

GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report
Golfclub de Dommel

Prepared by independent verifier Paul van Kan

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2031

GEO Foundation
Sustainability in and through golf

“Golfclub De Dommel is the custodian of a beautiful, historic course rich in nature (Colt, 1928). It is in capable, professional hands. The highly thorough and committed GEO committee plays an important role. The archive now contains a wealth of documents and updates that support this work and often serve as guidance for organization, maintenance, and management. An integrated management plan based on a vision and target conditions will follow shortly.

The clubhouse renovation is in its final phase. The phased course renovation has recently been completed successfully. This renovation has been accompanied by the development of varied heathland and open sandy areas, which many species, including the sand lizard, are expected to discover. Many flagship species are already present and are closely monitored.

The golf club continues to move forward. There are promising plans, including woodland edge development along the new holes and research into on-site water storage. Self-sufficiency is an important ambition for the future. The club’s own timber is already used, or will soon be used, for beautifully designed course furniture, habitat development, and clubhouse heating.

If one word fits here, it is balance. The membership is balanced and includes many young members. The balance between golf and nature is also excellent (50% nature, 50% golf), as is the balance between history and renewal. There will naturally always be wishes and plans, but there is every confidence that these will be pursued positively wherever possible.”

Paul van Kan
(GEO accredited independent verifier)

Introduction

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

For the certification period stated above, Golfclub de Dommel 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	The GEO committee has an excellent understanding of the site's natural assets. Updated flora and fauna surveys will follow as part of the nature management plan (2027). Ecological quick scans were carried out for permit applications for the phased course reconstruction. A bat survey was carried out by a local nature working group for the renovation permit application (2024), supplementing an earlier survey (2017). Breeding bird territory mapping (2024). Annual birdwatching checklists. **CIP: Please select a number of flagship species from the wide range of plants and animals and monitor their development. Choose these species carefully, particularly for their usefulness in evaluating and adjusting management, but also for their recognizability and visitor appeal.** **CIP: When surveys resume after completion of the nature management plan, please record all observations in a clear Excel system. Distinguish between species with less demanding habitat requirements and species requiring special attention.**
	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	Permit applications are supported by flora and fauna surveys. An integrated nature management plan will be prepared after the course reconstruction (2027). This will also include an ecological working protocol and a tree management plan.

			The original holes form part of the Brabant Nature Network. Part of the golf course is designated under the Dutch Nature Scenery Act (Natuurschoonwet). The greenkeeper and an external professional carry out tree safety inspections, covering one third of the trees each year (VTA). Areas requiring special attention are inspected in full annually, and necessary tree maintenance is also carried out annually.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	Considerable attention is paid to cultural heritage values. Landscape features will be included in the new nature management plan. Original holes: avenues, landmark trees, heathland, and views towards the convex arable field and stream valley landscape. New holes: hay meadows, herb-rich grassland, wet depressions, and woodland on ridges separated by drainage ditches. Course renovations have been carried out with respect for landscape values. Restrained use of simple, appropriate furniture made from the club's own timber creates a tranquil appearance. Colt's historic design is the guiding principle.
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	Additional habitat development around tees, carries, and woodland edges (4–5 ha) as part of the reconstruction. Very positive results: varied heathland, nutrient-poor grassland, and open sand. Heathland development connects the habitats of the original and new holes. This also strengthens the experience of the landscape's identity.
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	A new nature management plan is being prepared, covering the vision, target conditions, and work plan. The current nature management plan includes a tree management plan in

