

2020 Waste Management Phoenix Open

January 30th to February 2nd 2020

TPC Scottsdale, AZ



Certification Report

September 2020

1. Summary

GEO Foundation is delighted to recognize the 2020 Waste Management Phoenix Open - as having retained its status as a GEO Certified® Tournament.

The tournament was hosted by The Thunderbirds at TPC Scottsdale taking place between the 27th of January and 2nd of February 2020.

This report provides a summary of actions undertaken and results achieved, paying particular attention to the delivery of the Continual Improvement Points that were identified following the 2019 edition of the event.

It should also be noted that 2020 was a 'self-assessment' year - where there is no third-party verification. Self-assessment and third-party verification run on alternate years following the initial three years of third-party verification.

This means the Waste Management Phoenix Open has:

- Successfully undergone third-party verification for the previous three years 2017-2019
- Remained at the same venue over this period with no significant operational changes for 2020
- Submitted a Self-Assessment verification form for 2020
- Successfully passed the GEO Certified® review
- Met all the required criteria of golf's voluntary standard for sustainable golf tournaments
- Delivered sufficiently on all 2019 Continual Improvement Points
- Agreed to further improvement points and third-party verification for 2021.

GEO concurs with the tournament self-assessment submission that, having achieved 49 out of the 49 credits sought, and with Continual Improvement Points set for the future, the Waste Management Phoenix Open should retain the GEO Certified® Tournament status for the 2020 event.

Retaining this certification recognizes the organizers' continued credible and important leadership in advancing sustainability - in and through golf - helping foster nature, conserve resources, take climate action and strengthen communities.

The tournament has also helped to raise awareness and influence a broader audience.

This official GEO Certified® Tournament Self-Assessment Report summarises the highlights and best practice activities taking place, and continual improvement points accepted for future editions of the tournament.

Jonathan Smith
Executive Director
GEO Foundation

2. Best practices and highlights

Sustainability was implemented in a planned and coordinated way across all key elements of event staging, building on the consistency and momentum of previous years and delivered in line with the GEO tournament certification criteria.

A wide range of activity spanned the following sustainability action areas:

1. Planning
2. Site protection
3. Procurement
4. Resource management
5. Access and equity
6. Communications
7. Legacy

Highlights

- Development of a new and robust [Sustainability Report website](#).
- Actively working to reduce emissions, plus the tournament purchased Gold Standard certified carbon emission offsets that more than cover operations, player travel, vendor travel and volunteer travel.
- Graywater was collected from catering operations to supply portable toilets across the site.
- Food-only waste bins were introduced in kitchens, monitored and kept clean to reduce hauling needs, sorting time and contamination. The program worked extremely well and is planned to be expanded.
- Energy from grid is from renewable sources; biodiesel generators and solar compactors are used on site; and one third of shuttle buses run on biodiesel.
- The tournament host, the Thunderbirds, partnered with the Arizona State University School of Business in 2017 on a complete report estimating tournament-driven economic impacts at around \$389 million. Updates since then put the 2020 total over \$400 million.
- Effectively communicate public transportation options to tournament attendees; promote use of biodiesel shuttles; secure bicycle parking provided.
- Continued educational fan interactive element around material management, greenhouse gas emissions, and water conservation and embedded water at the new WM Green Scene; plus 'Green Out' funds donated to Bonneville Environmental Foundation for its 'Change the Course' water restoration efforts.
- Free scooter access is available for alter-abled patrons and online resources to communicate accessibility services, enabling and encouraging accessibility to the event.
- Free public access for first 2 days of tournament activities, including Pro-Am.

3. Continual Improvement Points

The following **Continual Improvement Points (CIPs)** were identified during certification of the 2020 tournament.

Credit 3.1 - Produce a Procurement Policy and Plan - Continue development of procurement plan for 2021 focused on WM and Thunderbirds impacts. Consider introducing a sustainability supplier tracker to establish procurement baseline, inform future focus and targets within procurement policy and to monitor and enable the promotion of the extent of local suppliers at the event.

Credit 3.3 - Re-Use Materials - Focus on re-use of wood and identify and record (via supplier tracker) specific contractor initiatives, such as change of single-use plastic wrap to reusable materials.

Credit 3.5 - Establish a Sustainable Food and Drinks Offering - Focus on local and ethical sourcing, including use of reputable certifications such as Fairtrade, and a varied menu offered plentiful low impact vegan and vegetarian options across site.

Credit 4.4 - Food Waste - Expansion of food waste stream collection.

Credit 4.5 - Water Conservation - Further expansion and monitoring of graywater collection and use across site, to include reporting of figures.

4. Verification process

Following three years of successful third-party certification by The Council for Responsible Sport, accredited by GEO Foundation for golf tournament verification in North America, The Waste Management Phoenix Open was eligible for biannual self-assessment, reviewed by GEO Foundation.

The eligibility criteria for self-assessment, met by the 2020 WMPO are:

- Successfully undergone third-party verification for the previous three years
- Remained at the same venue over this period with no significant operational changes for 2020
- Submitted a Self-Assessment verification form for 2020
- Successfully passed the GEO Certified® review
- Met all the required criteria of golf's voluntary standard for sustainable golf tournaments

The tournament submitted a self-assessment form which was reviewed by GEO Foundation. Follow up information was sought and provided by the tournament.

In 2021, the Waste Management Phoenix Open will require third-party certification, with eligibility for biannual self-assessment verification reviewed every two years.

The Waste Management Phoenix Open's Third-Party verified GEO Certified® Reports for 2017, 2018 and 2019 can be found at [sustainable.golf](https://www.sustainable.golf).