



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Golfclub Lenzerheide

Prepared by independent verifier Ludwig Glöcklhofer

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2029

“The course is naturally integrated with diverse habitats including mountain pine forests, alpine meadows, and nationally significant dry grasslands. These features provide critical refuge for a variety of native species. Its setting within a designated wildlife refuge and groundwater protection zone highlights its environmental relevance. The current management shows a clear commitment to sustainable practices, with limited chemical use, efficient irrigation sourced from local natural springs, and a focus on soil and plant vitality through mechanical and biological methods. These efforts reflect a solid foundation in ecological stewardship and responsible turf care.

At the same time, opportunities remain to enhance the site's ecological value. The development of a comprehensive biodiversity strategy—including habitat mapping and a detailed flora and fauna inventory—would represent a significant step forward. Collaborating with local conservation specialists would ensure scientific accuracy and strengthen long-term conservation outcomes.”

*Ludwig Glöcklhofer
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golfclub Lenzerheide 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.

Golfclub Lenzerheide 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, Golfclub Lenzerheide should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golfclub Lenzerheide 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.isealalliance.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	Golf Lenzerheide lies within a biodiverse alpine landscape, featuring old-growth forests, dry grasslands of national importance (TWW Nr. 11300 Furtga), and natural springs. Though these habitats are ecologically significant, they remain unmapped and are municipally owned. A formal agreement should secure their long-term protection and allow continued maintenance, such as shrub removal. CIP: Please develop a biodiversity management plan, including a maps of habitat types. Expert support would enhance ecological stewardship and align with national conservation initiatives.
	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	There are no known legal designations on the property. The golf course is situated within a designated wildlife protection area for small game (hunting) and functions as a refuge for native rare populations, contributing to local biodiversity conservation. (www.geo.gr.ch). The golf course doesn't have an inventory list of the flora and fauna. CCIP: Please create an inventory list of the flora and fauna in collaboration with an external specialist. Explore the opportunity to participate in SwissGolf's "Let's Swing for Biodiversity" program as a framework for creating and implementing this plan. CCIP: Please establish an agreement with the local municipality to protect the natural areas (woodlands, grasslands, and waterbodies) within the golf course from future use or alteration, especially for economic purposes. The ecologically valuable old-growth woods and grasslands should be preserved, and golf course maintenance should continue to remove encroaching shrubs to keep the grassland open.

	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No protected or listed heritage sites are located within the boundaries of the golf 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	The golf course management doesn't assesses which intensively managed areas can be reduced. CCIP: Please monitor patterns of play to identify areas suitable for naturalization and cost savings. As part of this process, explore the feasibility of introducing GPS tracking to identify underutilized areas that may be suitable for sustainable repurposing, such as transitioning to low-maintenance habitats or naturalized zones.
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	Only native species will be used during the construction of the facility and for any replacement plantings. Highlight: Many natural areas within the golf course boundaries remain unused and unmanaged, allowing beautiful woodlands with mature, old trees to flourish. Highlight: There are a few microhabitat projects on the site, such as stone walls and stone piles. Wood piles are planned for the future.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		There is no biodiversity management plan for the habitats found on the site. CCIP: Please create a management plan for priority species of flora and fauna (both aquatic and terrestrial). Rare species occurring in the area can thus be specifically supported. Try to involve an external specialist or a local nature group in the implementation of these actions (as per N1.1.2 above).
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	Seed mixtures used for the playing surfaces are specifically selected to suit the local climatic conditions. Highlight: The head greenkeeper applies compost tea and biochar to enhance plant health by increasing microbiological activity in the root zone of intensively managed turf areas.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		The Head Greenkeeper follows best practices for mechanical soil treatment. Throughout the season, mechanical interventions are used to maintain a healthy soil structure and to stimulate optimal plant-supporting

