



Worldwide environmental and sustainability issues

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A publication of World Golf Foundation

As a leader in the golf industry, the World Golf Foundation has included you on a list to receive our e-newsletter, *World Golf Foundation Links*. For those new to the list, and as a reminder to those already receiving this e-newsletter, it will be sent three to four times a year and will focus on an issue of import to the industry by assimilating links to stories and articles from around the world on that subject. This month's topic focuses on environmental and sustainability issues in golf around the world. We hope you find the publication useful and welcome your thoughts and comments.

Steve Mona, CEO
World Golf Foundation

The very nature of golf creates a unique relationship to the environment unlike any other sport. Golf exists within and relies upon a healthy environment to ensure playing surfaces that in-turn deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. Golf organizations and facilities worldwide successfully focus considerable energy on environmental matters. Sustainable golf operations help to ensure efficiency and improved operations that benefit the business and the game. The collection of links below provides a look into different ways golf organizations are dealing with environmental and sustainability issues worldwide.

[American Society of Golf Course Architects](#)

The ASGCA is the oldest professional organization of golf course designers in the United States. It is actively involved in promoting environmentally responsible golf course designs.

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses is an award winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect our environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf.

Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association

The AGCSA is committed to the ongoing professional development and support of the golf course maintenance industry, working to ensure all golf courses have the best possible playing surfaces and adjacent environment within the limitations of available resources. The AGCSA has formed a partnership with ePar to utilize an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System for member golf courses. <http://www.epar.com.au>.

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association

The CGSA represents golf course managers and related professionals from across Canada and provides ongoing support and representation with respect to matters that affect the profession and the industry.

Danish Golf Union's Green Audit

Under a voluntary agreement between the Danish Golf Union (DGU) and the Danish Government, clubs in the country are required by law to submit an annual Green Audit. This asks for data from each course on the irrigation water, fertiliser and pesticides used, plus information on energy consumption and waste produced. The R&A has worked with the DGU to provide a standardised mechanism for inputting this data and reporting on it through its web-based benchmarking service.

Environmental Institute for Golf

EIFG the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America – a collaborative effort of the environmental and golf communities, dedicated to strengthening the

compatibility of golf with the natural environment. The Institute concentrates on delivering programs and services involving research, education and outreach that communicate the best management practices of environmental stewardship on the golf course.

Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations

FEGGA is dedicated to communicating and sharing environmentally sustainable ideals and skill to promote golf-course management of the highest standard.

Golf Course Builders Association of America

The GCBA is dedicated to advancing and continuously improving the profession of golf course construction while serving the interests of its member companies. Its goal is to support the growth and vitality of the golf course industry while promoting the continued enjoyment of the game.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

The GCSAA is a professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf courses. The association provides education, information and representation to more than 19,000 members in more than 72 countries.

Golf Environment Organization

Based in Scotland, this organization is a stakeholder-funded, not-for-profit group dedicated to helping the global golf community establish leadership in environmental enhancement and corporate responsibility.

Golf & Environment Initiative

This is an effort led by Audubon International in partnership with the United States Golf Association, The PGA of America, and other golf organizations dedicated to protecting the nature of the game.

Greener Golf

Greener Golf is an initiative from the English Golf Union, part funded by The R&A, and developed by

Sports Turf Research Institute. It aims to provide high quality, golf-specific, environmental advice to all English golf clubs and encourages golf clubs to form an environmental sub-committee and to generate an environmental policy document.

R&A – The Golf Course

This newly launched section of the R&A's website is targeted at decision makers in golf facilities with the executive power to initiate and drive change, which focuses on the sustainable management and development of golf courses.

USGA – Green Section

The Green Section is the USGA's department dedicated to distributing information on proper golf course maintenance and construction. The USGA also supports a robust turfgrass and environmental research program. The course care section of the USGA website focuses on impartial, comprehensive information for turfgrass management and the promotion of environmentally-sensitive course construction and care.

Summary

The golf industry is continuing to make the environment and sustainability an important issue. Industry efforts such as Golf's Drive Toward Sustainability indicate that golf facilities can provide environmental, economic and social benefits to communities. Partnerships like the USGA and Audubon International and new initiatives like The Golf Course from the R&A are showing that industry leaders are willing to devote significant resources to matters pertaining to golf's relationship with the environment.

<http://www.worldgolffoundation.org/>