



**GEO Certified®**

# GEO Certified® Report Foshan Golf Club

Prepared by Independent Verifier, Juming Zhang

Certified by GEO Foundation: October 2019  
Valid until: October 2022

**GEO Certified®**

 **GEO  
Foundation**  
Sustainability in and through golf

*Since Foshan Golf Club introduced the GEO programme in 2013, everyone in the club has gradually established a higher awareness of environmental protection. More attention is paid on environmentally friendly and recyclable products, and more sustainable measures and operations are taken in their work. I believe that the club will make more contributions to golf course sustainability and society in the years ahead.*

*Juming Zhang*

*GEO accredited Independent Verifier*



## Introduction

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GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Foshan 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.

Foshan 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 set for the future, Foshan Golf Club should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Foshan 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

Richard Allison  
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities



# Verification and Certification

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## 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](http://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](http://www.isealalliance.org)



# Verifier's Report

The Sustainability Agenda for golf covers the following themes and action areas:

THEMES	ACTION AREAS
Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats &amp; Biodiversity</li> <li>• Turfgrass management</li> <li>• Pollution prevention</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Materials</li> </ul>
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships &amp; Outreach</li> <li>• Golfing &amp; Employment</li> <li>• Advocacy &amp; Communications</li> </ul>

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	<b>(Course management)</b> Map all habitats and vegetation types on the site; Regularly update landscape / biodiversity	Plants diversities of the golf course have been surveyed and identified species cards of local trees, shrubs and landscape plants have been hanged on. Low-maintenance grass such as Bahia grass, native natural

		surveys	vegetation in the rough and wetlands provide habitat for animal and purify the water. Habitats on the golf course haven't surveyed at present. The club is committed to inviting a professional team to carry out the ecological survey to identify animals, birds and habitats.
	<b>N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Understand legal responsibilities for protected landscapes and species; Record and monitor protected, endangered, or rare species found on the site	Presence of wild species such as birds was seen on the course during the site visiting. It is proposed to the club that legally protected sites or landscapes and species are identified and designated and protected by installing facilities such as bird's nests, isolated areas, and buffers after ecological survey of the golf course.
	<b>N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No cultural heritage found on the golf course now.
<b>N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the course</b>	<b>N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass</b>	<b>(Course / club management)</b> Observe, track and / or monitor golfer play	Areas of turf grass were confirmed through the site observation based on the architect's design drawing. The club is committed to reducing fairways areas to the basic managed areas for playing while increasing roughs of low- maintenance and naturalized areas of maintenance free.
<b>N1.3 Actively manage habitats for wildlife</b>	<b>N1.3.1 Projects to manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Regularly review and follow a habitat management plan; Prioritise native species when planting and landscaping	Bird species and populations have been seen increasingly in recent years. No ecological surveys have been undertaken and no monitor any species on the golf course up to now. It is suggested that after the ecological survey is made, ecological management facilities such as animal corridors, bird nests, and native plants nurseries are established.
<b>N1.4 Conserve key species</b>	<b>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</b>		No conservation measures for species and habitats have been taken on the golf course. The club is committed to taking conservation measures after ecological survey.
<b>N2 Turfgrass</b>			
<b>N2.1 Maintain optimum turf and soil health</b>	<b>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Select appropriate grass species for climate	The course is located in the southern subtropical region where warm season grasses are suitable. Hybrid bermudagrasses were used, Tifeagle for greens and TifSport for tees and fairways while Bahia grass used on roughs and natural areas. It has been proved

