



BURY ST EDMUNDS GOLF CLUB

Environmental Policy Document

This Environmental Policy Document was generated with the help of the England Golf's sustainability guidance and is based upon the contributions of golf club staff and members.

The Environmental Policy Document aims to provide a written record of the club's environmental goals and how members and staff can help to bring about environmental improvements and legal compliance.

The actions suggested in this Environmental Policy Document are tailored to the current environmental performance of the golf club and are believed to be attainable by the club within five years.

The Environmental Policy Document contains a few overall environmental aims for the golf club and several more targeted objectives under seven headings:

Bury St Edmunds Golf Club Golf Club commit to:

- Providing a safe and pleasant working environment for all our staff
- Enhancing the natural environment of the golf course for the benefit of both golfers and wildlife
- Conserving energy and water and to reduce waste in the clubhouse, maintenance facility and golf course
- Preventing pollution from all our activities
- Promoting wider environmental change by careful choice of products and services

The golf club also endorses specific objectives under seven target areas: wildlife and nature conservation; water resources; energy and carbon; waste management; chemical use; purchasing policy and training and education.

1. Wildlife and Nature Conservation

The golf course has the potential to be of significant value and a balance must be struck between the needs of a functioning golf course and wildlife needs.

Protected species on the golf course

- i. Using England Golf's sustainability guidance, we will research protected species legislation to find out which species are protected by national and international law.
- ii. We will circulate a list of protected species to all staff and to our membership.
- iii. We will identify the widespread species likely to be present on our golf course, such as bats and breeding birds and will adapt our management techniques and the timing of management operations to avoid impacting upon these species.
- iv. We will employ a cautious approach to water management to ensure that protected species such as great crested newt and water vole are not impacted by the management of ponds and waterways.

- vi. We will compile a species sightings notice board which to enable the membership and greenstaff to report any sightings of notable species.
- vii. In the longer term, we will aim to undertake a protected species survey of the golf course to determine what protected species are likely to be present on the golf course and how to manage the golf course to protect important species.

Protected species in golf club buildings

- i. Using the England Golf's sustainability guidance we will research protected species legislation to establish what our responsibilities are regarding roosting bats.
- ii. We will employ a cautious approach when carrying out building maintenance and pest control to ensure that any unknown roosting bats are not impacted by these activities.
- iii. In the longer term, we will commission a professional bat survey of golf club buildings to determine whether buildings support breeding bats or have the potential to support roosting bats.

Designated areas

- i. We will research statutory and non-statutory environmental designations using the England Golf's sustainability guidance and will determine whether any areas of our golf course are designated.
- ii. If any area of the golf course is designated, we will obtain a copy of the official citation documents to understand the importance of the site and to make sure we are aware of any management restrictions.
- iii. We will adapt our management techniques to take into account any management restrictions in designated areas of the golf course and will seek permission before carrying out any controlled activities.

Invasive species

- i. We will research the invasive species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Weeds Act 1959 and will ensure that these species are not purchased or otherwise actively introduced onto the golf course.
- ii. We will investigate the source of all soils introduced to site to ensure that invasive species are not inadvertently introduced to the golf course.
- iii. We will survey our golf course for invasive species and will make efforts to ensure that invasive plants do not spread outside the boundary of the golf course.
- iv. We will take management action to reduce the coverage of invasive species on the golf course.
- v. We will dispose of any waste arising from the management of invasive species according to best practice guidance as outlined in the England Golf's sustainability guidance

Management of out of play areas

- i. We will research the importance of managing out of play habitats using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

The clubhouse surrounding

- i. We will provide potted plants and hanging baskets close to the clubhouse in summer as a source of nectar for local wildlife.

2. Water Use

Water is a shared resource and must be fairly balanced between the needs of the golf club, other local services and homeowners and local wildlife. We must ensure that we do not use more water than our local water environment can sustain and that we do not pollute our local environment.

Recording water use and increasing water efficiency

- i. We will record annual water usage on the golf course and in the clubhouse and maintenance facility and will investigate the financial cost of our water use.
- ii. We will undertake a water audit to identify the main areas of water use and to prioritise areas for water efficiency measures.
- iii. We will use data on long-term water usage to track reductions in water use following the introduction of water saving measures.
- iv. We will undertake simple, cost effective measures to improve water efficiency and will research possible initiatives using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

Irrigation water

- i. We will investigate alternative sources of irrigation water using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- ii. We will undertake a feasibility study to evaluate alternative irrigation sources for our golf club.
- iii. We will irrigate based on weather conditions, observed ground conditions and turf condition.
- iv. We will consider the environmental and financial cost benefit of installing an automated irrigation system.
- v. We will research methods of reducing water losses using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

Treatment for washdown water

- i. We will research the importance of safely treating washdown water using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- ii. We will assess our current washdown facilities and ensure that they are legally compliant.
- iii. If we discharge treated washdown water to the local water environment we will contact the Environment Agency to obtain an environmental permit to discharge our treated washdown water.