			microbiological activity in the rhizosphere. Soil aeration is performed using full spoons, both thick and thin. These practices are complemented by regular sand applications, with topdressing carried out at short, frequent intervals.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	The analysis of macro and micronutrients in the soil takes place at the end of the season and serves as the basis for fertilizer planning for the following year. The head greenkeeper maintains full documentation of the fertilization and pesticide plans and, due to the altitude, uses a mix of mineral and organic products.
	N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding The mower blades are routinely serviced and sharpened. Any surface moisture is manually removed. Throughout the main season, the greens are maintained at a minimum mowing height of 4.2 mm. During the winter season, snow is regularly removed from the greens to minimize fungal pressure on the turf.
	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 course is inspected daily for early signs of pests and diseases. Fungicide use is kept to a minimum and is limited exclusively to the greens. In 2024, fungicide was applied twice.
		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 products authorized for use in Switzerland are used in greenkeeping practices. A valid license for the application of synthetic pesticides is present. The cab-equipped field sprayer meets all regulatory requirements under Swiss law, and applicators are regularly tested and calibrated to ensure compliance. All protective equipment, including the field sprayer, is maintained according to Swiss legal standards. Any excess spray solution is properly applied to intensively managed turf areas.

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.	A clearly defined emergency spill response plan is in place and prominently displayed at multiple key locations on the property. Mowing buffer zones have been established around all water bodies and ecologically sensitive areas. The width of these zones varies based on site-specific environmental considerations. CCIP: A portion of the golf course is located within the Au groundwater protection zone, as indicated on maps.geo.gr.ch. Please develop a detailed site map that clearly defines buffer zones—of at least 3 meters—around ecologically sensitive areas. This mapping should align with the safety perimeters required by Swiss regulations governing wetlands and natural habitats. CIP: Please explore the feasibility of conducting periodic chemical analyses of water from on-site water hazards and wetland biotopes to monitor for potential contaminants and support proactive environmental management.
	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	Hazardous materials in the clubhouse are stored in accordance with Swiss law. Wastewater discharge licence is present. A license for the disposal of hazardous waste is in place, in accordance with Swiss law.
	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	The washing area is located near the greenkeepers' facility on the course. Wastewater is collected in a holding tank and is regularly pumped and directed into the local sewage system. The mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilizers take place on an impermeable surface, similar to the area used for machinery washing. A new machinery storage building, including a washing bay that complies with Swiss regulations, is currently in the planning phase and is scheduled for completion prior to the reverification.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff;	The head greenkeeper maintains a register of hazardous substances stored and used on the golf course.

	disposal of all hazardous substances	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	The fuel tank is regularly inspected for operational safety. Fire extinguishers are installed and clearly marked. First aid and emergency response procedures are at hand. An emergency wash station is available. Impermeable flooring for hazardous substances is in place.
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)	Wastewater discharge licence is valid for the course. The machinery washing bay meets the minimum Swiss regulatory standards. A new wash bay is currently in the planning stages and is expected to be completed by the next reverification.

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	Only intensive lawn areas (Green, Tee, Fairway, Semirough, Rough with drought-tolerant grasses are irrigated. The irrigation system, installed in 2010, is highly efficient and can be selectively controlled via specialized software. Irrigation of the turfgrass has been strategically reduced to the minimum required to stimulate deep root development. This practice not only enhances the turf's resilience to dry periods but also promotes a healthier rhizosphere by encouraging beneficial microbial activity and improved soil structure.
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;	The automated irrigation system is regularly maintained. The sprinklers are adjusted and set to the target areas in terms of intensity. Irrigation System has automatic shut down if it's raining.

		Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	A soil moisture sensor is available to monitor and optimize 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	Confirm the club regularly checks the water. In the sanitary area, predominantly water-saving toilet flushes are installed. There are drinking water fountains at several locations on the premises.
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 golf course is irrigated using water from its own natural spring, which also supplies drinking water to the clubhouse. CCIP: The Golf course facility is located within a designated water protection zone. Please explore the feasibility of regular water quality testing to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to safeguard both human health and the surrounding ecosystem.
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	The club has currently expressed no interest in converting intensively managed turf areas into extensive natural zones, which could contribute to energy and resource savings. CCIP (as per 1.2.1 above): Please monitor patterns of play to identify areas suitable for naturalization and cost savings. As part of this process, explore the feasibility of introducing GPS tracking to identify underutilized areas that may be suitable for sustainable repurposing, such as transitioning to low-maintenance habitats or naturalized zones.
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 electricity bills are regularly reviewed and checked. The new clubhouse, built in 2014, meets efficient energy standards, is well insulated, and is equipped with a modern heating system. Nearly all of the lighting has been converted to energy-efficient LED technology.
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	The electricity is 100% standard grid.

		on-site, through renewable energy providers	CIP: Please undertake an energy audit with an external expert to identify potential renewable energy sources available in the area.
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 regularly reviews its waste management bills and partners with a local provider to ensure compliant recycling practices. Organic waste from the clubhouse and course is sent to a nearby composting facility. The club collaborates with a neighbouring golf club to coordinate joint material orders and share equipment, promoting resource efficiency and reducing energy consumption.
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	The club prioritizes local products and production. The club restaurant offers local specialties such as Bündnerfleisch and regional cheese. Material transport, such as sand delivery, is managed by a local transportation company. CIP: Please explore the possibility of using environmentally friendly cleaning products, including soap for the restrooms and facility cleaning supplies.
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	Waste separation is currently implemented around the clubhouse; however, the containers are not labelled, which limits user participation. On the golf course itself, no separation system is in place—waste is manually sorted by staff after collection. CIP: Please explore the feasibility of implementing on-site waste separation both at the clubhouse and throughout the golf course. This initiative will enhance operational efficiency and improve the facility's environmental performance. CCIP: Please label the waste containers at the clubhouse to encourage guests to participate in proper waste separation.
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	Confirm all waste management licenses are valid and comply with Swiss regulations.

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 restaurant is open to the public and welcomes all visitors. During the winter off-season, a cross-country ski trail (Langlaufloipe) and a winter hiking trail is made accessible to the public.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		The club organizes annual charity events, with proceeds donated to charitable foundations. The golf club takes part in local events and stays connected with the community. Staff get special deals at the club's restaurant.
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 golf course collaborates with the local tourism office, participates in local festival activities, and works with local education groups. The golf club supports athletes with disabilities through its 'Golf Behindertensport' program. The money raised in charity tournaments goes to the 'Stiftung Behindertensport Lenzerheide' foundation. CIP: Please engage with local environmental organizations and invite them to collaborate on your sustainability efforts. CIP: Please ensure that information about environmental measures is effectively communicated to the general public through appropriate channels such as print media, bulletin boards, or social media. CIP: Please establish a sustainability working group focused on reducing energy consumption and enhancing biodiversity. This group should collaborate with an external consultant or local environmental organization to identify viable opportunities and to optimize maintenance plans. Emphasis should be placed on integrating conservation principles and aligning practices with ecological best standards.

C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		The restaurant offers a variety of well-prepared menus. There are numerous activities, especially for school children, including programs like “Globi spielt Golf”. CIP: Please explore the possibility of offering vegetarian menus.
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 well-balanced representation and active participation of both male and female members are encouraged. The golf course is open to everyone who is familiar with golf etiquette. Persons under the age of 18 receive a discount on the green fee. Every year, several events are held in the clubhouse by local communities, including farmers, the municipality, and the tourism organization.
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	All employees are provided with written contracts adhering to high standards and fair and safe working conditions according to the Swiss law.
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 regularly communicates its sustainability values through internal channels. CIP: Please explore the potential for member sponsorship programs to support ecological initiatives such as creating microhabitats, maintaining extensive meadows, planting trees, and enhancing biodiversity across the course. CCIP: Please promote environmental values through public communication channels—such as information boards, social media and the website—and ensure they are accessible to the public.
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	The golf club is active on several social media platforms and well connected with the local community. CCIP: see C3.1.1 above.

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