			over the last years that these varieties are well adapted to the local climate and performed well in playing quality that the members and golfers satisfy at the reasonable maintenance cost with sustainably environmental consequences.
	<b>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</b>		Good maintenance and innovation practices are in place.
	<b>N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Soil tests and nutrient analysis	The soil is tested annually by professional soil lab. The last three year's soil test reports were confirmed. The top priority for fertilisation is to minimise application, only greens, tees, fairways, and semi roughs are applied.
<b>N2.2 Prioritise cultural management</b>	<b>N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<p>The machinery workplace was visited. There are different types of mowers to satisfy grass cutting requirements with cutting heights for greens, tees, fairways and roughs. Reeled blades and bed knives as well as rotary blades are sharpen routinely to keep good mowing quality.</p> <p>Mowing height is slightly increased during grass stress time when it is hot and humid or cold and dry to make the grass healthier. Grass clippings are returned on most of the fairways and roughs. The club encourages caddies to do hand weeding daily to better use the labor. Those cultural practices result in the reduction of fertilisers and pesticides requirement and healthier turf.</p>
<b>N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly</b>	<b>N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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	The superintendents made a seasonal pests control programs based on local climate changes and pests occurring regular pattern. They scout the course at least once daily. The daily records including grass growing condition, pests and diseases problems and control practices and other maintenance issued were checked. Minimal use of chemicals is priority to be considered and chemicals are used only the pests and diseases are identified and in the early stage when the pests are insensitive to chemicals and easy to control.
	<b>N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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;	Chemicals storages at the maintenance workplace were visited. All required aspects about chemicals products legal documents, spraying equipment and safety precaution measures were observed and re-confirmed.

		Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of turf	
<b>N3 Pollution Prevention</b>			
<b>N3.1 Prevent pollution across the entire site</b>	<b>N3.1.1 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from golf course operations</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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.	All required emergency spill response plan for pollution risks was confirmed and buffer zones and no spray areas observed in good condition in roughs, wetland and water bodies. Pesticide-free zones distributed in Bahia grass planted area, wild vegetation and natural areas on the far roughs. The natural buffer zones along the waters and wetland were verified.  The local water management department takes water samples and test water quality once a month, underground water and chemical residue test once a half year. All the water quality meets the requirement of the local government.
	<b>N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Ensure all hazardous materials are safely and securely stored; Ensure compliance with all required standards and systems for hazardous waste and waste water discharge	All required documents were confirmed and storage room for all hazardous materials and waste were observed.
	<b>N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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	All requirements were confirmed and appropriate infrastructure and facilities for washing, handling, storage and disposal were observed within the maintenance workplace.
<b>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</b>	<b>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally	All requirements were confirmed and appropriate infrastructure and facilities were observed within the maintenance workplace.



		manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	
<b>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</b>	<b>N3.3.1 Appropriate waste water usage and discharge licences</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Waste water discharge licence; Appropriate treatment of machinery wash water (impermeable surface, oil / grease / clipping separation)	All requirements were confirmed and appropriate infrastructure and facilities were observed within the maintenance workplace. The machinery washing is performed on the cement hard ground. Washing water, along with other waste water of the club are discharged into the waste water pool and treated with the processing equipment, then used for the irrigation of green land.

<b>RESOURCES</b>			
<b>R1 Water</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Mandatory Practices</b>	<b>Verifier Notes</b>
<b>R1.1 Minimise water demand</b>	<b>R1.1.1 Measures to reduce the need to consume water</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	All irrigation water is from the course's numerous water bodies and ponds collected surface water from raining in the course and surrounding properties. All the lakes are connected and water is recycled. Irrigation is applied only on greens, fairways, tees, and semi-rough while far roughs and natural areas are no irrigation.  The course built ecological ditches to collect and reuse rainwater. Different from traditional drainage ditches, ecological ditches are protected by plants. They have better landscape effect and higher ecological benefit, and satisfy the water requirement for the course in terms of quality and quantity.
<b>R1.2 Maximise water efficiency</b>	<b>R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> 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	TDR soil moisture test is used to check soil moisture daily to guide irrigation practices. Irrigation system is checked daily. Irrigation is currently informed by local weather, soil moisture and condition of the turf. Hand watering is applied on dry patches due to over drainage and wind on some areas. Irrigation training and awareness raising on water savings are given to all members of the course maintenance team.

