



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Golfclub Lenzerheide

Prepared by independent verifier, Dominik Scheibler-Bagdasarianz

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Valid until: December 2024

GEO Certified[®]

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Golfclub Lenzerheide is definitely on a good way concerning sustainability. The turf care is exemplary and the clubhouse is up-to-date concerning heating, insulation and building technology. The natural areas inside (and outside) the borders of the golf course are of great ecological quality, and I hope that these areas can be preserved with a long-term agreement with the political municipality.”

Dominik Scheibler-Bagdasarianz

GEO accredited independent verifier



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that **Golfclub Lenzerheide** 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.

Golfclub Lenzerheide 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, **Golfclub Lenzerheide** should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, **Golfclub Lenzerheide** 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 different natural vegetation types outside of the mowed turf are not officially part of the golf course, but belong to the local municipality. They have therefore not been mapped for the golf course so far.

			<p>- The natural biotopes are, however, visually marked with poles on the golf course.</p> <p>CIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Try to set up an agreement that the natural areas (woods, grassland, waterbodies) within the borders of the golf course will not be used or altered in the future by the local municipality, especially not for economical reasons. The old grown woods and the natural grassland are of great ecological value and should be maintained in this quality. The agreement should also include the possibility that upcoming shrubs in the meadows can and should be eliminated by golf course maintenance to keep the grassland open, as it has already been done in the last years.
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The golf course is officially designated as a sports zone, with no restrictions for nature protection. - Located on a slope, on the south-east side of the golf course is a dry grassland of national importance (TWW Nr. 11300 Furtga). - The golf course as part of the municipality of Lantsch is part of the regional nature park Parc Ela. - Located on the south and the east borders of the golf course are wildlife corridors of national and regional importance. - Dragonflies are regularly monitored by the cantonal authorities (ANU) on the golf course. <p>CIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publish the up to date species list of the dragonflies in the profile on the OnCourse Webpage. - Make sure that the planned expansion in the south of the golf course does not compromise the wildlife corridor of regional importance with migration obstacles.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no such features in the area of the golf 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owing to its location between hills on one side and a gorge on the other side, the golf course is very narrow. For this reason, the fairways are also very narrow. This leaves almost no room for further narrowing of the fairways without compromising the playing quality.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most natural areas within the borders of the golf course are not used or managed. This has allowed the development of beautiful wooded areas with old trees. → Highlight! - The also present species-rich areas of wet grassland are not mowed, which benefits insect diversity. By removing upcoming shrubs and trees,

			<p>the golf course management team has kept the wet grasslands permanently open. → Highlight! - Domestic species are preferred in plantings.</p>
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owing to the location of the golf course at about 1400 m above sea level, many typical subalpine species can be found (squirrels, badgers, mountain birds, etc.). - Course rules stipulate that golf balls that come to rest in ant hills may not be played from there. In this way, ant hills are well protected. - There are several running and still waterbodies as well as crop-outs of springs. These waterbodies are very significant especially for dragonflies and other insects, but also for amphibians. These waterbodies, including the man-made ponds which are used for watering the course, are in a good ecological state with low nutrient availability. The springs have drinking water quality. - Nest boxes for birds on the golf course are maintained regularly by local nature conservationists. <p>CIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Plant more hedges wherever possible (e.g. around the tees) with native shrubs (especially barberry and mountain ash) and integrate big stone and wood piles in them.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the subalpine location, <i>Poa supina</i> is used alongside <i>P. pratensis</i> on fairways and tees. This grass is very well suited for this altitude, but requires several months to become dominant. In order to close gaps in the turf rapidly, they fall back on <i>Lolium perenne</i> and <i>P. pratensis</i>. For the greens, three cultivars of <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> are used, as well as four cultivars of <i>Festuca rubra</i>. This is possible because the grass is cut no lower than 4.2 mm. Conclusion: the composition of the turf grass species has been optimally adapted to the environmental conditions. The turf is therefore robust and healthy.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil life is extremely active in the turf area. This is evidenced by the high activity of earthworms. - One-hundred tons of compost are distributed on the turf every fall. → Highlight! - All turf grass areas are regularly treated with compost tea, which they produce themselves. This allows the grass to regenerate very quickly in the spring, despite a cross-country skiing trail which leads across the golf course in winter.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other natural compounds are used to promote soil activity as well. - There was an attempt to integrate biochar during the aeration of the greens. However, it did not work out optimally. - Forty percent topsoil was worked into the turf-bearing layer in order to promote soil activity on the tees. This led to improved root penetration. <p>→ Highlight!</p>
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only small amounts of granulated mineral fertilizers are still used. Usually, liquid fertilizers are preferred. These can be brought out with the same, very modern machine that is used for the compost tea. - Fertilizing is kept to a minimum in order to reduce plant growth and therefore mowing work to a minimum. - A relatively high-dose potassium fertilizer makes the grass resistant to fungal attack, especially during the winter months.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weeds are dug up by hand where possible. - Daily removal of surface moisture on the greens. - After spreading sand and compost, old mowing blades are used to preserve the sharp ones. <p>CIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By increasing the frequency of dethatching, it might be possible to further reduce the use of herbicides.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The turf grass is regularly checked for weeds and diseases. - Herbicides are used only sparingly and selectively. - On rare occasions, herbicides are used on the fairways against broadleaf weeds. - A certain amount of weed pressure is tolerated, for example <i>Bellis perennis</i>. - Fungicides are used only rarely in the spring and fall. - Dollar spot disease is not a problem because of the elevation.
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only legally registered products are used. - Two people are trained to work with chemicals. - Protective equipment is at hand. - Up-to-date and calibrated applicators are used. - Leftover product is diluted and disposed of on untreated turf areas.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mowing and spraying buffer zones around waterbodies and all ecologically sensitive areas are marked with red-green poles on the golf course. <p>CIP: In a few places, the mowing buffer zone to the water bodies is too narrow. Make sure to keep at least 3 m of mowing buffer and 6 m of spraying buffer zones along all water bodies.</p>
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hazardous materials are safely and securely stored. - Waste water from the maintenance area and the half-way-hut is pumped out by a local farmer and correctly disposed of in the public sewer system. - The clubhouse is connected to the public sewer system.
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The wash area is on an impermeable, leak-free surface. - Pesticides and fertilisers are mixed and loaded over an impermeable surface. - Containers and applicators are correctly rinsed.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pesticides are perfectly stored in a lockable metal cabinet with drip trays. - Other hazardous substances are stored safely und securely in a well ventilated wood building with a concrete floor and sufficient storage capacity. - Fuel tanks have spill containment kits. - There is no emergency wash area - there are sanitary facilities in the changing rooms located nearby in the same building. - Fuel storage tanks are inspected at every refill and every two years.
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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste water discharge is carried out according to current Swiss regulations. - Grass clippings are removed manually from the manhole cover in the wash bay. - The used washing water is collected in a tank and pumped out and disposed of regularly and professionally by a specialized company.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 23 % of the whole golf course is irrigated. - Irrigation of the turfgrass has been reduced to the necessary minimum to encourage a deep root penetration by the grass. This makes the turfgrass more resistant against dry periods. - The irrigation system is new (2010), very efficient, and can be steered selectively by a software. - The machines are washed off only rarely. They are usually cleaned with pressurized air.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A soil moisture sensor is present. - An irrigation software is used. - Irrigation is planned by the head green keeper according to the weather forecast. - The irrigation hardware is well maintained.
	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water use is not audited, since all used water comes from their own spring. - Water is used sparingly in the sanitary facilities thanks to water-saving fittings, and is turned off automatically after use.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No drinking water is used for irrigation. - The golf course is irrigated with water of its own spring. - The drinking water in the clubhouse comes from the course's own spring, too.

