



GEO Certified[®]

GEO Certified[®] Report Rosendaelsche Golf Club

Prepared by independent verifier Janneke Vedder-Sala

Certified by GEO Foundation: 2025
Recertification due: 2030

GEO Certified[®]



**GEO
Foundation**
Sustainability in and through golf

“The Rosendaelsche golf course is a very natural course situated near the Veluwe, the Netherland’s largest nature reserve. The natural environment is clearly reflected on the course, with the greenkeeping team and dedicated volunteers working together to take care for the course and its biodiversity. Sustainability efforts are also reflected in the facilities, such as the waste separation system introduced in 2023. In addition to implementing the steps identified in the 2020 energy scan, there are also opportunities for switching all lighting to LED. The team, volunteers, and members contribute collectively to a golf course where sustainability practices are highly valued.”

Janneke Vedder-Sala(GEO accredited independent verifier)



Introduction

GEO Foundation is pleased to confirm that Rosendaelsche Golfclub 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.

Rosendaelsche Golfclub 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 and Critical CIP's (CCIPs) to be reviewed at recertification, Rosendaelsche Golfclub should be awarded GEO Certified® status.

For the certification period stated above, Rosendaelsche Golfclub 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

Carole Kerrey
Director, Certification and Credibility,
GEO Certification Ltd.



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 – 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	General knowledge of the wildlife and habitats on the site	<p>Nature management plan with the habitat types of the golf course available.</p> <p>Inventory of flora and fauna (including mosses) documentation available.</p> <p>With a final mushroom inventory, 95 species of mushrooms have been observed all over the course.</p> <p>The highway is located on the west side of the golf course.</p> <p>The (negative) influences of this have also been observed by the amount of lichens on the trees.</p>
	N1.1.2 Knowledge of legal designations for protected areas, habitats and species	<p>Identify rare, protected or endangered species found on the golf course;</p> <p>Understand legal responsibilities for landscape protection and special area designations, if applicable</p>	<p>The code of conduct for nature management (legal obligation) is used, according to interviews.</p> <p>The badger sett on the course is spared in everything. Any damage caused by the badger to the green is only repaired when foraging activity decreases.</p> <p>Bare spots are created and kept open for the sand lizard.</p>
	N1.1.3 Sound understanding and respect for cultural heritage	Protect any archaeological, historical or cultural designations on the site, if applicable	<p>Old avenue structures and cart tracks seen in the management plan.</p> <p>These structures are maintained and, where possible, strengthened.</p> <p>The story of the avenue and cart tracks is told in annual excursions.</p>
N1.2 Opportunities to naturalise the golf course	N1.2.1 Measures taken to identify and minimise the required area of managed turfgrass	Monitor patterns of play to identify underutilised areas of turfgrass	Existing roughs are managed to impoverish. Mow once a year and then dispose of clippings.

<p>N1.3 Actively create and manage habitats for wildlife</p>	<p>N1.3.1 Projects to create and manage habitats in the best way for wildlife and golf</p>	<p>Prioritise native species of varying size and structure when planting</p> <p>Prioritise native trees and shrubs when planting</p> <p>Prioritise native aquatic species of varying size and structure when planting</p> <p>Establish mowing buffer zones next to water bodies and wetlands</p>	<p>Points under management strategy forest seen in the management plan.</p> <p>The plan is used as a guideline. One of the measures implemented is the creation of inlets in the forest to create more light and air on the course.</p>
<p>N1.4 Conserve key species</p>	<p>N1.4.1 Practical conservation measures for priority species</p>	<p>Follow local best practice to protect or attract endangered, protected or rare species found on site</p>	<p>Interviews show that the awareness of the dream species (target species) mentioned in the management plan and the necessary measures for this are not well present.</p> <p>For a subsequent management plan, it is good to be critical of set target species and to take into account the feasibility of allowing these target species to occur here.</p> <p>CIP: Please immerse yourself in the Basic Quality Nature (BKN) and determine what added value the Roosendaelsche Golfclub can bring to the BKN.</p>
<p>N2 Turfgrass</p>			
<p>N2.1 Maintain optimum turfgrass and soil health</p>	<p>N2.1.1 Appropriate turfgrass varieties adapted to climatic and other geomorphological factors</p>	<p>Select appropriate grass species for the climate</p>	<p>Two IPM reports available. Research report shows the condition of the greens in grass, organic matter and soil density.</p> <p>With advice for the greens.</p> <p>Existing grass species are preserved.</p> <p>Overseeding of the greens is done with new grass species that are resistant to drought, treading and can recover quickly.</p>
	<p>N2.1.2 Practices to maintain good soil structure and condition</p>	<p>No specific international requirement, however, identify course management and agronomic activities and look for continual improvements</p>	<p>Soil samples are taken from the greens every year and a plan for fertilization is made based on the results.</p>

