



GEO Certified® Report

Lidingö Golfklubb

Prepared by independent verifier, Kerstin Antonsson

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2022
Valid until: 2025

“Lidingö Golf Club is an attractive golf course with a central location in Stockholm. In recent years, the club has switched to green energy, installed charging stations for vehicles, and started an investigation into installing solar panels. They are very committed to the junior activities and have created a fantastic and inviting indoor-golf facility with six training stations and open social areas. I look forward to following the club's continued work to make irrigation more sustainable and minimize the risk of pollution during the filling and mixing of pesticides. The planned biological inventory will provide valuable knowledge to the management plans for the area's various habitats.”

Kerstin Antonsson
(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Lidingö Golf Club 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.

Lidingö Golf Club 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, Lidingö Golf Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Lidingö Golf Club 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
Manager, Data and Reporting, 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 – that 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	Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity surveys	Confirmed a general forest management plan/routine for the management of forest areas.

			There are very basic descriptions and maps of the habitats and how they are managed. Extended species inventories of flora are planned with the local Nature Conservation Association. CIP: Clearer habitats and management plans are needed to understand the biological values to be managed.
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	There is no nature conservation or documented area for protection-worthy species. CIP: The environmental plan reads that these should be recorded if remarkable (protected, rare, or endangered) species are discovered in the area.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No specific archaeological, historical, or cultural designations are known on the facility.
	N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play No measures to reduce the managed turf grass area are described. Natural grass areas have been reduced in favor of a newly built practice area with associated other surfaces such as roads. CIP: consider ways of reducing managed turfgrass area
	N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife	N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf	Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping High rough is mowed after flowering. Native trees (oak and pine) have been used in landscaping the view of the hole and steering the game. Bee and insect hotels as well as 90 nesting boxes are placed in the area.

			CIP: Management plans for habitats and wildlife need to be improved. See N1.1.1.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		No specific conservation measures for priority species are planned.
N2 Turfgrass			
N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health	N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors	Select appropriate grass species for climate	Several floods from heavy rains have affected the course and its playability. The club has flushed and improved drainage as well as cleared ditches. Problems with damage occur when the temperature becomes irregular and alternates between snow and ice without frost in the soil. Climate change has meant that the club needs to have staffing during the winter to shovel snow away from the greens. The course is sown with <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> every autumn to improve resistance to climate and diseases.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		See N2.1.3, N2.2.1 and N2.3.1. Confirmed Soil Profile Assessment report.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	The green book includes a plan for how the course's greens, tees, and fairways will be fertilized during a year's weeks. Varieties and quantities are specified. Confirmed soil tests and nutrient analysis.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Confirmed detailed management plan for the course describes mechanical methods such as sharpened knives, removing surface moisture, aeration, and sand-dressing. The course is sown with <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> every autumn.

N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	Establish patterns and levels of risk for pests and diseases; Scout the course daily for early signs of pests and disease; Accurate pest and disease identification; Map and track pest and disease hotspots; Establish pest and disease thresholds	Confirmed map with areas for early signs of pests and diseases. Confirmed exemplary routine and description of occurrence and indicator sites of fungal diseases, analysis, and treatments. Samples are taken regularly and are analyzed in collaboration with experts. Measures are developed in consultation with experts and are shown in a yearly compilation of fungi diseases (Årskort 2021).
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	Use only legally registered and approved products; Ensure staff are fully qualified and licenced to use pesticides; Regularly calibrate and test applicators; Use appropriate protective equipment; Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf .	Confirmed journals of the use of pesticides, areas, and documentation of carried-out sprays. Confirmed list of legally registered and approved products. Confirmed applicator license. Confirmed map of turf areas for disposal of leftovers. Confirmed permits to spread pesticides through 2024. The applicator is new and has no test requirements yet.
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; Maintain mowing buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Maintain spraying and spreading buffer zones around water and all ecologically sensitive areas; Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	Confirmed emergency spill response plan is available. Buffer zones around water and ecologically sensitive areas are in place

	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and wastewater discharge	Contracts for the disposal of hazardous waste from the facility are established with a local company (Pre-Zero), a specialist in hazardous waste and disposal. Documentation and declaration of disposal of hazardous waste are confirmed. Confirmed that the hazardous materials are safely and securely stored.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface; Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	Confirmed a very good routine for self-monitoring of the oil separator. Confirmed regular approved inspections of the oil separator. Spraying equipment and containers are filled and mixed on a permeable area outside the machine hall. CIP: ensure spraying equipment and containers are filled and mixed over an impermeable surface Pesticide containers are rinsed three times before they are thrown away as waste. Confirmed a very good action plan for plant health and handling of pesticides.
	N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances	N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances	Maintain a register of hazardous materials available to authorised staff; Safe storage in secure and ventilated concrete or metal building; Sufficient storage capacity; Impermeable flooring; Spill containment kits present; Emergency wash area; Fire extinguisher in the immediate area; Confirmed chemical register. Safety data sheets are available in binders and digital systems. CIP: Some safety data sheets should be replaced with current ones.

		Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	Confirmed fuel tanks have secondary containment and approved regular inspections. Confirmed fire extinguishers are in place and an external agreement exists for fire-protection controlled equipment. Confirmed fire safety protocol for the restaurant. Confirmed impermeable flooring in chemical storage. Confirmed personal protection equipment and decontamination agent for spills.
N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water	N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage and discharge licences	Wastewater discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	Washing machines with water takes place on a permeable surface. CIP: ensure machinery is washed over an impermeable surface Wastewater from the machine hall is directed to the municipal treatment plant.