	<b>R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Audit water use regularly; Review bills frequently and look for irregularities; Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors; Categorise and track water consumption	The clubhouse, facilities and maintenance buildings are 100% supplied with potable water. Water-saving awareness signages are seen at different water use facilities to remind staffs of saving water in daily work. Water-saving fixtures, including low-flow faucets at sinks and efficient showers and low-flush toilets, were installed in all facilities. Records from water bills are kept for tracking total water consumption.
<b>R1.3 Source water responsibly</b>	<b>R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water</b>	<b>(Course / club management)</b> Ensure appropriate water abstraction permit and reporting, as required	The club has set up a reclaimed water system to collect sewage from dining hall / office / dormitories, discharge into lakes after purification for irrigation.
<b>R2 Energy</b>			
<b>R2.1 Reduce energy demand</b>	<b>R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in course maintenance</b>	<b>(Course management)</b> Minimise areas of managed turf to reduce mowing, irrigation, and turf inputs	Maintenance free areas including Bahiagrass planted areas, native vegetation on roughs and riverine buffers and wetland along water bodies were confirmed on the site. Over the last three years locally featured fruit trees such as <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> , <i>Dimocarpus longan</i> , <i>Clausena lansium</i> , <i>Syzygium samarangense</i> , and <i>Mangifera indica</i> were planted on the maintained free areas in far roughs near the on-the-way lounges. Ornamental plants such as <i>Ruellia angustifolia</i> and <i>Handroanthus chrysanthus</i> were planted on roughs along tees areas. Through the above plantings the maintained turf areas has been greatly reduced on far roughs, creating a low maintenance, relaxing and enjoyable landscape for the golf course. The club plans to replace the roughs of Tifsport hybrid bermudagrass near tees with low maintenance Bahiagrass in the next years.
<b>R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency</b>	<b>R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	LED energy saving lights and timer lights are used and temperatures of air-conditioners are set to optimal levels and are adjusted seasonally in the clubhouse. The club energy bills and fuel usage from the year of 2017 to 2019 were checked, showing decreasing trend in energy usage over the years.
<b>R2.3 Source energy responsibly</b>	<b>R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Determine potential sources of renewable	Solar photovoltaic panels were installed on the roof of staff dormitories, generating energy for water heaters. Solar

	<b>of energy</b>	energy in the area and on-site, through renewable energy providers	<p>photovoltaic lights and wind energy lights were installed along the road. The club is committed to expanding solar and wind energy usage and explores other available/feasible renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The club introduced electronic green mowers to cut greens near the buildings and resident house, decreasing carbon emissions while reducing noise pollution.</p> <p>The club plans to replace all electronic golf carts driven by lead-acid battery of potential contaminating leak with environmentally friendly lithium battery.</p>
<b>R3 Materials</b>			
<b>R3.1 Reduce materials demand</b>	<b>R3.1.1 Products and materials selection based on necessity, including opportunities for recycled, reused and locally sourced alternatives</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Undertake a review of materials consumed	The club is taking measures to select recycled and locally sourced materials. For example, in the restaurant guests are encouraged to use recycling glass cups instead of disposable plastic cups; during match or meeting, providing barreled water, not bottled water for people to drink; printed paper is collected and reused for printing on the opposite side at the office.
<b>R3.2 Purchase responsibly</b>	<b>R3.2.1 Practical use of an ethical / environmental purchasing policy</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> 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	All requirements were confirmed. The club has established purchasing systems to put priority on purchasing of certified and approved by the government and environmental friendly local products. 95% of the suppliers are local ones.
<b>R3.3 Reuse and recycle</b>	<b>R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Demonstrate waste separation, reuse and recycling; Track how much waste goes to landfill, or is reused / recycled	<p>A separate recycle waste bin/area for these materials has been set up in the club and golf course and separate recycle waste storage rooms constructed and used to store up these different waste materials. Recycle waste materials are collected and treated by a local contracted professional waste recycling company periodically under the government supervision.</p> <p>The course used the trimmed trunks from the old felled trees to stake the lake, which stabilise lake bank, prevent soils loss and improve the landscape.</p> <p>The club introduced the kitchen waste disposal system, composed of kitchen waste liquefaction processor, crusher and sorting platform. After the treatment, kitchen waste becomes</p>

			CO <sub>2</sub> and diluted organic nutrient water that can be directly used for irrigation on green land.
<b>R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance</b>	<b>R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Use authorised waste and recycling contractor for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste;	All requirements were confirmed.

