Responsible Golf Course Management

FEGGA Statement on behalf of the European Golf Greenkeeping Industry
There are approximately 5,500 golf facilities across Europe, covering a total land surface of close to 500,000 hectares. Of that, approximately 30% is intensively maintained as turfgrass (putting greens, fairways, tees and managed rough) and the other 70% as unmanaged rough grasslands, scrub, woodland, open water and wetland habitats. Turfgrass plants make up the playing surfaces for the sport of golf. They are therefore the key component that make the largest contribution to the unique "product" and "experience" that is the sport of golf. They play a fundamental role in achieving golfer satisfaction, and by extension benefit the entire golf industry and surrounding community. In fact, presently the total value of the golf industry is estimated at around Euro 15.1 Billion. The sport, employing 150,000 people, provides health-enhancing physical activity in nature to over 7.9 million players. The maintenance regime of this turfgrass, essential for the sport, will vary from club to club. The climate, soils and geography in combination with player expectation and greenkeeping budget will determine the actual maintenance practices employed. The fact that intensively-managed turfgrass is essential for the sport, there is a risk that some of the practices undertaken for the maintenance of the surfaces could have potentially negative impacts on the environment.

This paper therefore seeks to demonstrate the importance of having an overall vision of the profession and a targeted strategy for minimising impact on local ecology and encouraging responsible course management throughout the industry.
通过大量的投资和咨询，自1996年以来，欧洲果岭保养行业已开发了以下战略方法来实现高尔夫球场的可持续管理。该战略的焦点是最佳实践管理，以鼓励可持续表现，支持可持续性活动，并增加报告和意识。

1. **鼓励可持续性能**
   - A. 减少自然资源的消耗
   - B. 减少或抵消高尔夫球场管理实践对动植物的影响，鼓励生物多样性，提供本地物种的栖息地。
   - C. 通过游说供应商减少包装，尽可能地再利用废物，并确保不可再利用的废物正确处理。
   - D. 减少因使用机器或化学制品对空气、土壤和水的污染。
   - E. 通过减少那些需要密集维护的区域来减少球场的面积。

2. **研究与教育**
   - A. 果岭研究
   - B. 资助进一步研究非化学管理实践
   - C. 建立新的打回合评价工具
   - D. 教育项目（路演、GTE、会议等）
   - E. 支持/鼓励/采用GEO（OnCourse、Legacy）
   - F. 支持/编写新的自愿可持续性标准

3. **报告与意识**
   - A. 公开球场维护和管理的报告，通过GEO OnCourse和/或国家项目。
   - B. 促进高尔夫社区及更广泛公众的意识提高。

24 FEGGA成员协会承诺负责任和可持续的高尔夫球场管理。
The greenkeeping industry is aware of the importance of continually increasing and improving performance, reporting, knowledge and awareness and will annually monitor progress in these key areas at the FEGGA European Conference:

**PERFORMANCE**
Driving performance towards clear, credible and externally recognised standards which will require clubs to demonstrate and report their adherence to Best Practice. FEGGA to use Roadshows, publications, European Conference and other tools to report participation in certified systems which provide detailed and third-party verified reporting of maintenance and performance in all areas of the golf course operation. This is to include both environmental and social performance.

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**KNOWLEDGE & EDUCATION**
Continually work and campaign to raise awareness of environmental issues and the use of Best Practice amongst practitioners, customers and the wider community alike. Case studies of successful campaigns are to be sourced by FEGGA and reported during FEGGA events.

**AWARENESS, LOBBYING & OUTREACH**
Continually work and campaign to raise awareness of environmental issues and the use of Best Practice amongst practitioners, customers and the wider community alike. Case studies of successful campaigns are to be sourced by FEGGA and reported during FEGGA events.

Responsible golf course management is about...

- **Optimal Nutrition.** Nutrition of turfgrass is managed so as to attain robust good quality playing surfaces which remain healthy without requiring excess nutrition, ensuring that scientific measuring and evaluation are used.
- **Optimal Watering.** Irrigation uses significant energy. In managing grass effectively, good quality playing surfaces should be achieved with efficient minimal irrigation based on scientific monitoring, and records kept of consumption.
- **A Good Growing Environment.** Shade, air movement and drainage are managed to promote the correct micro-environments for growth.
- **Healthy Growing Medium.** Soils should be managed appropriately to deliver good structure, mineral and nutrient balance, drainage and oxygenation ensuring CO2 levels are monitored.
- **Use of Plant Protection Products (pesticides).** The minimised use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for both prevention and cure. Labelled use of the lowest toxicity products carrying the least environmental risk.
- **Safe Pesticide Application, Storage and Handling.** Well trained operatives using appropriate and properly calibrated & maintained equipment and facilities as per local legislation.

Estonia
Austria
Finland
United Kingdom
Czech Republic
Ireland
Austria
Germany
Slovenia
Bulgaria

**Monitoring**

24 FEGGA member associations are committed to the responsible and sustainable management of golf courses.
It is extremely encouraging to see the greenkeeping profession in Europe, through FEGGA, promoting sustainability for golf course management. The R&A has led this cause, but only the implementation of accepted best practice by the professionals who care for our golf courses, and transparent reporting through systems such as OnCourse®, will convince everyone that the sport can bring economic, environmental and social benefits. We commend FEGGA for producing this statement and hope they are able to achieve its adoption so we see greater sustainability on the ground.

Steve Isaac
R&A Director of Sustainability

Golf course management is coming under increasing pressure across Europe. Pesticide and water regulation is starting to bite in many countries, costs of resources and materials are increasing, and golfers expectations continue to rise. This timely statement, backed by so many of the industry's course management representatives, expresses an important commitment and plan that will help the sport address these significant challenges, now and in the future. We were very pleased to play a part in its development.

Jonathan Smith
Chief Executive of The Golf Environment Organization

This is the first time that the daily practitioners of golf’s grassroots movement agree on a strategy for such an important aspect of our industry's future.

Ólafur Thor Ágústsson
FEGGA Chairman

FEGGA is Dedicated to Communicate and Share Environmentally Sustainable Ideals and Skills for Quality Golf Course Management

fegga.org