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	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	The club hand waters the dry area on the greens with wetting agents to reduce unnecessary irrigation. They measure the moisture on the greens at least 4 times a week with a TDR meter. The compilation shows which greens they can reduce irrigation on and increase where needed.

R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	Conduct regular irrigation performance checks; Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices; Ensure effective application of water to target areas; Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	Confirmed. The surfaces are measured with a new moisture meter to keep track of irrigation needs. Confirmed Rain-Bird software program that allows digital steering of irrigation. Sprinklers are replaced with newer continuous ones according to maintenance in Masterplan.
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	Lidingö Golf Club buys water from Lidingö City to irrigate the golf course. Every year, the amount of water is measured by the golf club's staff and sent to Lidingö City for approval and documentation for invoicing.
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	See above R1.2.2 The club uses municipally purified drinking water for irrigation of the golf course. CIP: The club should seek opportunities to use lower water quality for irrigation. Plans have been developed and building permits are in place to expand water reservoirs in the future.
R2 Energy			
R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance	Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Golf carts have installed GPS and their accessibility on the course is controlled so that the cars do not enter fragile areas that are subject to wear and tear.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	Due to the energy crisis, locker rooms and saunas have been closed during winter to save energy and reduce energy costs. Confirmed completed energy audit in buildings.

R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Determine potential sources of renewable energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	The Club uses renewable electricity. Solar cells were discussed and are subject to investigation and possible installation in the coming years. Confirmed installation of six charging stations for vehicles at the parking area. Geothermal heat is used for heating in some buildings.
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	Undertake a review of materials consumed	Organic waste from the course is composted into soil. The club encourages players to use digital scorecards instead of printing paper scorecards. The call has resulted in a saving of thousands of scorecards in a season.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy	Adopt a sustainable, or ethical / environmental purchasing policy to maximise the use of locally sourced goods and goods made from recycled, recyclable and certified materials	Confirmed purchasing policy. CIP: The confirmed Environmental and Safety policy can advantageously be merged with the environmental policy dated 2023-02-08 to create clarity for members, board, and employees. The club uses recycled sand when dressing playing surfaces.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	During the 2020 season, the restaurant has introduced recycling of food, metal, cardboard, and plastic in addition to the sorting that has been done, i.e., glass and porcelain. The restaurant has also changed plastic bags to paper bags. Food sorting has worked very well since 2020.

			In 2020, the club introduced sorting with separate bins for PET at the clubhouse and is reviewing recycling possibilities on the course. Confirmed dangerous waste separation.
R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste	Confirmed authorized waste and recycling contractor for general and hazardous industrial waste.

COMMUNITY			
C1 Outreach			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality	C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility		The club has developed very good values to increase inclusion, conduct, and social caring. The club develops 4000 m² practice areas and 1000 m² green areas to increase the possibilities of training. The club has rebuilt a barn's upper floor for the benefit of training, social recreation, and meetings. The space includes cozy sofas, tables, and six swing stations with Trackman simulators. This indoor golf is open to everyone. The local ski club uses ski trails during snowy winters. Dog owners exercise their dogs when the track is closed for golf players.

			The restaurant is open to everyone and can be subscribed to for festivities and meetings. The club organizes try-out days for schools and youth. The club has a large junior activity with several talented young players.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Members have contributed 400 - 500 volunteer hours in the club's area of operation in recent years. The senior committee has 10-12 members who annually help to repair the fairway. No external fundraising activities have been able to be carried out due to the pandemic. Before the pandemic, the club sponsored the Cancer Rehab Fund with both a day at the club and all the penalty fees that members and guests pay when they do not show up at their booked times go to their fund.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	Create a 'sustainability working group'	The club's facilities committee includes the course council and environmental section. The environmental section consists of six people (members, the club manager, and a board member).
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		Confirmed minutes of the review of fire protection in the restaurant. The women's section arranges women's competitions and Thursday meetings.

			Members have a group that meets and plays bridge in the conference room. The women's locker room has been renovated. The ventilation system in the clubhouse was replaced two years ago. The club organizes regular courses in treatment as well as training in each specific area for the staff. All staff are encouraged to play golf through free membership, as well as all permanent staff can go to the gym to train and keep their physique. See also C1.1.1 above and C2.2.1 below.
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The club has developed very good values to increase inclusion, conduct, and social caring. Toilets have been installed at holes 1, 4, and 15 to meet the needs of the players.
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	There are routines for systematic work environment management. The course staff receives an introduction and internal training in handling and safety routines regarding machines and vehicles at the start of their employment. The club provides personal protective equipment in the form of real shoes, hearing protectors, work clothes, glasses, etc.

			Follow-up regarding work environment issues is done after each year with a staff conference where all of the staff, contractors, non-profit work for sections/committees and the board participate. The Swedish Work Environment Authority's Regulations are always available to all staff.
C3 Communications			
C3.1 Engage golfers and members	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	The work of the environmental section is well described on the club's website. Members can find environmental documentation and information about the club's ongoing environmental work on the website. The Board is continuously informed about the work of the Environmental Section. Members are also informed at annual meetings about the work of the environmental section. The club has developed a Vision 2030 on how the club will grow and thrive. Strategies and goals are described.
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community	Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	Lidingö City's authority for environmental issues has carried out inspection visits with approved results. Confirmed protocol. The club management meets with municipal politicians regularly. The councilors and municipal officials visit the golf club once a year. The municipality and the local Nature Conservation Association have participated in the planning to cut down forests in the club's area.

			The club is a member of the local sustainability network "Ett hållbart Lidingö".
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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