



GEO Certified®

GEO Certified® Report Oslo Golfklubb

Prepared by independent verifier David Charles Craig

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2024
Recertification due: 2027

GEO Certified®

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Oslo Golfklubb continues to lead the way for Norwegian golf clubs in terms of sustainable practice. Safe and clean maintenance facilities, collaboration with research projects, waste treatment and energy efficiency, show a genuine determination to be a sustainability trailblazer, not only in the industry, but in the wider community.”

*David Charles Craig
(GEO accredited independent verifier)*



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Oslo Golfklubb 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.

Oslo Golfklubb 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, Oslo Golfklubb should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Oslo Golfklubb 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	A relatively small, hilly site overlooking the large Bogstad lake. In 2016 a comprehensive species survey was conducted. No sensitive species are currently identified on site, but careful management of natural areas is evident. Cooperation with NIBIO research project 2017-2020 and continued contact.
	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	No sensitive species currently identified on the site, but a new species survey is recommended.
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	One cultural heritage site is present. A road and wall dated back to 1800. The club is aware of its importance.
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	Patterns of play are monitored and areas of managed rough with little or no play are grown up to allow biodiversity to flourish.
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	From 2017-2020 the club collaborated with The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO) with a project to benefit the flowering plants and pollinators by thinning areas of rough. A side effect is that golfers can more easily find lost balls. The club keep contact with NIBIO and have used this project as a springboard to naturalised more areas of managed rough.

		Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands	
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	As a continued collaboration with NIBIO, previously managed areas of nettles are allowed to grow and flower, in order to attract peacock butterflies.
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 club has for many years taken advice regarding grass species from their close collaboration with NIBIO. This is complemented by the app 'Turf Advisor' by Syngenta, for optimal results.
	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	Good soil structure is maintained through regular aeration, seeding, top dressing, and mowing, among other cultural practices. These practices are performed on a schedule and based on the results of soil testing.
	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	A yearly fertiliser program is calculated based on previous seasons. The amount of applied fertiliser is low. This is due to improvements in equipment and more careful management of fertilising practices over the course of some years. Soil testing is regularly carried out in order to make sure any fertiliser application is strictly necessary and optimised. Staff are qualified, and equipment is well maintained and regularly calibrated.
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	Routines in place for regular sharpening of blades, removal of dew, and changing of pin positions. All non-chemical pest, disease and weed management is essentially mechanical.
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	Some preventative pesticide use is essential due to very harsh winters. Preventative use is the most efficient method, as more heavy use would like be necessary if diseases were allowed to appear before treatment.

		Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases	
	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	Staff are fully trained in pesticide application and pollution management. Greens have an impervious layer to prevent leaching. Fertilising equipment is designed specifically for more accurate application and to minimise pollution.
	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 N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface; Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface;	State of the art equipment allows minimum pollution from spill or over application of pesticides or fertiliser. Careful analysis of weather patterns means that products are only used at times when the pollution risk is lowest. Hazardous materials are stored safely. Wash areas have impermeable concrete floors and sand filter. Pesticides and dangerous substances are kept in a certified container with spillage protection.

	maintenance facility operations	Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Fertilisers are mixed over a concrete floor, with a concrete shield will surrounding.
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	Fuel storage is sealed in order to protect from fire in the main building and pumps are on timers. Staff are regularly trained in safe practices for handling hazardous materials and substances. Hazardous material storage is safely sealed.
	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 legal requirements are strictly adhered to.
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	Wastewater goes through a sand filter at the maintenance facility, then filters into the surrounding land. This process is approved by the Oslo Kommune. Water testing is carried out semi regularly, and there is no indication that golf course activities have contributed to any local pollution.

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	State of the art pumphouse and irrigation system allow for accurate calculation of water needs on the course. A monthly pumphouse report helps to keep this system fine tuned, but daily analysis is still carried out in order to maximise efficiency. Irrigation system includes weather analysis and leak detection.
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts; Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only	The up to date irrigation system, including weather station, is the main source of efficient water usage. Water usage has shown a decrease since 2010, but this cannot be guaranteed since water usage is heavily dependent on rainfall.
	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	Low flow taps, urinals and showers are installed throughout the facilities. Daily water leakage is monitored.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Water abstraction permit, if required;	N/A

		Report water consumption to environment agency, if required	
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	Areas with little or no play are naturalised in order to reduce the need for maintenance among other reasons. Modern thermostats and lights on timers. Energy efficient light bulbs in all areas.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	New clubhouse was built in 2020 with brand new systems designed to increase energy efficiency and reduce consumption compared to the old clubhouse.
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 vast majority of Norwegian energy comes from renewable sources. The club plan to invest in more electric machinery in the very near future, to reduce their fossil fuel usage. CIP: The club should follow through with plans to transition the maintenance fleet to electric machines and robots.
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 make a concerted effort to use locally sourced products. Fertilisers are purchased in large bags in order to reduce the amount of plastic waste.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	All suppliers are chosen with environmental and economic responsibility in mind.
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.	A recycling station is in place for recycling of food, plastic, cardboard.

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	Wastewater management is carried out efficiently by a private company.
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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 Redibo system is used to keep a comprehensive and up to date health and safety system for the entire facility. Yearly tournament to raise money and awareness for cancer research.
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	Open application process. Waiting list due to full membership quota.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment; Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	The club has an equal opportunity hiring policy and all legal requirements are adhered to in terms of both hiring, and worker safety.
<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	The driving range is transformed in to an ice skating rink in winter and is used by the local Bandy club. The bandy club also has access to some other golf club facilities at this time, such as recycling station.

		multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	
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	The yearly tournament for cancer awareness provides opportunities for volunteering and support for cancer charities.
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	As well as the aforementioned collaboration with the local Bandy club, the golf trainers provide after school classes for children through the local Aktivitets Skole.
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	Sustainability working group combines employees and members. This group works with the habitats on the course, including birds, trees and insects. A large insect hotel stands on the course.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	The club makes efforts to involve the wider community wherever possible. Particular efforts are made in winter, when the weather conditions make it ideal for skiing, dog walking and bandy/ ice skating.
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	Redibo can be used to track and review climate and sustainability efforts for continually improvement.

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