	N2.1.3 Careful and responsible fertiliser application throughout the year to avoid over-fertilisation	<p>Test and monitor soil pH;</p> <p>Follow legal requirements when timing fertiliser applications</p> <p>Ensure staff are fully qualified to use fertilisers</p> <p>Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment</p> <p>Regularly calibrate and test applicators</p>	See previous points under N2.1.
N2.2 Prioritise mechanical maintenance	N2.2.1 Non-chemical pest, disease and weed management	<p>Sharpen mowing blades;</p> <p>Remove surface moisture;</p> <p>Change hole locations frequently</p>	<p>The road to less annual meadow grass has been uploaded to the Oncourse Documents Library.</p> <p>Measures taken from this: overseeding frequency, sanding, fertilization, vertical drainage with coarse/fine sand.</p> <p>With these measures, annual meadow grass is reduced because the soil becomes drier and poorer.</p>
N2.3 Use chemicals responsibly	N2.3.1 Application of chemicals only when necessary to prevent or cure defined / identified turf health issues	<p>Identify and track pest and disease hotspots, including sensitive areas</p> <p>Scout the course daily for early signs and symptoms</p> <p>Accurately diagnose to determine the cause of weeds, pests and diseases</p>	<p>New crop protection plan has been uploaded to the Oncourse Documents Library.</p> <p>Interviews show that the approach to substance use is changing. An outbreak of e.g. dollar spot is monitored and only tackled when it becomes too much.</p> <p>The use of a new spot sprayer significantly reduces the use of crop protection products (PPPs).</p> <p>CIP: Please record the usage of GBMs in the logbook.</p>
	N2.3.2 Application of chemicals with full safety precautions	<p>Use legally registered and approved products;</p> <p>Prefer products for the specific weed, pest or disease;</p> <p>Follow legal requirements;</p> <p>Ensure staff are fully qualified to use pesticides;</p>	Seen spraying licenses from 2 employees, from 2025.

		<p>Ensure staff use appropriate protective equipment;</p> <p>Regularly calibrate and test applicators;</p> <p>Dilute and dispose of leftover product on untreated areas of amenity turfgrass</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	<p>Document procedures for emergency spill responses ;</p> <p>Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer areas next to water bodies and wetlands;</p> <p>Retain no-spray/no-spread buffer zones in and around ecologically sensitive areas</p>	Protocol seen for spilled plant protection products.
	N3.1.2 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from clubhouse operations	Formal wastewater discharge agreement, if applicable	<p>Seen the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map of wastewater disposal from washing area. - Rainwater drainage. - Oil and grease separator. - Contract of the drainer and inspection of the washing area 2019. <p>Washing area is inspected 2x a year by Controlall</p> <p>Discussed that the rainwater could be collected and then used for, for example, hosing down machines.</p> <p>CIP: Please investigate the possibilities of reusing rainwater.</p>
	N3.1.3 Practical measures to ensure pollution risks are minimised from maintenance facility operations	<p>Wash machinery over an impermeable, leak-free surface;</p> <p>Mix and load pesticides and fertilisers over an impermeable, leak-free surface;</p> <p>Triple rinse pesticide containers and applicators</p>	The washing area is liquid-tight. Seen during the tour.

