



GEO Certified® Report Golfclub Markgräflerland

Prepared by independent verifier David Bily

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

“The Golfclub Markgräflerland demonstrates solid sustainable practices across the golf course and clubhouse management. The course maintains extensive zero-input grass meadows and numerous fruit trees throughout the property as well as a number of interesting small landscape structures which offer good habitats for local bird and animal species. They have also recently installed some insect hotels and bee hives to support pollination and produce some honey for local consumption. The greenkeeper uses solid cultural practices and very minimal chemical input in the maintenance of the turfgrass surfaces. Some solar thermal production reduces their electricity consumption considerably and their waste separation has improved in recent years with the introduction of divided bins throughout the course. I look forward to seeing a more detailed biodiversity survey at some point as well as ongoing energy and waste reduction projects.

*David Bily
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golfclub Markgräflerland 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 Markgräflerland 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 Markgräflerland should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golfclub Markgräflerland 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.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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	The golf club generally has a good understanding of the surrounding nature and landscape value of the site. An initial rough survey was done years ago regarding on-site biodiversity by interested members, greenkeeper and local residents. CCIP: Please explore the feasibility of undertaking a professional biodiversity survey, which will help to identify specific species and how habitats can be further developed. Although there would be an associated cost, this could be invaluable for future habitat creation and management. CCIP: Please develop a habitat maintenance map showing habitats and vegetation types on site.
	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	The club has knowledge of legal designations on site. The golf course land lies within a Biosphere reserve and Nature 2000 Birds. CCIP: As per N1.1.1 above - a biodiversity survey would help to clarify the actual numbers of protected species on site.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	No archaeological or historical designations are known on the site. The club has established a number of orchards with different varieties of fruit trees, some old varieties, throughout the golf course. This kind of land use is a reminder of former agricultural land use on the site and in the area. The fruit from these trees is made into juice for sale in the clubhouse. In recent years, the club has planted additional fruit trees, increasing their areas of orchard.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	The club has tried to minimise the area of managed turfgrass based on golfer play and feedback.

	required area of managed turfgrass		The course has a lot of wild grass meadow roughs, which are cut only once or twice per year and receive no inputs whatsoever. The new greenkeeper is looking at adding some further wildflower areas which would be interesting for the new bee keeping on site. CIP: Please explore the possibility of converting additional areas of turfgrass around and behind tees and other corners to no-input grasslands or other surfaces. This would further reduce turfgrass management and not have any significant impact on playability.
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 Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	Bird of prey poles have been put up near semi-rough areas so buzzards and hawks can hunt mice. Bird and bat boxes are found throughout the golf course. Some additional bird boxes have been added in the past 3 years. Old dead trees are not cut down completely but instead kept on site as habitat points for birds like woodpeckers, and insects. They are simply pruned back for golfer safety. Bees are found in one corner of the site and managed by a local bee farmer for honey production. Some new beehives have been added in a wildflower meadow and orchard. Over 40kg of honey was made last year by the responsible beekeepers. A number of microhabitats are found throughout the site including brush piles and hedgerows. The club has recently installed a number of new insect hotels in appropriate corners of the golf course site. The golf course has a lot of no-input grassland meadows; however these meadows seem to be rather low in biodiversity. CIP: Please consult with a habitat specialist on further potential for the no-input grassland meadows. They could help to advise on how to increase biodiversity and benefit additional pollinator and bird species.
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	The club has a good understanding of many of the flora and fauna species on the site, especially regarding bird species. Reed grasses and other vegetation along the edges of ponds are cut back in stages to keep some areas intact as habitat through the season.

