



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Golf Club Lausanne

Prepared by independent verifier David Bily

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2026
Recertification due: 2031

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Lausanne has continued to increase their sustainability performance since 2021, most notably through additional flora and fauna surveys and a number of biodiversity and planting projects across the golf course. They have also made steps to reduce resources like water, fertilizer and plant protection products as well as changing from oil to pellet boilers. Furthermore, the club is organising half-day tours for new members to explain their biodiversity projects and discuss their commitment to sustainable management. I look forward to following their evolution in the coming years, including projects to increase communication and connection with the local community.”

David Bily
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Golf Club Lausanne 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 Lausanne 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 Lausanne should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Golf Club Lausanne 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 continues to have a good understanding of the different vegetation and habitats found throughout the golf course. A number of biodiversity studies have been conducted over the last few years, including surveys of amphibians, bats, butterflies, dragonflies, birds and insects. CIP: Please upload these studies into your OnCourse Document Library. A member with valuable nature and wildlife experience regularly consults the club on various environmental projects. He is involved in many environmental groups including Pro Natura, Bird Life and others.
	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	They still understand their legal responsibilities for any protected landscapes. If any tree is removed there is a system to measure the value of that plant and a similar value must be replanted.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	No particular cultural heritage in need of protection. The club planted an orchard with fruit trees from the foundation Rétropomme who encourage the reestablishment of older fruit varieties. This was done a while ago and the club is now reaping the harvest of these trees.
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	As in the past, the greenkeeper continues to try to find a balance between providing enough turfgrass surface for play while not mowing unnecessary areas of turf. Many areas of rough or semi-rough have already been converted to ecological areas which a much higher biodiversity and habitat potential. These areas are cut once or twice per year reducing surface which

			requires more regular cutting. Golfers are forbidden to enter these areas but unfortunately there are still golfers who go to fetch their ball in some areas. The club is looking for solutions to prevent this. They are also continuing a mulching programme under trees between fairways which also reduces turfgrass areas needing mowing. In the past 5 years, more areas of cut grass have also been converted to eco areas.
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	The club believes strongly that it is important to adhere to a sustainable management plan, surveying of different species to help inform what kind of habitats are required to support these species. They continue to increase and improve larger habitat areas and microhabitats on the golf course site. Some dead trees are left as habitat structures when there is no danger to the players or staff. There are now approximately 10 brush piles and 2 stone piles on the property, providing habitat for local species. Some new planting areas have been created using exclusively native trees and shrubs, like the one near hole 14. Native plantings of more than 300 shrubs were planted in 2024 with the help of BirdLife. The club was involved in the implementation of a biodiversity promotion project in collaboration with Swiss Golf. This involved a number of individual projects including planting of 5 high-stem fruit trees, expansion of the high-stem orchard and increase in the number of nesting boxes, a chestnut grove, woodland planting with species more adapted to the climate change and relocation of the kestrel nesting box and installation of 6 new bird boxes for the Redstart and the Eurasian Wryneck. The previous verification report requested the addition of some "middle height habitat" like hedges of native shrubs. There have been some additions of this kind of habitat during the last 5 years. CIP: Please improve the quality of the existing ponds, especially the edge condition. This can create another water capture and retention area elsewhere on the course.

