



GEO Certified®

# LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE GOLF



**GEO**  
**Foundation**  
for Sustainable Golf

# About GEO Certified<sup>®</sup>

GEO Certified is the most widely regarded and credible sustainability distinction in golf, awarded to golf facilities around the world that meet the international Standard of best practice and demonstrate a commitment to a sustainability journey, looking to do ever more for social and environmental value.

The distinction is a point of pride for employees and golfers.

- ✓ **Fostering nature**
- ✓ **Conserving resources**
- ✓ **Building community**
- ✓ **Taking climate action**

**Internationally  
accredited**

**Supported  
across golf**

**Trusted by  
communities**



# Leading the field

From local 9-hole courses to internationally renowned resorts, certification is widely accessible, underpinned by Standards which are very achievable in the first instance and include a forward commitment to continue to strive for improvements.

Achieving Certification highlights your course as a leader in sustainability and can open doors to marketing opportunities, support for financial grants, improved community and governmental relations and pride amongst staff and golfers.



GEO Certified

THE  
OPEN

# Trusted and credible

For more than fifteen years, GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf has been committed to ensuring GEO Certification is a trusted and respected mark that you can display with confidence. This has meant a wide and ongoing collaboration between national and international golf associations, people on the ground in golf, research institutes, government and non-governmental organizations, and businesses to develop and deliver a modern, credible, and accessible sustainability system for golf.

As a further measure of credibility, GEO Foundation is the only sports organization that meets ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice – a globally recognized framework for effective and credible sustainability systems.

The work of GEO Foundation and the programmes it manages and assures are supported, endorsed or promoted by a wide range of organizations in golf and in the wider sustainability movement.



# Communications and outreach

GEO Certification comes with a range of communications and marketing materials to help your golf business or club make the most of the GEO Certified label. With minimal effort, you can use the toolkit of

materials provided to help attract new interest, new customers, and improve your reputation. You will also receive guidance on how to make the most of your achievement in and about the course and beyond.

Golf Du Rhin, France benefited from €100,000 worth of free publicity in various publications and television as a result of its Certification.

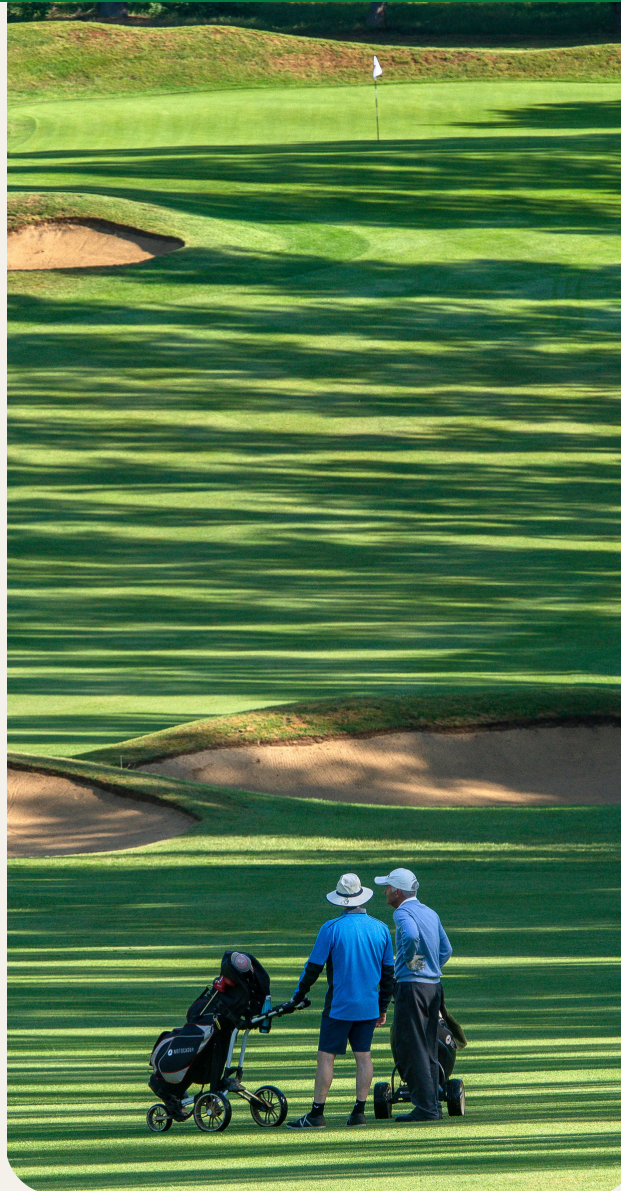


# Process for applying

- 1 Use the OnCourse online tool to easily self-assess your actions across three areas:
  - Fostering nature
  - Conserving resources
  - Strengthening communities

Mark all actions or situations that currently apply at your golf facility. Actions required for certification are marked with green flags.

