



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Golf Club Villars

Prepared by independent verifier Hector Forcen

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Golf Club Villars is a beautiful course seamlessly integrated into the surrounding Alpine landscape. The passionate Course Manager leads sustainability in a golf course that makes a great contribution to the Alpine community.

The Club is aware of the need to do things better every day and proof of this is that the facility has been transformed over the past years improving the environmental credentials. New trees, naturalized roughs and maintained turf are professionally managed, along with creating awareness of the local habitat and biodiversity.

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 they will bring numerous advances in sustainability and energy efficiency”.

Hector Forcen
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

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

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

Golf Club Villars has:

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

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

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

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

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

We congratulate all involved.

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

Kelli Jerome
Executive Director, GEO Foundation

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



Verification and Certification

Verification

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

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

Certification

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

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

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

Credibility

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



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	Golf de Villars was founded in 1922, located at an altitude of 1,660m with beautiful alps views including Mont Blanc. The club has 90 ha land where 18 holes are very well integrated in the surrounding alpine landscape. The golf course is dominated by tree areas and alpine wildflower meadows in the out of play areas, meltwater streams and biotopes which separate the golf holes and provide extensive habitat for birds, amphibians, mammals, and insects. Outside the fairways there is a good chance of finding different types of mushrooms. In the evening you can regularly see deer, marmots, young foxes, or hares around the golf course. CIP: Please map Biotopes and habitats. CIP: Please develop inventories of fauna and flora.
	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 is seriously working on environmental issues and cooperates closely with local authorities and associations. https://www.alpesvivantes.ch/Notre-Biodiversite/ https://www.vogelwarte.ch/fr/home/ You can find different areas of the rough with Orchids and other beautiful alpine flowers, local species of high ecological value. The greenkeeping team is doing a great job in terms of sustainability and ecology in the management of its operations. There are no known legal designations on the property. They are not aware of any rare or endangered species found on the site.

			CIP: As per N1.1.1 above, please develop a survey/list of different flora and fauna species, monitoring these annually.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	No archaeological, historical, or cultural designation are present (or known) on the course.
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	A lot of rough areas on the course have been naturalised with carried grasslands and wildflowers meadows. Cows graze in the roughs of the golf course working together with the local farmers. CIP: Please consider tracking the movements of players to identify further potential areas for naturalization.
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	Pierre Del Bono (Course manager) and his team work in harmony with nature, with the aim of limiting human and chemical impact, and promoting biodiversity. The whole golf course is very well integrated in the natural mountain landscape. Some new trees are being planted on different rough areas following the recommendations of the local forestry authorities. Hives have been installed near the tee on hole No. 2, with a good harvest of organic honey, a few jars of which will be on sale at the Pro shop and local hotels. Working days to remove invasive plants are organized in collaboration with local environmental associations. This activity took place during the day of my visit. CIP: Please upload the habitat management plan and any other information available that has been worked on in the past. CIP: Nests for bats and Insect hotel are two interesting project options to install in the near future.
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	Roughs and meadows are not fertilized to maintain the natural flora. Overgrown and low edges/banks in ponds are kept to protect species that live in small waters. An insect hotel (5 stars with a breath-taking view of Mont Blanc), has been installed very close to a biotope between the green on hole No. 11 and the tee on hole No. 12.

			Protective buffers zones are established around lakes and wet areas of the golf course. CIP: Please consider the possibility of installing nesting boxes on the tree areas.
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	Pierre has extensive experience and perfectly knows the specific conditions of the course. He keeps searching and testing the most suitable turf varieties. Greens have been converted during the last nine years from Poa annua to Fine fescue /Agrostis and Poa mix. The greens are overseeded new varieties that are more performant and tolerant.
	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 club has made the decision to reduce the number of chemicals and increase mechanical maintenance operations. Greens are being aerated 2 times a year using deep solid tines. Blade aeration is carried out as much as needed as a method to keep good soil structure. Topdressing programme on Greens is being implemented with excellent results. They have been carried out on greens before, but since the new low-input maintenance philosophy has been implemented, they are not necessary as in the old days. Fertiliser is kept to a bare minimum. Good cultural practices are undertaken to reduce thatch, reduce compaction and to encourage deeper rooting. Topdressing and solid tinning are maintenance practices on the greens.
	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	In terms of fertilization, the applications are made mainly of liquids with trace elements using algae and microorganisms regularly as well as organic inputs. The amounts in recent years have been drastically reduced. All staff use appropriate protective equipment supplied by the club.

		Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	Sprayers and treatment machines are regularly inspected, and receipts are neatly stored in the Head Greenkeeper office. The amounts in recent years have been drastically reduced, and the head greenkeeper doesn't apply any fertilizer (N) from October in order to avoid winter diseases. Pierre is testing different products to improve the bacterial life of the soil. CIP: Please conduct annual soil analysis and organic matter at different depths that help to adjust fertilization plan and the topdressing programme.
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	Mowers cylinders and knives are sharpened at the end of the season. Machines are washed every time after they have been used. Dew moisture and leaves are removed to keep the turf as dry as possible. Standard good practises (daily inspections, local weeding etc) are used to reduce herbicide use as much as possible. It is important to mention its manual weeding program implemented for years in which all team members participate, being supported by club members at different times of the year. Diseases are closely monitored, and when problems are noticed, local corrective actions are taken. The use of pesticides is kept to a minimum and efforts for prevention are prioritized (zero fungal treatments). The use of different turf varieties on the greens together with the grass conversion has reduced the number of fungicidal treatments for winter diseases. It is important to emphasize the careful minimal nutritional program that reduces amounts helping to control diseases. The club has established tolerance thresholds for diseases and pests, and it is the club staff and committee who defends them and transmits them to the players.
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	Only legislated chemicals are used. The use of phytosanitary products has been reduced to a minimum. The applications are made by the head greenkeeper. Ecological conditions and weather are considered before the application is carried out. Zero fungicides used!

			(The presence of broadleaf weeds in fairways confirms the fact that a Zero pesticide policy is implemented). The Couse manager 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. The club has some tolerance for disease, and the use of pesticides is kept to a minimum. Treatment only when it is considered a major problem. Proof of this is that this year only two fungicidal curative treatments were carried out on the greens. It is mainly snow mould and winter recovery the problems on the greens. Visual inspections and checks are carried out daily on the course.
	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 legislated chemicals are used. The applications are made by Pierre, who is trained and qualified using the necessary security measures. Ecological conditions and weather are considered before the application is carried out. CCIP: Please create a map of diseases on the course, defining the most sensitive areas or 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 ; Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands;	The Club is respecting the security perimeters established by Swiss law in humid and natural areas. We could affirm that the plan or map of untreated areas would be practically all the 90 hectares.

		Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas	The club have an emergency spill responses plan for the maintenance area. CIP: 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	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	Contracts for disposal of hazardous waste from the facility are established with external local companies that are specialists in waste management. Recycled products and waste are stored in a shed near the train station. This is how they are transported to the town, being a magnificent example of efficiency and a nice example where public transport is used to transport waste.
	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	In the workshop all drums with oils for machinery maintenance have their corresponding anti-spill containment system. Golf Villars is an alpine golf course. The washing area is similar to that used by local farmers. The course doesn't use chemicals, so the washing area is simply a place to remove clippings from the machinery.
N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff; Product and material data safety sheets; Well ventilated concrete or metal building; Impermeable, leak-free flooring; Sufficient storage capacity; Spill containment kits; Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays; Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station); Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ; Follow any additional legal requirements	All fuel tanks are installed according to legislation and have approved inspections and controls. Records of products and treatments are maintained in a suitable room for the storage of phytosanitary products. Hazardous waste is provided to a licensed contractor. Fire extinguishers are placed in locations with fire risks. They are inspected annually by a certified company. All personal that handle pesticides have an education and valid authorizations (licenses).

	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, treatment and discharge	Impermeable, leak-free surface; Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation); Formal discharge agreement, if applicable	The maintenance team has done a great job with drainage along the fairway edges, collecting both snowmelt and summer storm water, significantly reducing the amount of water on the fairways and greens and positively impacting the course.

RESOURCES

R1 Water

Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
R1.1 Minimise water demand	R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water	Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance; Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces; Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Irrigation when necessary based on the Course Manager experience in combination with forecast data. Irrigation is on greens only and with a hose, being a great example of water efficiency.
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;	Efficiency has been achieved thanks to hose pipe irrigation system. CCIP: Please explore the feasibility of acquiring a soil moisture meter.

		Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	CIP: Please consider undertaking a water and irrigation audit.
	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 house is well equipped. Equipment of the latest technology and quality has been installed. Water saving activities are in place. Low-flush toilets and taps have been installed. CIP: Please encourage water saving practices with the use of signs.
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 club has legal access to extract water from the mountain lakes uphill. The water consumption is read and reported to the municipality.
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 naturalized areas of the club have been increased. The maintained rough has been diminished. An adjusted fertilization program is reducing mowing frequency in fairways and tees with the consequent energy saving that it supposes. There is the right to pasture the rough areas and links to the golf course by local farmers, assuming this a great saving in the use of rough machinery for the club. These natural areas are only cut strictly following a protocol marked by local and national authorities depending on the area.
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.)	Clearly the club, is fully aware of its “energy-use” responsibilities, has installed a number of energies saving measures including low energy lighting and motions sensors, and is switching from more traditional energy consuming lighting to LED lighting.
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier;	The energy is supplied by the local distributor, being practically all of hydraulic origin due to the Alpine situation of the golf course.