			CCIP: As per N1.1.1 above - a biodiversity survey would help to guide best management for the numerous habitats for local wildlife.
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	Classic cool season turfgrass varieties are used for this climatic zone. Greens are a traditional mix of bent grass with some percentage of Poa annua. Fairways and tees are a mix of Lolium perenne and Poa pratensis.
	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	The new greenkeeper uses good cultural/mechanical practices to maintain the turfgrass surfaces. A coarser split sand/gravel is applied as well to some surrounds and fairways to stabilise the soil in areas prone to erosion or slippery slopes. Regular aeration and tining are done to de-compact the variety of green constructions found throughout the golf course. The greenkeeper does more deep slitting on the greens than aeration with tines. Regular sanding is done on playing surfaces throughout the year.
	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	The former greenkeeper had switched to using mostly organic fertilisers as of 2022. The new greenkeeper has continued with this use of organic, regularly applying low dose of liquid feeds to avoid over-fertilisation. Fairways are fertilized a couple of times of year with organic fertilizer. Soil analysis helps to inform on the fertilizer programme together with a fertilizer consultant and distributor from Denmark.
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	The greenkeeper works with a non-chemical pest, disease and weed management throughout the golf course. Only a couple of fungicide applications are used on greens annually to try to manage Dollar Spot and Snow Mould. The greenkeeper is trying alternative practices like trying to change the pH of the turf surface at critical moments where Dollar Spot could breakout.

			They have their own sharpener and sharpen all mower blades in-house and green and tee mowers are sharpened about 10x per year. Dew is removed from the green surfaces at certain times of year to reduce the risk of disease breakout.
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	The experienced greenkeeper only applies chemicals when necessary to cure fungal problems on greens.
	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	Only legally registered products are used. Staff are fully qualified to use any pesticides, though very few are applied.
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	An emergency spill response plan is in place, however it is quite simple. CCIP: Please develop a more detailed and comprehensive emergency spill response plan. Employees should be regularly informed and educated. Please also upload this to the OnCourse Documents Library when it is complete. A mowing buffer exists around all water and ecologically sensitive areas.

			Spraying and spreading buffer zones of 10m are practiced throughout the course. CCIP: Please create a map showing the buffer zones and no-spray / no-spread areas on the course. This can be done on top of the habitat and vegetation map to be produced (see N1.1.1 above). CIP: Please consider doing an annual water test of the water in the lakes and of any water that is leaving the maintenance area or golf course property.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	There is a wastewater discharge licence in place for the clubhouse.
	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	There is a wastewater discharge licence in place. The wash area is on an impermeable, leak-free surface. Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilizers is done over an impermeable surface.
	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);
			The club has a register of hazardous materials, which are stored safely in a locked metal cabinet in the greenkeeping barn. The space has impermeable flooring and an emergency wash area. There is a fire extinguisher in the immediate area.

		Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	
	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	Fuel storage tanks have secondary containment over an impermeable surface. Used oil storage barrels are sitting on spill proof grates and recuperated by a registered company when full. Regular inspection is done by local authorities regarding storage tanks, work areas and property safety.
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	The wash bay has an impermeable surface with a clipping and oil separator. The waste product is cleaned out annually and removed by a registered third party. There is a waste discharge licence in place. All water from the wash bay runs from the clipping and oil/grease separator to a retention area near to the maintenance shed where it is partially filtered. From there the water is pumped up to the clubhouse area where it is discharged via the sewer lines to the municipal wastewater treatment facility.

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;	The club keeps irrigation to essential playing surfaces. Fairway irrigation system is in place but is only used occasionally during the warmer summer months and when water volumes get lower, irrigation is kept to greens and tees.

		Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Some punctual hand-watering is done in dry areas instead of watering entire surfaces.
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	The club has an efficient irrigation system to avoid wasting water. The greenkeeper inspects the main playing surfaces daily to know if they need water. A weather station is used regularly to know how to schedule the irrigation system. Additional observation of the golf surfaces, looking for signs of drought stress. CIP: Please purchase a moisture meter to collect more precise soil moisture readings and make irrigation even more efficient.
	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	The club is aware of their overall water use in the golf course buildings. The shoe and cart cleaning area uses non-potable irrigation water. They have begun with some building renovations, starting with the showers. They have installed water-saving shower heads and reduced water consumption slightly here. CCIP: Please categorise and track water consumption in greater detail, potentially exploring the feasibility of undertaking a more rigorous water audit. CCIP: Please introduce measures to encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors. CIP: Please continue to install additional water saving appliances like low-flow toilets or motion sensors on taps.
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	The golf club gets their potable water for the clubhouse from the local municipality. The water for golf course irrigation is entirely from surface water collection. The golf course sits in the bottom of a small watershed where water collection is optimal. The club has constructed a number of ponds/lakes which serve as retention basins for all the rainwater runoff. When there is no more water in the lakes, the club must wait for rain.