- 2 Input the last complete calendar year of data into Annual Data section of OnCourse (3-years if renewing certification).



- 3 Upload any supporting documents into Documents Library in OnCourse.
- 4 Create a minimum of three example Highlights, sharing projects or achievements at [www.sustainable.golf/highlights](http://www.sustainable.golf/highlights)
- 5 Request an initial review of the information in your OnCourse account by contacting [hello@sustainable.golf](mailto:hello@sustainable.golf)

We may reply to clarify some data and then once it's ready, our Certification Manager will appoint a local, independent Verifier to do an on-site or virtual visit to review your work.

# Programme packages

## OnCourse®

### Free sustainability programme

Practical and easy-to-use programme to help understand, track and communicate your sustainability and climate action, including:

- Best practice checklists
- Annual data tracker
- Profile page in the Sustainable Golf Directory
- Tools and guidance to plan next actions
- Expanding kit of communications materials
- Documents Library to store your sustainability related files
- Multiple users can be added to the golf facility account



## OnCourse®+

### Reports & Carbon Footprint

Free use of OnCourse - plus OnCourse Reports and Carbon Footprint can be prepared each year to help you track, improve and communicate your sustainability.

- Annual reports - £300/year
- 3-years of annual reports - £750

### Support Services

Option to add a dedicated virtual support service to get started and work to your Reports and Carbon Footprint.

- Support - from £450

Additional services are also available including more support options communications packages, more detailed forward planning support and more.

On-site support may also be available and some costs vary by country - please email to find out about your location.

For more details, contact  
[hello@sustainable.golf](mailto:hello@sustainable.golf)



### Certification

Once OnCourse has been completed you can apply to become GEO Certified, the most widely endorsed and credible sustainability distinction for golf.

- GEO Certified administration - £400\*

### Certification + Reports

Most people also request their annual OnCourse sustainability reports at this time.

- Certification + reports - £675\*
- Certification + 3-years reports - £1025\*

### Certification Verification

An Independent Verifier is required to visit as part of the credibility assurance. The fee paid directly to the individual varies by country, scale of facility, virtual or onsite. Guide cost begins at £800 for a virtual visit.

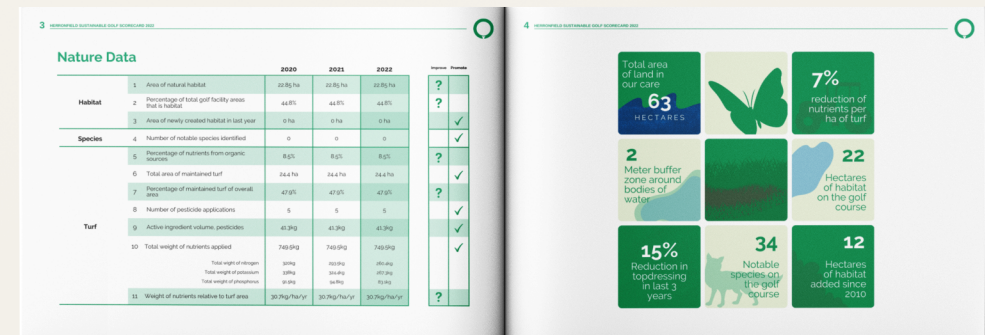
The second certification is after three years, then every five years in most countries.

\*Administration and verification fees higher for larger sites; may be discounted for small clubs; and there is some variation by country. Email for specifics.

# Staying connected

- Continue using OnCourse to update any new actions and record your data to get an annual Sustainability Scorecard each year.
- Visit [sustainable.golf/highlights](https://sustainable.golf/highlights) to share any new projects you're proud of - or browse the library to get ideas.
- Tag and follow us on social media @sustainablegolf
- Stay up-to-date with the sustainable golf community and get tips and ideas through the Point of Impact and OnCourse newsletters

Get in touch anytime: [hello@sustainable.golf](mailto:hello@sustainable.golf) or on +44 (0) 01620 895100





# About GEO Foundation

GEO Foundation is an international non-profit, founded in Scotland and entirely dedicated to helping accelerate sustainability in and through golf.

The team at GEO work collaboratively across golf and beyond to help inspire, support, recognise and share leadership, and to help golf gain the recognition it deserves for its environmental commitment and social value.

We hope to see you and your golf facility joining the Sustainable Golf community, or becoming GEO Certified, helping us to grow and celebrate the positive impact golf can have!