			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	which trees selected for long-term retention, structural trees, and ecologically valuable trees ensure a resilient tree population. Woodland regeneration and heathland development aim to increase biodiversity. Heather plants propagated on site and transferred heathland turves support positive development. Sheep grazing (intensive short-duration grazing in September) is combined with mowing in late August. Grass cuttings and leaves are removed to prevent excessive growth of coarse vegetation. Volunteers remove saplings and scrub. **CIP: The development of flower-rich grassland has not yet been very successful, attributed to the overly fertile topsoil. Please keep trying, as unfavourable weather during germination may have contributed. Removing nutrients during the first few years (nutrient depletion / stale seedbed preparation) before sowing may help.**
	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	Measures are taken to keep badger foraging areas outside the golf course. Considerable attention is paid to species associated with nutrient-poor heathland and sandy areas, including wild bees and, in future, sand lizards. Approximately 65 nest boxes for tits and starlings, and 20 bat boxes. Insect hotels, a hibernaculum (winter shelter), stone piles, dead hedges, and standing and fallen timber. **CIP: Please supplement sheep grazing by removing saplings and scrub promptly and repeatedly creating open sandy areas, which otherwise become overgrown. Create bee nesting banks in several locations by depositing loamy sand in suitable places after stripping the vegetation.**
	N2 Turfgrass			
	N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health	**N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and**	Select appropriate grass species for the climate	The grasses used tolerate drought, stress, disease, and heat. Grass selection is matched to the soil's acidity and nutrient levels.

		other geomorphological factors		Poa annua occurs in varying percentages. Drought has been used as an opportunity for targeted overseeding. In recent years, overseeding has used Agrostis and fine-leaved Lolium, which is more heat-tolerant than Festuca.
		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	Healthy soil is the starting point for turf management decisions. Rolling replaces mowing only before tournaments to increase speed. Slitting and spiking are also used, with minimal hollow-tining to avoid unnecessary soil disturbance. Organic matter is monitored continuously to prevent excessive thatch. Topdressing with sand and minimizing stress ensure a good balance of decomposition. Tees are not brushed, and grass in shaded areas is not cut too short, making it more resilient. Fairways are aerated two to three times a year, with deeper treatment of problem areas.
		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	Soil testing is carried out every three years using three approaches: plant sap analysis, Mehlich 3, and Agrolab. The fertilization plan is based on soil test results for organic matter and nitrogen. Fertilizer application rates are notably low. No phosphate (P) is applied to greens, fairways, or roughs. Less nitrogen (N) is used in hot, dry weather.Soil.
	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 starting point is to prevent the need for chemical products, working towards zero use: 1 A healthy green environment with high biodiversity. 2 A strong, healthy turf sward. 3 No aeration during beetle or crane fly flights. 4 An easily accessible wash-down area to prevent the transfer of unwanted flora and fauna. 5 Machines are cleaned and adjusted daily after use.

			6 Extra attention to shaded areas, providing more light and air and taller grass where necessary. 7 Seaweed as a biostimulant. 8 Nematodes against chafer grubs, except in dry years. 9 Iron sulfate. 10 Dew control. 11 Weed control through burning, brushing, and manual removal.
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	When damage is found during daily inspections, the IPM process is followed. Light, air, healthy turf, and biodiversity support prevention (see N2.2.1). The crop protection monitoring record is the main tool. Damage thresholds determine whether products are used. Biological products, cultural practices, and fertilizer adjustments are used first. If a fungal outbreak cannot be stopped, a fungicide (Signum) is applied. If weeds become too dominant, Dicophar is applied using a scanning method.
	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	Greenkeepers hold pesticide application licenses. A GPS-equipped sprayer enables highly precise chemical control.
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	Buffer zones near ponds and ditches have been mapped. An update will follow. A GPS sprayer ensures precision treatment, avoiding windy conditions. Ecologically sensitive areas will be mapped after reconstruction. Targeted application of crop protection products uses camera detection (resulting in less than 20%). Irrigation pond water and groundwater are analysed annually by an external laboratory.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	A certified cleaning company is used. Kitchen fats and oils are collected separately and recycled. No other high-risk activities.
	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	An emergency plan includes procedures for fuel, oil, and chemical leaks. All operations take place on seamless, impermeable floors approved in 2022. The greenkeepers' shed floor was repaired following inspection in 2022. The wash-down area has a grass clipping filter and an oil separator, and drains to the sewer. Sufficient fire extinguishers and a fire alarm are provided and checked annually. **CCIP: Please arrange an external inspection of the impermeable floor every six years and an annual internal inspection, and record the findings.**
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;	The hazardous substances checklist is updated annually. All storage is on a seamless, impermeable floor. Batteries are kept in a separate storage area (see the guideline for storing lithium-containing batteries and accumulators: PGS 37-1). Pesticides are kept in a locked, dedicated cabinet.