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	10 new nesting boxes were provided for Swallows in 2021. Other nests have been provided to encourage the return of the “Rougequeue à front blanc”. Since then, a further 5 bat boxes have been added. From the previous report: A new pond has been built for frogs and other amphibians and a net has also been added around the outflow of another pond to prevent amphibians from been “flushed out” during stronger storm events. This pond also acts as a stepping stone for the young as they move from the lakes to the forest. During the time of year when there is a lot of frogs hatching, the greenkeeping team has a number of technics to blow the young frogs off the greens and prevent them from drying out in the sun. The 6 bee homes are still healthy, and the club harvests the honey when there is enough over and above the needs of the bees.
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	The greenkeeper continues to increase the percentage of Agrostis on green surfaces with a programme of sanding and reseeding with the goal of reducing need for water and fungicides. This continues to be successful, providing more sustainable putting surfaces which are stronger and more resistant to climate change.
	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 greenkeeper continues with a Disturbance Theory maintenance philosophy to try to create a stable turfgrass growing environment to develop strong healthy turfgrass which is competitive against other invasive species as well as insect and disease. The greenkeeper started using biologicals last year, strengthening the grass plants to hopefully manage the sward with less chemical applications.
	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	A spoon feeding of liquid fertilisers keeps quantities to a minimum. About 85% of the fertiliser is organic. The greenkeepers collect the clippings and analyse them. A member of the greenkeeping team has created their own software to present and compare this data, informing on the inputs needed to maintain optimal playing conditions.

		Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment Regularly calibrate and test applicators	The greenkeeper is applying less fertilizer on the fairways since they adopted the robotic mowers, which cut regularly and let the clippings fall. It is a natural way of fertilizing, returning nitrogen and other elements back to the 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	From the previous report: The greenkeeper works with limited inputs of water, chemical and fertiliser with occasional aeration and verticutting but mostly addition of sand. Sanding of fairways 2 times per year to discourage worms is a long-term project. The club has stopped focusing on increasing green speed for regular play, focusing instead on the plant health.
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	Very few chemicals are used in the course maintenance. Fungicides have been reduced in the last number of years and now only greens receive any fungicide applications. Further reduction in fungicide use on greens is noted over the past 5 years, with the goal of reaching zero plant protection products by 2030. The club is collaborating with Ecorobotix, testing a machine using selective sensing of certain plants in the grass sward and only treating these areas. They are working with the tool Maya to help inform them on the ideal conditions to do any treatments for disease like Dollar Spot. The Punctus tool is also using data to inform on their maintenance regime. CIP: Please continue with this in the coming years with the goal of further reducing or even eliminating any fungicide applications. (Zero phyto in 2030)
	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;	Only legally registered products are used at the course, and appropriate safety measures are adhered to. Leftover product is rinsed/diluted and sprayed on areas of rough.

		Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass	
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	Still good practices. Buffer zones of up to 12m are maintained near wetland areas.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	A wastewater discharge licence is in place for all wastewater leaving the clubhouse and directed into the local wastewater system.
	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	Still good practice on mixing and loading pesticides and fertilisers on an impermeable surface and a mobile inflatable containment when loading is done away from this area. Oil drums are on leak proof grates.
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;	No changes. Good practice like 5 years ago. The greenkeeper has a list of hazardous materials. All hazardous materials are stored in a secure and ventilated concrete building with metal doors. Pesticide shelves have a leak-proof bottom.

		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	Emergency spill kits are present, although have never been needed so far.
	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	The fuel tank is secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface. There is a secondary containment around the fuel tank. This tank is regularly inspected by the local authorities. Fire extinguishers are in place.
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 Waste 2 Water closed loop system, saves water and filters/cleans the wash water biologically to prevent any danger of pollution in the nearby water courses.

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 is still trying to minimise irrigation on golf playing surfaces. At the moment they are watering one fairway less, just enough to maintain 8 – 10% soil moisture to compare playability with the other fairways.

		Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting	
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	Using soil moisture sensor and weather station to guide irrigation scheduling. The irrigation system installed 6 years ago is still efficient and can precisely water the different surfaces with control of each individual sprinkler head. The club is aware of the need to reduce water consumption, however they try to keep watering the surfaces to prevent them going too dry. If the surface is too dry and there is a large storm event, the rainwater will not be able to percolate into the soil.
	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	Nothing new here for the moment. CIP: Please explore practices or devices which could help save water in the future. For example, pump facets in the bathrooms. CIP: Please encourage water conservation practices amongst the members and visitors.
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 is in the process of planning a large water retention area. With this project they intend to collect and store rainwater on site for irrigation. CIP: Please try to reduce the purchase of water from the City of Lausanne for irrigation purposes through future projects.
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 still using 3 hybrid fairway mowers, replacing diesel mowers. They have also started using 13 robotic mowers which are used to cut all the fairway surfaces. The environmental areas and areas receiving mulch made on site have reduced turf areas to be mowed.

