: Please consider creating a map of diseases on the course, defining the most sensitive areas where they appear.
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; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	The Club is perfectly respecting the Swiss law in terms of pollution prevention and emergency spill responses. The security perimeters established are respected. There are no treatments in the rough areas, wet areas and near lakes. CCIP: Please upload the emergency spill responses plan to the OnCourse Documents Library.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Contracts for disposal of hazardous waste from the facility are established with external local companies that are specialists in waste management. Wastewater is led to the municipal wastewater treatment plant.

	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Pesticides and fertilizers are mixed and loaded in the garage with concrete floor and drain connected to a collecting tank. In the workshop all drums with oils for machinery maintenance have their corresponding anti-spill containment system. Hazardous waste is stored on bunded platforms prior to collection by a licenced waste contractor.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	All personal that handle pesticides have an education and valid authorizations (licenses). Personal protection equipment and the treatment machine is equipped with a closed cabin. Kurt records products and treatments in the computer using a management software. Chemicals are maintained in a suitable room for the storage of phytosanitary products. Emergency wash area perfectly prepared and in compliance with local regulations. Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered local company.
	N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases	Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required Fire extinguisher in the immediate area	All fuel tanks are installed according to legislation and have approved inspections and controls. Fire extinguishers are placed in locations with fire risks. They are inspected annually by a certified company.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	The washing area is perfectly designed. This is built on an impermeable base with oil separator and an innovative water treatment system based on filters and bacteria that makes machines wash water clean when it reaches the public sewer network.

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	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Irrigation only when necessary, based on the Head Greenkeeper experience. On greens, they practice spaced and abundant watering, trying to make the root system as deep as possible and stressing the poa to the maximum. The club has an automatic irrigation decoders system with individual sprinklers on greens and block system on the tees. Single row is used to irrigate fairways with individual sprinkler decoder number. Wetting agents are commonly used helping to optimize irrigation management during the hottest months.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	The club haven't got any moisture sensor. Daily inspection and experience are techniques used to determine the amount of water to apply on the course. Thanks to an update of irrigation software done recently efficiency has been improved. The pumping is modern and helps to be more efficient with considerable savings in electricity consumption. We could describe this golf course's irrigation system as super-efficient in terms of water management, and it could serve as an example for other Swiss courses. The irrigation water comes from a lake filled with excess water and overflow from the tanks that supply the town's drinking water. This water was previously lost when the excess was carried directly into the river. All golf course drains are connected to the irrigation lake. CCIP: Please explore the feasibility of purchasing a moisture meter to improve irrigation efficiency.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	The clubhouse was well constructed not many years ago and has the latest and most efficient bathroom and shower fittings with flow restrictors and controls. Bills and volumes reviewed regularly.

			The clubhouse landscaping has been carefully designed by a local company using low water consumption species. The solar-powered bathrooms on the 2nd green feature a natural water fountain with a novel filtration system and electronic sensor for turning it on and off, preventing the faucet from being left open due to a golfer's forgetfulness. CCIP: Please encourage water saving practices with the use of signs. CIP: Please consider undertaking a water & irrigation audit.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	The club has legal access to extract water from a lake which collects excess drinking water not used by the population. The water consumption is read and reported to the municipality that is the supplier of freshwater to the clubhouses. The bathrooms along the course use non-potable water from the irrigation system, which they purify with a modern system, making it possible to have different water points for the players.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Clubhouse and the toilets on the course have solar panels which produce energy that is consumed internally. The course has numerous naturalized areas and biotopes reducing maintained rough. These natural areas are not cut or only cut once a year strictly following a protocol marked by local and national authorities depending on the area. Different bunkers on the course have been removed and turned into grass reducing man hours in maintenance. Growth regulators are applied to the fairways, thereby reducing the frequency of mowing, resulting in savings in fuel and employee hours. The club is conducting a test with electric robots that will mow the entire practice range as well as several fairways on the second nine holes of the course.

