



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Golf Club Lausanne

Prepared by Independent Verifier, David Bily

Certified by GEO Foundation: October 2021
Valid until: October 2026

GEO Certified[®]



**GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Following certification in 2018 Golf Club Lausanne has continued to increase their sustainability performance, most notably through a number of biodiversity projects across the course. Some detailed energy audits have also helped the club identify where they should best focus their efforts on energy transition. I look forward to following the club’s evolution in the coming years, especially in the areas of energy and waste reduction.”

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 set for the future, 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

Richard Allison
Manager, GEO Certified Facilities



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.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"> • Habitats & Biodiversity • Turfgrass management • Pollution prevention
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Energy • Materials
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	The golf club still has a good understanding of the different vegetation and habitats found throughout the golf course.

			<p>A member of the sustainability working group is the main source and instigator for continued surveying of the birds and other fauna.</p> <p>CIP The club should do regular biodiversity surveys with external specialists to better understand the evolution on the site and where they might need to focus efforts (habitat for key species etc.).</p>
	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	They still understand their legal responsibilities for any protected landscapes. Undertake informal surveys of certain species including endangered species such as the “Grenouille Rousse”.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	No particular cultural heritage in need of protection. The club has recently planted a new orchard with fruit trees from the foundation Rétropomme which encourages the re-establishment of older fruit varieties.
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	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 semi-rough or simple rough turf have been converted to ecological areas with a much higher biodiversity and habitat potential. These areas are cut once or twice per year to maintain their balance. Golfers are forbidden to enter these areas. He also continues a mulching programme under trees between fairways which also reduces turfgrass areas needing mowing.
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	<p>The club continues to follow a management plan to increase and improve larger habitat areas and microhabitats on the site. Some new planting areas have been created using exclusively native trees and shrubs. Some new wildflower areas have been created by cutting bands into existing meadow and overseeding with a native wildflower seed.</p> <p>CIP At the moment much of the “rough or semi-rough” areas between fairways have a similar structure with low-cut grass or mulch with large trees. This structure has very little “middle height habitat” like wild hedges might have. It would be worthwhile to investigate the possibility of increasing this vertical structure or providing</p>

			<p>more variety in this structure with smaller and medium height plants, which could provide interesting habitat for many bird and mammal species. (Where possible, and still not interfere with play.)</p> <p>The club could also alternate the cutting of environmental areas, leaving some areas uncut every year to keep some habitat and food for insects, birds and mammals.</p> <p>The club could still improve the quality of the existing ponds, especially the edge condition, and perhaps focus more on these wetland areas for habitat and less as an irrigation source which is of relatively little volume. (This may be possible if they are other water storage solutions in the future.)</p>
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		<p>10 new nesting boxes have been provided for swallows in 2021. Other nests have been provided to encourage the return of the "Rougequeue à front blanc".</p> <p>A new pond has been built for frogs and other amphibians and a net has also been add 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.</p> <p>During the time of year when there is a lot of frogs hatching the greenkeeping team has a number of techniques to blow the young frogs off the greens and prevent them from drying out in the sun. The 6 bee hives are still healthy and the club harvests the honey when there is enough over and above the needs of the bees.</p> <p>CIP An insect survey would be useful to more precisely guide future environmental projects.</p>
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	The greenkeeper continues to try to increase the percentage of Agrostis on greens with a programme of sanding and re-seeding with the goal of reducing need for water and fungicides.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		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.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	A spoon feeding of fertiliser with liquid fertilisers keeps quantities to a minimum. About 85% organic fertiliser is used.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	The greenkeeper works with limited inputs of water, chemical and fertiliser with occasional aeration and verti-cutting but mostly additions 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 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	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	Very few chemicals are used in the course maintenance. Fungicides have been reduced in the last 3 years and now only greens receive any fungicide applications between 8 – 12 times per year. CIP If possible try to 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 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, as per previous.
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;	Still good practices undertaken. Buffer zones are maintained near wetland areas.

		Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	
	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	Confirmed. As per previous certifications.
	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	Two tanks on the spraying machine where the first tank is rinsed with the second tank and residual product sprayed on appropriate surfaces and not emptied elsewhere. Still good practices undertaken on mixing and loading pesticides and fertilisers.
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; Secondary containment for fuel, either externally constructed, or integrally manufactured; Regular inspection of storage tanks	No change. Good practice like 3 years ago.
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)	A new washing station was built last year with a Waste-2-Water closed loop system, saving water and filtering/cleaning 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	Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces only	Still working to minimise irrigation on golf playing surfaces. CIP The club could consider reducing areas which are irrigated, mostly fairway areas, which could drastically reduce water demand in the future and the need to expensive water harvesting/storage solutions. However, this is something which needs to be discussed with the members with a clear understanding of future quality expectations.
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	Using soil moisture sensor and weather station to guide irrigation scheduling. The irrigation system installed 6 years ago is still an efficient and can precisely water the different surfaces with control of each individual sprinkler head.
	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	Confirmed. Same as previous CIP Could look into practices or devices which could help save water in the future.
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	Confirmed. CIP Investigate a project for harvesting and storing rainwater, either with a new open water reservoir or with drilling underground pipes which collect water filtered down from the surface.
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	The club has recently purchased 3 new hybrid mowers, replacing diesel mowers. The new environmental areas and areas receiving mulch 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	Audit energy use regularly; Regularly review bills; Categorise and track energy consumption	The club undertook an energy audit (CEBC) to try to optimise their energy consumption. They also worked together with Umtec to see what is the most efficient project for energy savings. CIP The club is investigating replacing their existing heating system with a wood pellet stove heating to reduce their carbon footprint. It would be nice to see this discussion continue and some action in the future.
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 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.
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	Confirmed CIP The club could still do a waste audit to better understand their general waste generation throughout the site. (This is expected to be done soon together with Swiss Recycling)
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	A member of the club, Jan Driessens, put an ethical purchasing policy into place during the last 3 years. 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 restaurant purchasing.
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	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.

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
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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		<p>The club remains fairly private, as many are due to logistics and infrastructure, but still opens up walking trails in the winter.</p> <p>CIP The club could look for further opportunities to increase multi-functionality in the future to connect even more with the local community.</p>
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		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.
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'	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The club organised a number of meetings with local municipalities to present their biodiversity actions and discuss possibilities of collaboration for the future.</p>

C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		
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 encourages golf for children and promoting a solid junior programme.
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	As before. Good employer.
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	New information panels / signs have been put up near some of the environmental zones to inform golfers of their value and to remind them not to go in these areas. The club regularly includes sustainability updates in their newsletter under the 3 GEO headline themes.
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	CIP The club should continue to communicate with local and regional community to spread the word of their engagement and encourage further collaboration to improve together.

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