<p>N3.2 Safely manage hazardous substances</p>	<p>N3.2.1 Legal compliance in the storage, handling, application and safe disposal of all hazardous substances</p>	<p>List of hazardous substances, made available to authorised staff;</p> <p>Product and material data safety sheets;</p> <p>Well ventilated concrete or metal building;</p> <p>Impermeable, leak-free flooring;</p> <p>Sufficient storage capacity;</p> <p>Spill containment kits;</p> <p>Secondary containment e.g., bunds or drip trays;</p> <p>Emergency wash area, as per local requirements (body shower and / or eye wash station);</p> <p>Hazardous substances safely collected by a registered company or body ;</p> <p>Follow any additional legal requirements</p>	<p>Storage of crop protection products seen during the tour. In order and according to regulations.</p>
	<p>N3.2.2 Legal compliance in the storage and handling of fuels and gases</p>	<p>Tank secured to a horizontal, flat, non-combustible surface;</p> <p>Secondary containment of fuel in the event of spills e.g. bunds and drip trays;</p> <p>Inspection of storage tank(s) at least quarterly, if required;</p> <p>Fire extinguisher in the immediate area</p>	<p>Newly installed fuel tank must be inspected again in about 15 years.</p>
<p>N3.3 Responsibly manage waste / storm water</p>	<p>N3.3.1 Appropriate wastewater usage, treatment and discharge</p>	<p>Impermeable, leak-free surface;</p> <p>Treatment as per local requirements (oil, grease and / or clipping separation);</p> <p>Formal discharge agreement, if applicable</p>	<p>Wash water drain contract.</p>

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	<p>Select appropriate grass species for the climate e.g., drought and disease tolerance;</p> <p>Target irrigation to essential playing surfaces;</p> <p>Prioritise native, drought tolerant species for landscaping and planting</p>	<p>Sprinklers on the track are replaced where necessary. The new nozzles work more efficiently and can be regulated per nozzle.</p> <p>Wetting agent is applied.</p>
R1.2 Maximise water efficiency	R1.2.1 Practical measures to use water more efficiently on the golf course	<p>Schedule irrigation based on informed assessment of soil moisture and weather forecasts;</p> <p>Evaluate new irrigation technologies e.g., central control, precision sprinklers etc.;</p> <p>Provide staff training on efficient irrigation practices;</p> <p>Adjust sprinklers to playing surfaces only</p>	<p>A management program for the irrigation system is used.</p> <p>In the event of rainfall, the preset irrigation is reduced.</p>
	R1.2.2 Practical measures to use water more efficiently in buildings	<p>Monitor and record water consumption (bills, flow meter etc.);</p> <p>Encourage water conservation practices amongst players and staff</p>	<p>Water consumption in the buildings is monitored. Replacing parts such as recently the shower heads are ways to reduce water consumption.</p> <p>Machines have also been replaced in the kitchen, with attention being paid to the use of water-saving machines.</p>
R1.3 Source water responsibly	R1.3.1 Measures towards alternative, lower quality sources of water	<p>Water abstraction permit, if required;</p> <p>Report water consumption to environment agency, if required</p>	<p>Drinking water and groundwater points Greenhouse seen on map.</p> <p>Groundwater use permit seen and discussed.</p>

R2 Energy

R2.1 Reduce energy demand	R2.1.1 Measures to reduce the amount of energy consumed in golf course maintenance	Naturalise non-playing areas to reduce mowing and other energy intensive inputs	In order to mow less, the fertilization dose is adjusted. The surface area of the Tees is reduced where possible and weather conditions are carefully considered.
R2.2 Maximise energy efficiency	R2.2.1 Measures to use energy and fuels more efficiently in buildings	Monitor and record energy consumption (bills, meters etc.)	Documented energy scan 2020 seen. Many measures mentioned in this scan have been applied, such as: extra solar panels, LED lighting (replace everything), light sensors, replace equipment for energy-efficient variant. Use of heat pump. The next step is to tackle the locker system in the basement (system works with batteries).
R2.3 Source energy responsibly	R2.3.1 Measures to source alternative, renewable forms of energy	Understand the energy mix of your electricity supplier; Explore possible greener energy providers	The origin of the energy supplied is not clear. CCIP: Please identify the source of energy for the facility and explore possible greener providers.
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	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to reduce the demand for materials and look for continual improvements	Purchasing products regionally is looked at and done where possible. Regional purchasing makes a difference in transport and therefore in CO2 emissions. CIP: Please consider bulk purchases wherever possible and pay particular attention to the purchase of sustainable/ecological cleaning products.
R3.2 Purchase responsibly	R3.2.1 Commit to sustainable purchasing practices	Favour responsible, lower impact products	See also R3.1.
R3.3 Reuse and recycle	R3.3.1 Waste stream separation for maximum recycling and re-use opportunity	Put in place a recycling separation system, according to local rules and availability; Clear, simple and visible bin signage; Monitor and record weight of waste for each stream e.g. invoices, bills etc.	Waste separation has been thoroughly addressed since 2023, with an initial separation now taking place across the entire facility in; glass, plastic, paper, vegetables, fruit and garden waste and the rest. All this is done outside in underground containers where it is collected by the waste processor. HIGHLIGHT: Well-designed waste separation system throughout the facility, which has also been made known to staff and members.