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.)	Motion detectors are installed in the bathrooms. 6 new charging stations have been installed in the parking lot. The club undertook an energy audit (CEBC) in the past to try to optimiser their energy consumption. The glass doors were replaced with better insulated doors. They also worked together with Umtec to see what is the most efficient project for energy savings.
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 is still benefiting from their existing solar panels on the roof of the maintenance shed. They also have a future project to install more photovoltaic panels on the ground which will provide more energy for the clubhouse and potentially for charging stations for electric cars. The oil-fired boiler in the clubhouse was replaced with a pellet boiler in 2022.
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	A waste audit was conducted with Swiss recycling in 2022. CIP: Please upload this audit to your OnCourse Document Library. Towels are made available in the bathrooms to reduce waste of paper.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	A member of the club, Jan Driessens, put an ethical purchasing policy into place a number of years ago. CIP: Please upload this policy to the OnCourse Document Library. CIP: Even though the club shows responsible decisions in purchasing, it would be nice to see this ethical purchasing policy put more into practice, for example in the clubhouse or restaurant purchasing. A chestnut orchard was planted and the fruit is harvested and consumed in the clubhouse. Some quince from the property is used to make jam.

	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 continues to recycle most of the main waste like pet, glass, metal etc. The greenkeeper continues with their programme of mulching to recycle the organic waste on the golf course which is in turn spread under the trees in some areas. This programme has helped save about CHF 12'000 / year for removing green waste. The recycling of materials around the clubhouse and on the course could be better, but the staff sort the bins themselves and it works quite well. The club has a large on-site compost area for the different organic waste. The smaller organic waste like leaves is left 1 year and then used as mulch under the trees. The larger material is collected by the city or official partner enterprise and mulched to sell as "plaquettes". The waste separation in the maintenance workshop is very good with many well-marked containers for a large variety of waste recycling. CCIP: Please develop a more precise way to track the weight of waste across each stream each year. Consider using the Waste Calculator, available on OnCourse, to support this.
	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	OK. An authorized waste collector picks up special waste materials.

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	All good. A new building has been built to store the batteries for the golf trolleys, a safety requirement for all golf clubs in Switzerland.

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	The club encourages golf for children and promoting a solid junior programme.
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	Nothing new here. Good employer.
<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	The club remains quite private but still opens up walking trails in the winter. CIP: Please look for further opportunities to increase multi-functionality in the future to connect more with the local community.
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	Members were invited to buy new trees for the golf course with the goal of increasing the number of native trees and improving habitat and biodiversity. The club organises a couple of charitable events every year.
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	The club set up a sustainability working group in 2018 and uses this group to make decisions on what needs improvement and which actions to undertake. The club invited a number of other golf clubs and greenkeepers to a sustainability workshop in 2019 organised by Swiss Golf. The goal was to present different initiatives and discuss future possibilities of improving sustainable practices together with a group called PUSCH. The club organised a number of meetings with local municipalities to present their biodiversity actions and discuss possibilities of collaboration for the future.
<u>C3 Communications & Advocacy</u>			

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 occasionally organises a guided tour of the golf course for new members and other interested parties, pointing out different landscape and habitat zones like prairies, orchards, indigenous planting, bee hivers, dead trees, ponds, etc. The objective is to communicate the importance of sustainable actions and commitment. For many years now the club has installed some sign boards on the course which explain the various habitats that have been created, their value and function. CIP: Please make the signs on the waste/recycling bins clearer.
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 golf club publishes various articles in the newsletter or on social media addressing their various sustainable actions. CIP: Please continue to communicate with the local and regional community to spread the word of your engagement and encourage further collaboration to improve together.
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 is continually looking for new ways to improve the golf course and general management. OnCourse is updated yearly.

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