



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Timrå Golfklubb

Prepared by independent verifier, Kerstin Antonsson

Certified by GEO Foundation: December 2021
Valid until: December 2024

GEO Certified[®]

 **GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“Timrå Golfklubb is distinguished by a great commitment to social sustainability, not only within the club but for the entire community. Its activities exude a strong culture of helpfulness, participation, and collaboration among management and members. I look forward to following the club's work on the youth initiative, Teamsters, and the new business plan (vision) that will be communicated in late 2021 and that will strengthen the club's core business and attractiveness in the coming years and improve the already ongoing sustainable path.”

Kerstin Antonsson

GEO accredited independent verifier



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that **Timrå Golfklubb** 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.

Timrå Golfklubb 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, **Timrå Golfklubb** should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, **Timrå Golfklubb** 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	Timrå Golfclub is a seaside course that is built on sedimentary sand with clay and extends over 70 hectares situated beside the famous Indalsriver delta.

			<p>There are large uncut surfaces on the course with red fescue, forest areas mainly birch, and marshland with bog myrtle. The course is very close to the sea and/or groundwater level. The southwestern part of the club area is likely to be adjacent to a biotope protection area of an unknown nature.</p> <p>The different habitats are plotted on a map and briefly described in the documented management procedures for external areas. The management routine was developed with the municipality's ecologist in connection with a forest thinning in 2018. Small waters will be improved after discussions with the new municipality's ecologist when she is settled in the coming year.</p> <p>The ecological inventory is described and divided into seven (7) different biotopes in the club's environmental plan. Birds, animals, and plants are listed in the inventory.</p> <p>Continual Improvement Point: The inventory can be extended with insects and aquatic fauna.</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	<p>Cooperation has been continuously carried out with the municipal ecologist and County of Administrative Board. See also described planned project for increased pike presence in section C1.1.</p> <p>There are 55 species reported in the Swedish "Artdatabanken" for protected, endangered, or rare species within the golf course area. (https://fyndkartor.artfakta.se)</p>
	N1.1.3 Understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site	There are no known archaeological, historical, or cultural designations/features on the site.
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	No specific measures have yet been taken to measure golfers' play or actively reduce the managed turfgrass area. This does not detract from the quality and good management of habitats.
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 rough is harvested once a season in October with a forage harvester that cuts and collects the grass. The intention is to remove seeds and nutrition to benefit the grass species the club wants in the rough (different fescue species).</p> <p>The different habitats are plotted on a map and briefly described in the documented management procedures for external areas. See N1.1. above.</p>

			Native species are chosen when planting and landscaping.
N1.4 Conserve key species	N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species		The ecological inventory described in the Environmental Plan refers to a unique conservation-worthy biotope (open sandland) that could contain a protected insect fauna. See continual improvement point at N1.1 above.
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	<p>The dominant grass species that varieties on the track are <i>Poa annua</i>, <i>Poa trivialis</i>, and <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>. Different types of grass species and subspecies have been tested to find grasses that are of good quality and require less input of water and nutrition, as well as more resistant to diseases and stress.</p> <p>Increased amounts during rain have a negative impact on the course even if has good permeability. The course is also sensitive to elevated groundwater levels. To reduce impact, most greens are raised.</p> <p>In order for the course to be protected as much as possible from ice damage during the winter, winter covering of greens takes place. This also provides an opportunity for faster startup of the course condition in the spring.</p>
	N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition		See below N2.1.3 and N2.2.1.
	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	Undertake soil tests and nutrient analysis	<p>The northern location of the course means that the hours of sunshine will be many in the middle of the season. Fertilizer amounts are adapted to hours of daylight, precipitation, and temperature. Adaptation is made, among other things, with "spoon-feeding" to get the best effect and housekeeping. Large doses are avoided.</p> <p>Soil analyses are carried out regularly to determine nutritional needs.</p> <p>Organic fertilizers (chicken manure and seaweed) and conventional fertilizers are used.</p>
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	Sharpen mowing blades; Remove surface moisture; Hand weeding	Several measures are used to strengthen the grass plants. Sharpen mowing blades several times in the season. The surface area is kept as dry as possible through dew and surface aeration. Dressage and a higher cutting height reduce mechanical wear and stress the plants less. This is compensated by rolling so as not to impair playability.