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	The club is generally doing a good job of minimising managed turf. Large areas of rough are kept between fairways which are only cut once or twice a year and receive no inputs. The club has purchased 2 electric greens mowers with the rest of the fleet being diesel machines. The club is going to trial electric robot mowers and ball collectors on the driving range. If they are convinced, they will look at investing in robot mowers for other areas of the golf course. CIP: Please undertake further research - through GPS mapping or by other means - to see if a further reduction of managed turf is possible. Naturalisation is possible while still keeping the golf course playable (e.g., beside and behind tee areas or along some fairway areas).
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.)	There is gas heating in the clubhouse with solar thermal collectors on the roof which help to provide hot water for the showers. However, the clubhouse building including restaurant, proshop and changing rooms is small and compact. There are plans to renovate the clubhouse building through better insulation and alternative heating in the future. Motion sensors are in place in some areas of the clubhouse including locker rooms.
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	The club uses electricity from the local renewable grid in Germany. The club has considered the possibility of installing photovoltaic solar panels on the caddymaster building – to be extended/enlarged in the coming years. This was already a plan 3 years ago and has not yet been implemented.
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled,	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for	The club has removed all reusable plastic bottles and bags from the site. Members and visitors are encouraged to use re-usable containers.

	reused and locally sourced alternatives	materials and look for continual improvements	A drinking station has recently been installed at the halfway house to refill bottles. Another drinking fountain is to be installed near the first tee. CIP: Please try to undertake a waste audit for all areas of golf course and club management.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	At the moment, the greenkeeper works almost exclusively with local suppliers and contractors. The restaurant is leasing the building and the club is therefore less influential on the purchasing for the restaurant. However, the restaurant does try to buy locally and offer seasonal menus. They have replaced the flooring in the bathrooms which is easier to clean using less impactful products. CCIP: Please work together with the restaurant manager and other stakeholders to develop an ethical/environmental purchasing policy focusing on recycled, local, organic and / or fairtrade products for the golf course and clubhouse.
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.	There is good waste separation and recycling in the maintenance area. All main recyclable materials are collected and either brought directly to a recycling point or picked up by the municipal service. CCIP: Please establish a clear process to track weight of waste, including recycling. Please see the attached Waste Calculator for a potential approach and form of recordkeeping. A recycling bin system has been installed at many tee boxes throughout the golf course and at the clubhouse with signs to explain how to separate the waste. The greenkeeper uses the older greens mowers for the tees in order to keep the machines longer.
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	The golf club uses an authorised waste and recycling contractor for all waste. Grass clippings and other green waste from the golf course are collected and brought to a local farmer adjacent to the golf course where it is composted.

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	Health and safety policy in place and in the OnCourse Documents Library.
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	There is a good mix of male, female and junior members. Visitors are welcome. No tee times are given for either members or visitors. First come, first serve.
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	The club follows good best practice for all employees. Many of the employees have been at the club for many years, including the manager. This is a good sign that the club offers a good work environment. The golf club also encourages and supports CPD for employees.

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	There are some walking paths crossing the golf course. People from the local community enjoy using this space for walking dogs and sledding in the winter. The clubhouse is often used for social gatherings like weddings.
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	Some volunteering is done for tournaments and a number of charity events take place at the club every year including an event which supports sustainability projects for the club.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community	A sustainability working group is composed of the manager, greenkeeper and an engaged committee member.

	local community and other groups	activities and look for continual improvements	The club supports a local international school, offering lessons to the students. CIP: Please try to expand the working group to include a member of the surrounding community or an expert on biodiversity, for example. Regular meetings should take place and work from an environmental management plan with action plans for every year.
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	The club seems to inform members and visitors about their sustainable commitments on social media etc. The club has included information about the flora and fauna on site in their birdie book. They have posted additional articles on their sustainability initiatives and their commitment to improving sustainable management. The pro has a social media channel which helps to raise money for new bird boxes. CIP: Please consider asking members to get involved in communications activities.
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	The club has shared a number of sustainability highlights including many new highlights over the past 3 years: insect hotels, new fruit trees, waste separation containers and beehives.
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	The sustainability person at the club is committed to tracking their progress and to help the club to improve sustainability and climate action. CIP: Please try to upload more documents into the OnCourse Documents Library to better track resource consumption and legal transactions regarding waste management. The more information you collect and upload, the more you will be aware of the data and where you could improve management.

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