			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	Clippings from tees and greens are stored in a recessed, impermeable container that complies with legislation.
		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	Fuels are stored in a separate fire-resistant room, with containment trays where required. The double-walled diesel tank, certified in 2011, is inspected regularly.
	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	On-course toilets are connected to a holding tank rather than the sewer, with annual removal by an external company. A tank stores the club's own water supply.

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;	Irrigation is based on weather conditions (weather station installed in 2024) and soil moisture. Irrigation takes place from April to September, using no more water than necessary during prolonged drought.

			Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	Greens have the highest priority. Fairway irrigation can be suspended during a ban. Machines are cleaned daily with compressed air. Consumption is recorded monthly to detect leaks.
	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	Groundwater is pumped into the irrigation pond and from there into the system. The abstraction permit allows 35,000 m³, with mandatory monthly reporting. Targeted irrigation uses individually controlled sprinklers, calibrated twice a year. Maintenance is largely carried out in-house, with an external professional handling faults and providing advice. Irrigation always takes place at night to minimize evaporation. Note - In 2025, this maximum abstraction volume was exceeded on one occasion because of the course reconstruction. This was reported to the provincial authority and was not a problem.
		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	Drinking water for the clubhouse and greenkeeping facilities is measured by a single meter. Consumption is low. A water audit revealed a leak, which has been repaired. Building renovation includes attention to efficient water use in sanitary facilities, including water-saving flushing, showerheads, and reuse. **CCIP: Please investigate separating water consumption measurements and increasing meter reading frequency by installing smart meters.**
	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	An investigation into on-site water storage has begun with two aims: (1) Less pumping, (2) buffering excess water. Note - The water authority requires a 30% reduction in groundwater use in the near future.

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	Electricity consumption is low, supplied largely by on-site generation supplemented with green electricity. Irrigation: the pump uses the most energy, with highly variable consumption. Diesel and gasoline consumption is expected to decrease sharply as more electric machines are introduced, mowing becomes less intensive, and the area of playing turf is reduced.
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.)	The clubhouse renovation will reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency. Highly efficient HR++ glazing, roof insulation, limited external lighting, LED lighting, sensors, timers, and selection of the most energy-efficient appliances. The low level of natural gas consumption will soon be replaced by biomass from the club's own timber. The greenkeepers' shed has daylight windows.
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	PV panels on the driving range teeing area, greenkeepers' shed, and locker shed (53 MWh). Four ride-on mowers, six robotic mowers, and all walk-behind mowers are electric (90%). Only the rough mower still runs on diesel, and the leaf blowers on gasoline. **CIP: Please provide bicycle charging points. Encourage cycling.** **CIP: Please switch to electric leaf blowers for reasons of noise, operator health, and the environment, once they meet requirements.**
R3 Materials			
R3.1 Reduce materials demand	**R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including**	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for	As on every golf course, large quantities of sand are used for greens, tees, and the 46 bunkers.

		opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives	materials and look for continual improvements	Furniture is made from the club's own timber to its own designs: benches, double waste bins, markers, hole posts, fences, and barriers. **CIP: Please investigate, together with other golf courses and the NGF, how the use of externally sourced sand can be reduced in future. Less sand means less soil disturbance, less transport, and less energy use.**
	R3.2 Purchase responsibly	**R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices**	Favour responsible, lower impact products	The caterer is an independent business operator with its own decision-making, with regular consultation. Six electric robotic fairway mowers have been purchased: quiet, low energy consumption, and mulching. Machines are managed and maintained in-house. Robotic mowers require little maintenance. Specialist machines are shared with other courses, for example for shaping or renovation. **CCIP: Please draw up a purchasing protocol that is as practical as possible for assessing existing and new suppliers.** **CIP: Please continue encouraging the catering operator to use organic, local products and minimize packaging and transport movements.**
	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.	Approximately 40% is recycled: glass, paper, plastic/metal/drink-carton packaging, and other materials. The remaining 60% is residual waste used for energy recovery through incineration. Waste oil, oil filters, and pesticide residues are collected and processed annually, as are kitchen fats and oils. Recovered sand is kept in a stockpile. Leaves, grass cuttings, and ditch clearance material are stockpiled and used by a farmer once a year. Fairway clippings are reused on site as mulch / fertilizer. Nine new waste bins on the course separate plastic/metal/drink-carton

			packaging from residual waste.
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	A new waste management plan and a new contract with the waste contractor have been in place since 2024. A certified waste contractor collects waste at fixed intervals. The contractor weighs the collected waste. Underground waste containers for glass, paper, plastic, and residual waste have been in use since 2024. Kitchen food waste (swill) has been collected separately and composted elsewhere since 2024.

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	A comprehensive and very thorough emergency response plan (2026).
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	A members' course with more than 1,200 members and 3,000 visitors. A notable proportion of players are under 60 (50%). The gender balance is almost equal in both membership and management. Youth membership is growing strongly through a successful program run by golf professionals in cooperation with schools. The street tournament, where junior members invite others from their street, is also successful. A confidential support committee is in place. Open days (Gestels Open).

			Stakeholders are involved.
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	There are 18 employees, including seasonal and part-time workers, covered by a collective labor agreement. Regular training and courses are provided for greenkeepers. Internships are available in the clubhouse and on the course as an officially recognized work-based learning provider.
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	The golf course is open to walkers and cyclists, which is greatly appreciated. For safety reasons, access to the holes is prohibited, with signs at the entrances. Bird counts, including Birdwatching Day, and bridge are offered. An annual nature safari is being launched. The clubhouse is not available for external use, including meetings.
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	There are 135 volunteers active in 15 committees, contributing more than 5,000 hours. Volunteers also help with grounds maintenance: fairways, the badger group, the weeding group, and saplings.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	**C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups**	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	A large, stable GEO committee consists of seven members, each with a specialist area. Survey work is carried out with the local nature association, Natuurgroep Gestel. Regular consultation takes place with Brabants Landschap and public authorities. Links with local secondary schools involve golf professionals teaching pupils.

				Exchanges take place with other golf courses, agronomists, and the NGF in connection with the Green Deal. Joint training programs for greenkeepers (TurfProTour) are organized with two Brabant courses, Duke and Bernhardus.
	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	Members contribute extensively and have a strong voice at the general meeting, providing a good understanding of their views. The renovation was also discussed with members step by step. New members receive a thorough induction, starting with greenkeeping and including GEO. Pyramid training, consisting of group sessions led by a golf professional, has been successful since 2014 and provides considerable social value.
	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	According to the club's own research, 96% of players come from the immediate area. The golf course is located right next to Sint-Michielsgestel and is known and visited by many residents. Management is generally appreciated, for example the flock of sheep that enhances the visitor experience. **CIP: Please find a simple, understated way to inform passersby at one or a few central locations about the distinctive cultural heritage, flora, and fauna.** **CIP: Please give GEO a prominent place on the attractive website. Highlight sustainable maintenance, management focused on regional nature and cultural heritage, the visitor experience, and Colt's design as guiding principles.**
	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 stable GEO committee safeguards sustainability objectives. Some GEO committee members also serve on the course committee, ensuring direct communication.

				The board is encouraged to continue improving and investing, as set out in the vision for the future. An integrated management plan covering nature, golf, woodland, and water ensures long-term resilience. A sustainability covenant has been signed with the NGF: Exchanges with other golf clubs. **CIP: Please keep the OnCourse Documents Library current: remove outdated material regularly and ensure continuous updates.**

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