R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	The property complies with the Swiss directives in terms of energy. All the buggies are electric and are stored in a new, well-built and efficient building adjacent to the clubhouse. Clubhouse solar panels provide 20% of the total energy used.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	Clubhouse and the toilets on the course have solar panels which produce energy that is consumed internally. In recent years, solar panels have also been installed on some walls of the clubhouse as well as on the walls and roof of the entire maintenance shed. There are two charging points for electric cars in the parking lot.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	The club works with a local waste management plant for recycling. All waste is stored according to legislation. They are composting some vegetal material. This is collected and used by local farmers. CIP: Please explore the feasibility of producing your own compost on the golf course.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Mainly local distributors are used, and some furniture of the golf course has been built by local companies (like the wood driving range structure). In the restaurant the use of local products is preferred and desired by members and visitors. The club has an environmental policy that includes taking environmental impacts into account when making purchasing decisions. CCIP: Please develop a more structured, formal sustainable purchasing policy.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	The club keeps internal bills and invoices of annual quantities of waste and recycled materials. Almost all waste is recycled or reused, including PET, aluminium, metals, glass, paper, and cardboard. Wood from removed trees is used for creating brush piles and habitat areas. Materials from the kitchen and maintenance area such as detergents, oils, lubricants, pesticides, and batteries are collected and disposed by a specialized company.

			The club dispose at different points with labelled bins around the facility and waste receptacle areas.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	The club complies with all Swiss waste management regulations. Authorized waste and recycling contractors are used for both housekeeping waste, industrial and hazardous waste.

COMMUNITY			
C1 Outreach			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		The club is involved in different local projects. During the summer they organize a choral concert open to everyone with an attendance of 250 people from the area. The golf club has various defibrillators on both the golf course and in the buildings, and staff receive training on their correct use should they be needed. Every year, the club organizes an important competition called the Special Olympics, where golf is introduced to people with disabilities.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		The club Provide staff with time and opportunities to volunteer, encouraging golfers to volunteer on tournaments, committees, and projects.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	The club communicates using social media, newsletter as well as daily through its website and the information panel of the clubhouse. In the property there are various areas dedicated to sheep and cow pasture, creating close ties between golfers and farmers.

			Greenkeepers and farmers collaborate closely on a compost production projector by mixing mowing debris with farm animal waste and excrement. CCIP: Please create a Sustainability group/committee.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Greenkeepers collect apples and pears from trees in the rough and prepare juices and snaps that they sell to members and visitors. Seniors, ladies, and juniors enjoy the facilities weekly. Along the course there are various public marked trails that are travelled by many residents especially on weekends. During the summer they organize a choral concert open to everyone with an attendance of 250 people from the area. The 11 golf courses in Grisons have joined forces to collaborate on an advertising campaign to attract golf tourists to the area. This campaign is based on the quality of the Alpine habitats, biodiversity, beauty, and tranquillity that this unique area in Switzerland offers. https://youtu.be/fa2C2WmyKSs
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	A very open attitude toward golfers and the local community. Various charity competitions are organized, with one organized by a prominent local chef being a highlight. Junior programme that regularly invite school groups to learn with captain and pro. Summer camps are organized every year for young people in the area. The restaurant is open to the public and many people from the area use it.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	Compliant with the extensive Swiss health and safety legislation for safe, ethical, equal, and legal working conditions. The club promote education and membership of the professional's associations. Continuous training and giving maximum stability to employees.

			Personal protection equipment and working clothing are provided.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	The club communicates with a newsletter as well as daily through its website and the information panel of the clubhouse. The club truly promotes awareness within the employee community with respect to energy and safety aspects.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	Buna vista Golf is an open club that offers the opportunity to play golf to many citizens of the valley. Members and players are properly informed of all activities and actions carried out in the club. <i>CIP: Please communicate sustainability objectives and success using the Communications resources available on OnCourse. These provide some helpful guidance on effective outreach.</i>
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	Both the General Manager and the Head Greenkeeper have taken this certification very seriously, and I'm sure they've made and will continue to make numerous efforts to continue improving with new highlights and regularly completing their OnCourse data.

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