			Growth regulators are used to better control growth on mainly the greens. It creates a stronger plant that becomes more resistant against disease, grows more slowly, which means fewer cutting opportunities, and provides a better playing surface.
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	<p>Knowledge of the use of pesticides and diseases is very high. The application of chemicals is kept on a minimal level and only used when necessary to prevent or cure turf health issues.</p> <p>Visual inspections and checks are carried out daily in the course. Indicator places on the course are well known. This information is placed on a map and with documented disease hotspots, tracks, and trends.</p> <p>Through a developed IPM program, the staff is constantly learning how they can act preventively to minimize the risk of disease.</p> <p>Samples for analysis are sent in spring and autumn for e.g., fungicides. Any occurrence and action are discussed with the specialists.</p>
	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	<p>There is an excellent control program describing the course area and sampling to prevent leakage into groundwater.</p> <p>Two people have applicator licenses to use pesticides.</p> <p>A spraying log is drawn up with information on the date of execution, spray driver, area, preparation, dosage and quantity, and the purpose of the use.</p> <p>The test applicator will be tested and calibrated this year. Protective equipment shields and safety distances are used.</p> <p>Disposal of leftovers is spread on the course so that no active residue remains unused.</p>
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;	<p>Routines and activities for different types of emergency spills from chemicals are developed.</p> <p>Protective equipment shields and safety distances are used.</p> <p>A proposal for a water quality control program is in place and involves sampling to check and assess whether there is a risk that pesticides used</p>

		Create a map / aerial visual reproduction, drawing etc of the course showing buffer zones and no-spray, no-spread areas.	may leach into groundwater. A map with the location of sample sites is available.
	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	Agreements exist with approved companies for the disposal of waste and wastewater. See N3.2.1 below.
	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	Pesticide containers and applicators are triple rinsed. The impermeable wash area is connected to a three-chamber separator with infiltration. Mixing and loading of pesticides and fertilizers are done on a biological bed of straw.
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	Pesticides are kept tidy in a lockable chemical cabinet. The cabinet is labeled with the emergency procedure. Protection equipment for spillage and personal are available. Only authorized personnel have access to the storage area. Hazardous chemicals used for course maintenance are listed in a binder together with safety data sheets. Continual Improvement Point: The chemical register needs to be extended with product names and safety data sheets for all hazardous chemicals used in the club area (workshop chemicals, fertilizers, detergents, etc.). A diesel fuel tank is placed inside a locked steel container. Regular inspection is scheduled. The order confirmation for the next inspection could be presented. Fire extinguishers are in place. Continual Improvement Point: Risk analysis for the handling of fuel tank filling and refueling should be carried out to ensure that the protection of spills and leakage action plan is adequate.
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)	Contaminated wastewater is disposed of by municipal sanitation. An impermeable wash pad is used for washing machines. Washing with degreasing takes place only once a season; otherwise, only available surface water (irrigation water from the pump pit) is used. Wastewater is led to the three-chamber well with infiltration.