<b>COMMUNITY</b>			
<b>C1 Outreach</b>			
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Mandatory Practices</b>	<b>Verifier Notes</b>
<b>C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality</b>	<b>C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility</b>		The club introduced golf into GZ Huiling school, brought the happiness to the special kids and invited them to the club and experienced golf. Foshan Golf Club Junior Team was established in 2016, focusing on golf etiquette and golf culture. Those activities have contributed to the promotion of golf to the public and community.
<b>C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity</b>	<b>C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes</b>		The club offers internship positions for university students every year, mostly from the South China Agricultural University and Sun Yat-sen University. The club supports a range of charities. For example, the club visited the schools in Liangshan, Sichuan Province and donated money and clothes with a value of more than 60,000 RMB; went to Red Cross School Hospital for charity greeting each year and raised the fund over 50,000 RMB each year.
<b>C1.3 Establish active community partnerships</b>	<b>C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Create a 'sustainability working group'	The club has good relations with local community, environmental, and business groups. The club invited members

	community and other groups		of the community and students of local primary and middle schools to attend many different activities, such as playing golf then seeing a movie on the driving range; setting up home for birds by kids in spring on the golf course with the theme 'love life, love golf', and so on. Those activities make the community and public recognise that golf course can make a positive contribution to the environment and community.
<b>C2 Golfers &amp; Employees</b>			
<b>C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing</b>	<b>C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities</b>		<p>The club holds many different golf matches to enhance the friendship among its members, golfers, and visitors while improving their mental and physical health through the game.</p> <p>For the staff the club provides shuttle buses at set schedules, parking lots, lockers and shower rooms. Meanwhile the club organises various staff activities like birthday party and annual party to enrich their daily lives, and provides welfare such as body check for staff each year.</p>
<b>C2.2 Be open and inclusive</b>	<b>C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	The club holds different golf matches for different kinds of people, such as the old, kids, women, business professionals, members, amateurs and professionals to increase diversities of the game of golf, club members and social influences of golf.
<b>C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities</b>	<b>C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	The staff dormitories and workplace were visited and they were well equipped and maintained. The club provides different cultural programs about the company history and its development, golf industry and its culture to enhance employee retention, satisfaction and loyalty to the club and golf. In the meantime the club has different career training programs to improve their work ability, quality and efficiency; and safety training to strengthen their risk awareness and control ability, reducing safety accidents.
<b>C3 Communications</b>			
<b>C3.1 Engage golfers and members</b>	<b>C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Provide information on the facility's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements	Keeping a good relation with golfers and members is a top priority for the club. The club informed golfers and members of the club's sustainability commitments, actions, or achievements

			through the newsletters, notice boards & poster display, website and the social media “Wechat” and “QQ”.
<b>C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability</b>	<b>C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and engage people in the wider community</b>	<b>(Club management)</b> Provide evidence of external communications and community engagement	<p>The club has good relationships with different organisations, institutions and companies, providing internship positions teaching and research base for students from universities, golf training programs for local kindergartens, primary and high schools and vocational schools.</p> <p>A number of golf matches for visitors, members, professionals and golfers from different sectors were held in the club to promote the game of golf while raising the funds for the education and handicapped peoples every year.</p> <p>Many tournaments were hosted on the course, including the most prestigious annual sporting event in China, European Challenge Tour—Foshan Open since 2013; ACDS Junior Qualifying Series; Foshan Junior Tournament; Southern Junior JGTA in mainland China.</p> <p>The golf course was granted or awarded numerous accolades, such as 2018 Top Ten Most Outstanding Golf Courses by Golf Vacations, 2016-2017 One of the Top 100 Golf Courses in China by Golf Digest, 2016-2017 One of the Top 10 Golf Clubs in China by Golf Digest, 2017 Top Ten Most Outstanding Golf Courses by Golf Vacations, 2016 Asia Top 100 Golf Courses by Ali Golf and Cloud Golf, 2016 Top Ten Golf Course Community by Golf, 2016 prestigious GEO certification for efforts to protect environment over the last three years.</p>

## 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](http://www.sustainable.golf)