		Explore possible greener energy providers	CIP: Please explore the possibility of installing solar panels (parking area, maintenance building etc.).
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	The club works with a local waste management company for recycling. All waste is stored according to legislation. They pile up the remains of pruning in the natural areas of the rough to serve as a refuge for animals and insects. All waste is stored according to legislation. They are composting some vegetal material, collected, and used by local farmers. The purchase of chemical products is kept low.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	Local distributors are used, and some furniture of the golf course has been built by local Alps companies and the maintenance team itself. It is important to highlight that the Head Greenkeeper has selected sand for his bunkers from a local quarry that uses respectful and sustainable methods. As with most restaurants nowadays, local products are preferred. The meat, milk and cheese served in the restaurant are from the cows that eat the rough and fields near the golf course. Locally produced beers and non-alcoholic beverages are served in the restaurant to golfers and other mountain athletes who frequent the restaurant and its terrace. 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	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.	The club keeps internal record/bills/invoices of annual quantities and all fractions of produced. The waste is derived from hazardous and household waste. Almost all waste is recycled or reused, including PET, aluminium, metals, glass, paper, and cardboard. Materials from the kitchen and maintenance area such as detergents, oils, lubricants, pesticides, and batteries are collected and disposed of by a specialized company.

R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Authorized waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Authorized waste and recycling contractors are used for both housekeeping waste, industrial and hazardous waste. Waste is collected by the municipal contractor and the specialized recycling company. Regarding the golf course and its maintenance, all regulations are complied with. (Restaurant its managed by an external company). The club complies with all Swiss waste management regulations.
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COMMUNITY			
<u>C1 Health & Wellbeing</u>			
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	The club takes care of its employees and makes available uniforms and all the necessary safety equipment for the correct and safe performance of daily tasks. Defibrillators are installed on the club house.
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	Golf de Villars is a golf course open to members and visitors, as well as restaurant and events users. Seniors, ladies, and juniors enjoy the facilities weekly. The club collaborates with the local tourist office, and they provide initiation days in the driving range to clients and visitors of the hotels and apartments in the station. Everybody is welcomed to play. The restaurant is open to the public and many players and visitors use it to eat daily.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy;	The club is responsible for training the staff, usually locals with no experience in the golf course business.

	professional development	Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	Personal protection equipment and working clothing are provided. Working clothes, employee locker rooms, lunchroom, personal protection equipment, and first aid are available. Compliant with the extensive Swiss health and safety legislation for safe, ethical, equal, and legal working conditions. Greenkeeping staff receive regular education on pesticide handling, habitat management, safety, and waste administration. Working clothes, employee locker rooms, lunchroom, personal protection equipment, and first aid are available. The club truly promotes awareness within the employee community with respect to energy and safety aspects.
<u>C2 Outreach & Inclusion</u>			
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	Golf Villars is an open club to new players who wish to start and practice the sport of golf. The club organizes golf initiations bringing many young people from local schools to the golf course. The club has agreements and discounts with the hotels in the area and the golf activity is promoted. The restaurant is fully open to visitors who can use the facilities as well as organize events. Within the facility there are several public paths that are used by the citizens and visitors for walking or trekking. During the white season skiing and winter golf are sports practiced on the golf course.
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	Every beginning of the season at the end of winter, a volunteer day is organized where members and visitors collaborate in preparing the facilities for the opening. In collaboration with local environmental associations, they organize days with war refugees to remove invasive plants on the golf course. The club Provide staff with time and opportunities to volunteer, encouraging golfers to volunteer on tournaments, committees, and projects.
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	The club has a very good relationship with the neighbours and local authorities as well as different associations and organizations of nature, it is easy to find bird watchers walking the roughs and other members of nature protection institutions walking around the countryside.

	local community and other groups	activities and look for continual improvements	Each season different open days are held where they show the sport of golf to residents and tourists in the area. CIP: Please create a sustainability group.
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 communicates its environmental activities to the members using the web site (https://golf-villars.ch/developpement-durable/), social media, newsletter, and internal notice boards. 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	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	Golf de Villars is a club of members who are properly informed of all activities and actions carried out in the club. The Head greenkeeper actively participates in conferences and educational seminars.
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 club 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. I would like to emphasize the great work done by the Course Manager, leading the team daily and with constant efforts towards the sustainability of the club.

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