R3.4 Demonstrate legal compliance	R3.4.1 Compliance with all local and regional waste management regulations	Authorised waste collector for general, hazardous, industrial and green waste, if required	Certificate Prezero waste processor seen.
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COMMUNITY			
<u>C1 Health & Wellbeing</u>			
Objectives	Requirements	Mandatory Practices	Verifier Notes
C1.1 Improve health and wellbeing	C1.1.1 Benefits to human physical and mental health from golf and facility activities	Plans in place to respond to incidents and emergencies	<p>The existing risk inventory and evaluation is reviewed annually.</p> <p>Flight plan discussed. This is only present in the greenhouse, so there is one missing on the first floor.</p> <p>Discussed how it works in an emergency, it is clear that there is good awareness of this among staff. Emergency number also always present on the player card.</p> <p>CCIP: Please do a comprehensive review of escape plan maps, ensuring that these are visible where necessary.</p>
C1.2 Be open and inclusive	C1.2.1 Inclusivity and diversity in membership and visitor policies	Membership policies free from discrimination across age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnic background	If someone wants to become a member of the club, it is desirable that you know existing members. Then the membership application is submitted to the selection committee and an interview with this committee follows. The reason for this is that the maximum number of members of the club has been reached.
C1.3 Employ fairly, safely and provide career opportunities	C1.3.1 Ethical and legal employment, working conditions and professional development	<p>Adopt an equal opportunity recruitment and hiring policy;</p> <p>Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for hiring and employment;</p>	<p>Every year, attention is paid to any training questions and needs.</p> <p>If necessary, a budget will be made available for training.</p>

		Follow all relevant legislation and best practice for worker safety	
C2 Outreach & Inclusion			
C2.1 Diversify access and provide multifunctionality	C2.1.1 Social and recreational activities at the facility	No specific international requirement, however, identify multifunctional activities and look for continual improvements	It is a closed association and therefore spaces are not rented to outside organizations. However, spaces may be made available for sponsors. The golf course's fitness club can work out indoors in winter.
C2.2 Provide for volunteering and charity	C2.2.1 Opportunities available for volunteering and support of charities and good causes	No specific international requirement, however, identify activities to support volunteering and charity and look for continual improvements	There are a large number of volunteers working at this facility.
C2.3 Establish active community partnerships	C2.3.1 Positive and constructive engagement with neighbours, the local community and other groups	No specific international requirement, however, identify partnerships and community activities and look for continual improvements	There are (have been) collaborations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sports education Arnhem - IPC-greenkeepers cursus - Interns <p>CIP: Please make contact with, for example, the Forest and nature management courses (MBO and HBO) in Velp for management plan and monitoring assignments.</p>
C3 Communications & Advocacy			
C3.1 Engage staff and golfers	C3.1.1 Communications activities that raise awareness and understanding amongst members and visitors	Involve staff and committees in sustainability efforts; Involve golfers in sustainability efforts; Post sustainability information in the clubhouse and / or on the golf course	Broadly supported sustainability through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moss walk - Bird counts - Newsletter - Website - On the track QR codes - Maintenance <p>Waste separation has been widely communicated.</p>
C3.2 Celebrate and promote sustainability	C3.2.1 Activities that raise awareness and	Share at least 3 Highlights on sustainable.golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting heather - Waste separation

	engage people in the wider community		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy saving - Dril land Fill - Irrigation system - Modification of machinery - Pavement greening - Blue diesel instead of red diesel - Sawn trees are used as firewood at the facility
C3.3 Follow a journey of continuous improvement	C3.3.1 Measures to help track, review and improve sustainability and climate action	Put measures in place to ensure that OnCourse can be updated annually	<p>Once a year in the autumn, the GEO committee meets.</p> <p>Together, OnCourse is filled where necessary.</p> <p>Annual figures are easy to fill in.</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