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	<p>The irrigation is adapted to needs. Green, tee, and fairway are irrigated if necessary.</p> <p>When needed, irrigation can be done by hand on the greens.</p> <p>The irrigations system of today has limited reduction possibilities. Se R1.2.1 below.</p>
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	<p>Conduct regular irrigation performance checks;</p> <p>Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices;</p> <p>Ensure effective application of water to target areas;</p> <p>Ensure irrigation schedules are informed by weather patterns and soil moisture analysis</p>	<p>The humidity in the soil is measured regularly during the high season.</p> <p>Rainbird is used as a software to steer and control irrigation. The pumps were replaced in 2010, frequency control of the pumps is available.</p> <p>The irrigation system is old and in need of modernization. The water pipes are narrow and replaced successively.</p> <p>The irrigation system is built as a sprinkler block system with limited possibilities for efficiency. Old sprinklers are gradually replaced with modern ones with vectorizing functions. Control can then be done to narrow surfaces instead of more extensive areas that take place today.</p>
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	<p>Audit water use regularly;</p> <p>Review bills frequently and look for irregularities;</p> <p>Encourage water-saving practices amongst staff and visitors;</p> <p>Categorise and track water consumption</p>	<p>The water outlets are recorded and distributed in the clubhouse, workshop, and irrigation. The clubhouse and workshop use municipally purified water. For irrigation and cleaning at the wash pad, surface water is used.</p> <p>Continual Improvement Point: By verifying what water outlets for clubhouses and machine halls are used for, the club can plan to make consumption-reducing measures where possible.</p>

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	Landscaped surface water is used for irrigation. Withdrawals per hole are recorded and followed up.
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	<p>There are two "robots" installed on the range. With electrified automation of mowing and ball picking at the range, the club expects a CO2 reduction with 80%, or 2.1 tons of CO²equity, per year.</p> <p>Environmental fuel (alkylate gasoline) is used for all hand machines. Some fuel-powered hand machines have been gradually replaced with battery-powered machines.</p> <p>Over 70% of the fleet runs on electric or hybrid power.</p>
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	<p>The club has participated in a big energy mapping project 2016-2018, where all buildings have been inventoried from an energy perspective. Since 2018, significant investments have been made in control systems for ventilation, cooling compressors replacement, additional clubhouse insulation, three air heat pumps, etc. See also chapter C1.3.</p> <p>The club has carried out a survey of light sources in the facility and replaced them with energy-smart luminaires in the project. About 80-85% of the luminaires have been replaced to today's date.</p>
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	<p>Renewable energy (electricity) is used.</p> <p>Design for four charging poles for electric cars and solar cells on rooftops is ongoing. The charging poles will be set up during 2021.</p>
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	<p>The club economizes its resources and consolidates its purchases. Purchases are prioritized according to policy. See below R3.2.1 and R3.3.1.</p> <p>Environmental plan requirements: During repairs and maintenance of the properties, units are replaced with energy-efficient alternatives.</p> <p>Very few chemical products are used for the maintenance of the machinery.</p> <p>As far as possible, the club seeks to direct information to members through notices on the club and/or email to minimize the use of</p>

			consumables. In 2019, membership invoices were sent out electronically to approximately 1,300 members instead of letter post.
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	<p>The club has a policy that includes governance about professional and guiding keywords when purchasing.</p> <p>The policy covers the ordering process, product quality, and costs. When choosing a supplier, priority shall be given to local presence, social and ethical responsibility, environmental certificates, and good references.</p> <p>The policy becomes more precise if it is stated when it is decided and who has decided that it should apply.</p>
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	<p>The club complies with waste management regulations. Waste is sorted into several fractions to be recycled as materials or energy.</p> <p>Labeled bins and containers are placed in the club area and in the machine hall.</p> <p>The waste is documented in the consolidated list, where both collector and final disposal management are specified. Most of the waste goes to material recycling. Concrete and minor volumes of unsorted waste go to landfills.</p>
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	Authorized waste and recycling contractors are used for housekeeping waste (called municipal waste in new regulations), industrial and hazardous waste. Collectors are Timrå municipality, Stena Recycling och TIRAB, and Sundsvall Energi.

