

The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations

Environmental Policy Statement

The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (F.E.G.G.A), Annual Conference in Munich, **Germany on the 24th & 25th November 2000 brought together Fifteen National Greenkeeping Associations. The Conference Focused on the Main issues effecting our Profession including Golf Course Management and the Environment.**

The Role of the Greenkeeper / Course Manager and the National Greenkeeping Associations were Discussed and Debated Leading to an Official F.E.G.G.A, Policy being adopted. The following are the main points of this Policy;

1. The Role of a Head Greenkeeper / Course Manager in Establishing and Implementing an Environmental Programme at their Golf Club?

Establishing A Programme

- ◆ They must be a Lead Person in establishing the full Programme.
- ◆ Their Role to include Setting out The Terms, Time-scales, Goals and targets.
- ◆ Training must be provided for all aspects of the Programme.
- ◆ The Programme must be a “Dynamic Process”, allowing re-evaluation and adjustment when required.
- ◆ Utilise the use of External Experts / Consultants.

Implementing A Programme

- ◆ Communicate the Plans to;
 1. Greenkeeping Team
 2. The Club Members and other Golfers
 3. The Community / Interested Parties.

- ◆ Produce practical Communication Tools;
 1. Posters
 2. Signs
 3. Reports
- ◆ Interim reporting of the Programme.
- ◆ Assistance / Understanding in managing the conflict of interest between Golf Course standards, the Environmental Programme and Budget restrictions.

NOTE :

IT MUST BE RECOGNISED THAT VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT EUROPE ON GOLF COURSES, BY HEAD GREENKEEPERS / COURSE MANAGERS (Our Association's Members).

THESE INCLUDE LOCAL / NATIONAL SCHEMES, THE COMMITTED TO GREEN AND THE AUDUBON CO-OPERATIVE SANCTUARY PROGRAMMES.

IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY FOR GUIDELINES TO BE SET TO ASSIST OUR PROFESSION WHILE WORKING WITH THESE TYPE OF PROGRAMMES TO INSURE HARMONISATION IN THE FUTURE.

2. The Role of a National Greenkeeping Association in establishing and implementing an Environmental Policy for it's Members and Golf Clubs in it's own Country?

Establishing a Policy

- ◆ Provide Expertise / Council from it's Members. Our Profession has the knowledge to Establish a Practical Working Programmes for Golf Clubs.
- ◆ Investigate the Law's of their particular Country both present and future that apply to Golf Courses.
(Especially European Union Legislation)
- ◆ Represent the Profession on Working Groups of Golf federations and other Organisations to insure a Partnership approach to ecologically-sound Golf Course Management.
- ◆ Encourage a Political lobby on Legislation concerning Pesticide usage and the positive aspects of Golf Courses.

Implementing a Policy

- ◆ Always promote the environmental Issue at Meetings attended.
- ◆ An Environmental Policy requires a step by step approach, Start with a basic working Plan and develop it over time from Experiences.
- ◆ Educational Programmes should be expanded to cover all environmental issues including Publications and P.R. Tools like Posters and flyers.
- ◆ Awards will come in time the most important issue now is participation.

Summary:

F.E.G.G.A recognises the diversity across Europe in both the Establishment and Implementation of Golf Course Environmental Programmes. Over time we hope to link Associations through a recognised Eco-Policy however it is necessary at the present to allow dialogue and discussion to continue.

The recent Conference in Munich firmly indicated the position F.E.G.G.A. Members believe they must play in the environmental debate and the profound impact it is having on our Profession. No matter where Golf is played in Europe high standards of Golf Course Management and Maintenance are a requirement. We must insure that Environmental Policies reflect this demand and a balance are achieved.

F.E.G.G.A, through it's Member Associations will continue to Promote the Environmental debate and encourage consistent improvements in Ecologically-sound Golf Course Management. Our network of Members, International and National Conferences and extensive Publications will allow us to achieve much over the coming years.

The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association's (F.E.G.G.A) recognises the good Practices and Programmes already being implemented in it's member Countries and as these are refined over the coming years a Cohesive Policy can be established from to aid our Profession in Europe.