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	CIP: - Where possible, the semi-rough area could be increased a bit at the expense of the fairways (e.g. fairways 1, 17 and others).
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	- Energy demand is checked four times a year based on the separate invoices for the club house and for the golf course. - The new clubhouse (built in 2014) is heated by a modern geothermal probe and is well insulated. - A PV-installation is not allowed due to building regulations. - Modern kitchen appliances are used. - Illumination has been converted almost entirely to LED in the clubhouse.
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	- 100% renewable electricity is used: About 96% hydropower, 4% from solar, wind, and biomass. CIP: - Consider purchasing power with the nature-made star label.
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	- Food waste is avoided as far as possible. - The clubhouse was built with lots of wood, thus sparing concrete and steel. CIP: - Consider using wood for the planned maintenance facility as well.
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	- The club house restaurant offers a nice variety of regional and seasonal foods.
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	- Waste is collected separately and disposed of or recycled correctly according to Swiss standards (no landfills). - Grass clippings from the greens are brought to a compost plant. - Other maintained turf areas incl. tees are mulched in order to reduce the need for fertilizer. - Kitchen waste is brought to a biogas plant. CIP:

			- The green waste site in the southeast of the golf course should be removed as soon as possible.
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	Every form of waste is disposed of correctly.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the constricted space, the golf course can be used only for playing golf in the summer season in order to ensure safety. - In winter, the golf course accommodates winter hiking paths, cross-country skiing trails and sleigh rides.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The focus lies on promoting the sport of golf for people with special needs. - Ski and ice hockey junior teams are supported financially.
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'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are annual meetings with representatives of the municipality, tourism sector, farmers and the forester. - There is a close and positive contact and exchange with the local building official and the office for environment (Amt für Natur ANU). - Keeping agreements creates trust.
C2 Golfers & Employees			
C2.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C2.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The restaurant offers several good vegetarian menus. - See C1.1 and C1.2

			- There are various activities mainly with school children, programs like "Globi spielt Golf", "GkG Kids" and "Albula-Kids".
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	- Guest players may play with a handicap of 54 at the most. - Reductions on the 18-hole green fee are available for children up to 18 years old.
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	- All employees are employed on fair terms. There are written contracts and an employee handbook. There are annual appraisals, a season start event and collective breaks. - Many employees have been there for many years already.
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	- Information within the meeting of members regarding the use of compost and compost tea, including an article in the local paper. - The Golf Pro answers new members' questions regarding the application of pesticides, fertilizers and compost tea. CIP: - Create an area on your website dedicated to sustainability in which your efforts are conveyed comprehensibly, and the GEO certification can be communicated.
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	- See above

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