



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Utrechtse Golfclub 'De Pan'

Prepared by independent verifier, Janneke Vedder

Certified by GEO Foundation: July 2022
Valid until: July 2027

GEO Certified[®]

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Een prachtige baan waarbij je alleen al door de toegangsweg echt in een andere wereld komt. Zoveel natuur en verassende uitzichten, een uitdaging om te mogen spelen. Ik ben benieuwd naar de besparing die alle isolatiemaatregelen en de warmte terugwinning opleveren.”

Janneke Vedder

(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that **Utrechtse Golfclub 'De Pan'** 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.

Utrechtse Golfclub 'De Pan' 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, **Utrechtse Golfclub 'De Pan'** should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, **Utrechtse Golfclub 'De Pan'** 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	Habitats en vegetatietypen zijn beschreven. Een kaart hiervan heet 'kaart oncourse locaties'.

	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	Zowel in het beheerplan UGC De Pan als in het ecologisch werkprotocol staat beschreven hoe wordt omgegaan met de Wet natuurbescherming.
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	De archeologische en cultuurhistorische waarden zijn in beeld. Er zijn een aantal cultuurhistorische elementen op de baan aanwezig. UGC De Pan beschermd en vertrekt deze elementen.
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	Het areaal intensief beheerd gras is al minimaal. Daar waar de bal niet hoort te liggen wordt extensief beheert.
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	Ecologisch werkprotocol aanwezig opgesteld door Buiting Advies. In dit protocol staat beschreven hoe er in de praktijk al werd gewerkt.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		Nee, de soorten volgen het beheer.
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	Er wordt gekozen voor grassoorten die van nature in de omgeving voorkomen. Dit zijn met name roodzwenkgras en struisgras. Deze soorten kunnen goed omgaan met de bodemomstandigheden van de baan.
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		Er wordt gewerkt aan een goede bodemstructuur door juist heel weinig te doen. Less is more. Dus zo min mogelijk van alles en de bodem zelf het werk laten doen. Resultaat is o.a. een enorm diepe doorworteling.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	Bodemanalyses staan in het document 'Agronoom juli 2020' en in de 'Nulmeting 2021'

N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	'onkruid' wordt met de hand uitgestoken.
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	Voor dollarspot wordt met een schadedrempel gewerkt. Bij het bereiken van de schadedrempel wordt de dollarspot lokaal met de hand bespoten met een middel wat tegen dollarspot werkt.
	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	Alles wordt goed geregistreerd en de certificaten zijn aanwezig. Er is een speciale gewasbeschermingsmiddelen kast.
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.	Er is geen kaart met bufferzones. Nou is er ook geen water op de baan, dus kan oppervlaktewater sowieso niet vervuild worden. Daarnaast is het gebruik van gewasbeschermingsmiddelen alleen toegestaan op de green indien de schadedrempel van dollarspot wordt bereikt.
	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	Licenties en dergelijke zijn aanwezig. Geen opmerkingen over.
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from	Ensure wash areas are on impermeable, leak-free surfaces; Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable surface;	Wasplaats ziet er netjes uit. Geen opmerkingen over.

	maintenance facility operations	Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators	
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	Brandstoftank is vrij nieuw, van 2016. De tank hoeft nog niet gekeurd te worden. Bij de tank hangt een speciale brandblusser. UGC De Pan gaat zoveel mogelijk over op elektrische apparaten waardoor er minder brandstof nodig is. Brandstoffen staan in een speciale brandstofkast.
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)	Afvalwater van de wasplaats wordt afgevoerd door Van der Velden. Overeenkomst hiervoor is aanwezig.

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	Alleen de greens en tees worden berekend om de grassen in leven te houden en het speelbaar te houden. Verder wordt er niet berekend.
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;	Er wordt gebruik gemaakt van een aantal vaste vochtmeters en daarnaast is er een losse vochtmeter die lokaal gebruikt kan worden. Door delen waar veel engerlingen zitten te laten verdrogen drogen ook de engerlingen uit. Qua software wordt Rainbird stratus 2 gebruikt.

		Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis	De hardware is in 2016 vernieuwd.
	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	Er is een wateraudit uitgevoerd en de resultaten zijn verwerkt in het document 'Wateraudit'. De maatregelen die genomen gaan worden zijn nog niet in tijd weggezet. CIP: Maak het document 'Wateraudit' SMART en neem vooral een planning op in dit document. Dit geeft handvatten voor de uitvoering.
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	Correct aanwezig
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	Het maximale areaal van de golfbaan wordt extensief beheerd. De extensief beheerde grazige delen worden helemaal niet gemaaid.
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	Energie audit aanwezig.
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	Onderzocht is of er energie opgewekt kan worden op de baan. Helaas is dat niet mogelijk. Wel wordt er warmte teruggewonnen d.m.v. een speciaal systeem. En wordt er gewerkt aan verdere isolatie van de gebouwen.
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	Papier, glas en restafval wordt los van elkaar ingezameld. Er zijn getallen bekend van de hoeveelheid afval. De afvalverwerker weegt het opgehaalde afval niet.

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	Restaurant is constant opzoek naar meer en nieuwe lokale producten. Qua hardware wordt er lokaal ingekocht wat lokaal beschikbaar is. En dat wat opgeknapt kan worden wordt opgeknapt. Zo worden de stoelen allemaal opnieuw bekleed met een verantwoorde stof.
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	Contracten aanwezig Aparte afvalinzamelstations aanwezig
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	Overeenkomsten aanwezig

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		Er worden bijna elk weekend wedstrijden gehouden. Daarnaast zijn er themafeesten.
C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes		Er zijn 26 commissies die volledig zijn gevuld met vrijwilligers. Ook worden er opschoondagen gehouden waar vrijwilligers aan meewerken. Daarnaast worden er goede doelen dagen georganiseerd.
C1.3 Establish active community partnerships	C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with	Create a 'sustainability working group'	De GEO overleggen worden genotuleerd. De overleggen vinden minimaal 1 keer per jaar plaats en indien nodig 1 keer per kwartaal.

	neighbours, the local community and other groups		CIP: Kom 1 keer per kwartaal als GEO groep samen om de stand van zaken door te spreken en taken opnieuw te verdelen. Zou houdt je de voortgang mbt GEO bij en komt niet alles in een keer.
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	Er is meer vraag voor lidmaatschap dan dat er aangeboden kan worden. Op jaarbasis zijn er ca tien plekken beschikbaar voor nieuwe leden. En er zijn dikwijls wel meer dan honderd nieuwe aanvragen. CIP: Pas de tekst op de website iets aan op de website zodat bovenstaande duidelijk wordt. Op maandag tot en met donderdag zijn externen welkom. Een lid mag 12 keer per jaar een gast uitnodigen.
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	CAO Golfbranche wordt gehanteerd
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	De website en socialmedia wordt door een lid bijgehouden. GEO staat uitgebreid vermeld en uitgelegd.
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	Er wordt gewerkt met PAN-partners. In alle gevallen worden de PAN-partners eerst benaderd als er producten en/of diensten ingekocht gaan worden.

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