COMMUNITY			
C1 Outreach			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes

<p>C1.1 Diversify access and provide multi-functionality</p>	<p>C1.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility</p>		<p>It is possible to set up a motorhome or caravan on site. There are eight places with electricity in a specially prepared car park. In addition, there is a good restaurant and dressing room with relaxation and sauna.</p> <p>A padel court is available. Rental rackets and the sale of balls take place in the office of Timrå Golf Club.</p> <p>After renovating the driving range and short-course facilities, the training area will be branded "Teamsters Golf Arena." This is a cooperation with the local professional hockey team's charity organization, which aims to fight bullying and exclusion for young people in sports and society.</p> <p>The charity also works to promote physical activity for young people by exposing them to different sports. And, finally, working together with schools, companies, and social groups to reach these goals.</p> <p>The partnership includes naming rights for the arena to promote the Teamsters brand and a charity golf competition to raise money for the charity itself. The cooperation also opens the door for young people to learn more about golf and how to play.</p> <p>Together with a local salmon fishing club and Timrå Municipality, Timrå Golf Club has started a project to build two nature "pike factories" with a total area of roughly three hectares within and adjacent to the golf club's property.</p> <p>In winter, a 5.5 km long ski track is created on the course. The ski track is open for everyone in the community to use.</p>
<p>C1.2 Provide for volunteering and charity</p>	<p>C1.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes</p>		<p>During the past season, Timrå Golfclub has hosted a charity golf competition together with the local professional football team's supporter club to raise awareness about prostate cancer and collect money for prostate cancer research. This was the third year for the competition, which collected €8,100 for the charity. So far, the annual competition has collected roughly €24,300, which has been donated to the charity, "Mustaschekampen."</p> <p>Corporate golf is organized annually to raise money for the Teamsters. See above C1.1.1.</p>
<p>C1.3 Establish active community partnerships</p>	<p>C1.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups</p>	<p>Create a 'sustainability working group'</p>	<p>The club has an active environmental group that cooperates with the municipality and the environmental authority.</p>

			<p>Timrå Golf Club has participated in the project; Energy Smart Sports Facilities, a project with Västernorrland's sports federation. The project was completed in 2018.</p> <p>The project's primary mission was to create models, opportunities, and knowledge of how sports facilities can reduce their energy use without reducing the business or its quality. This, in turn, resulted in less climate impact and the opportunity for sports clubs to use their resources more for expanded activities. The project involves energy and climate advisors from the municipality.</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		<p>In addition to regular competitions, there are also seasonal competitions are organized for men and women.</p> <p>Around 40,000 rounds played in 2021 contribute to increased health among golfers.</p>
C2.2 Be open and inclusive	C2.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Demonstrate inclusive policies for members and visitors	<p>The short distance course consists of 6 holes between 47-78 meters and is open to anyone who wants to play golf. No handicap or membership in any golf club is required. The course will be illuminated to increase usability in the dark season.</p> <p>Differentiated membership is available for different ages but also for those who play less often.</p> <p>The Club has a good composition of men and women (50/50) in the board, management, and committees. The club is involved in the Swedish Golf Association's project Vision 50/50.</p> <p>It is very gratifying to see female employees in the course staff because this group usually is male-dominated.</p> <p>The course offers to play from five different tees.</p> <p>A digital survey (Players first) is sent out to the members twice a year to get suggestions for improvement and wishes about the club's operations.</p>
C2.3 Employ fairly and safely, and provide career opportunities	C2.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working	Follow all relevant national legislation and best practice for employment, health & safety etc	Human rights and national occupational health and safety regulations are followed.

	conditions and professional development		<p>The chemical list needs to be improved. See above N3.2.</p> <p>In 2021, the office and club manager have improved the working environment through access to individual offices.</p>
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	<p>At information evenings and annual meetings, the club's members are informed about the club's environmental work. They are also encouraged to use carpooling.</p> <p>The club exudes a strong culture of social commitment and cohesion among management and members.</p> <p>The members show great interest and willingness to help in the operation. The club director refers to its members as heroes.</p> <p>The club's website will be redesigned during the winter of 2021/2022 to improve communication.</p>
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	<p>The club has an outstanding commitment to the community and cooperates with many companies, authorities, and other organizations. See above C1.1.1.</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