3. Energy and Carbon

Saving energy has positive environmental and financial benefits.

Recording energy and carbon

- i. We will record annual energy usage on the golf course and in the clubhouse and maintenance facility and will investigate the financial cost of our energy use.
- ii. We will undertake an energy audit to identify the main areas of energy use and to prioritise areas for energy efficiency measures.
- iii. We will use data on long-term energy use to track reductions in water use following the introduction of energy saving measures.
- iv. We will undertake simple, cost effective measures to improve energy efficiency and will research possible initiatives using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

Membership and staff transport

- i. We will investigate the interest within the membership for a car share scheme to encourage members to travel together to save energy. (Caddy Master Bulding so trollies and clubs can remain at BSE GC)
- ii. Staff have the possibility to enter the clubs bike scheme.

Carbon emissions

- i. We will research the benefits of carbon auditing using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

4. Waste Management

Waste is created in all areas of the golf club and reducing waste can have significant environmental and financial benefits.

Recording waste

- i. We will initiate a waste audit to record how much waste and what types of waste we produce each year.
- ii. We will use this audit to prioritise waste streams for action based on the waste hierarchy.
- iii. We will use the club's waste audit as a baseline to measure future changes in waste production and will regularly re-evaluate our cost of waste.

Reducing and re-using waste

- i. We will undertake simple cost-effective measures to reduce and reuse waste and will research possible initiatives using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

Recycling and waste disposal

- i. We will investigate how best to implement recycling at our club using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- ii. We aim to recycle waste batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment as required by law
- iii. We will investigate the viability of composting organic waste from the golf course and clubhouse and will research methods of composting based on England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- iv. We will communicate relevant waste legislation to our staff.
- v. We will store our waste safely and securely.
- vi. We will keep records of all waste transfers for the period required by law.
- vii. We will ensure that all waste is collected by authorised contractors.
- viii. We will ensure that our waste is disposed of an approved waste management site.

5. Chemical Use

Chemical controls are an important tool in golf course maintenance. However, chemicals must be used with care and must be stored and disposed of according to law.

Safe storage and disposal of chemicals

- i. We will research the required standards for the use, storage and disposal of oils, fertilisers and pesticides using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- ii. We will aim to ensure that our storage facilities meet all legal requirements.
- iii. We will ensure that chemicals are only applied by qualified personnel and only under appropriate weather conditions.
- iv. We will dispose of hazardous waste through an appropriate waste contractor.

Chemical use on the golf course

- i. We will research Integrated Pest Management using the England Golf's sustainability guidance
- ii. We will regular monitor playing surfaces to identify pest and diseases quickly and accurately.
- iii. We will analyse and alter the environmental conditions relating to each tee and green on the golf course to minimise the occurrence of pests and diseases, eg. nutrient status, thatch levels, shading of the turf and air movement).
- iv. We will agree 'damage thresholds' (eg. percentage cover of a tee or green) below which level pests or diseases will be tolerated.
- v. If 'damage thresholds' are exceeded in spite of, preventative measure, then the pest or disease will be controlled. Chemical control will be employed as a last resort, and only used once biological, cultural, physical and mechanical methods have failed.

6. Purchasing

The golf club can have an impact outside our own organisation by careful choice of products and services.

Golf Club procurement policy

- i. We will try to minimise packaging where possible and look for packaging which is recycled or can easily be recycled.
- ii. We will ask suppliers to provide information as to where products are made and will try to choose local suppliers to reduce costs and transport distances wherever possible.
- iii. We will research which foods are in season at different times of year and will try to incorporate seasonal produce in our food menus.
- iv. We will ask our suppliers to provide details of the recycled content of their products and will try to choose products and packaging that have a recycled content or that can easily be recycled.
- v. We will determine whether our topdressing material includes peat.
- vi. We will research alternatives to peat based topdressing material.
- vii. We will change our topdressing supplier to ensure that topdressing material is peat free.
- viii. We will research energy efficient products using England Golf's sustainability guidance and will consider energy efficiency when purchasing equipment.

7. Training and Education

Informed members and motivated staff are better equipped to save energy and reduce future costs.

Staff education and training

- i. The club will provide a forum for staff to generate ideas from club staff on how they can contribute to saving energy.
- ii. The club will post signage in staff areas to remind staff of the energy savings that can be made through simple behavioural changes such as switching off lights and computers.
- iii. The club will appoint a named environmental champion to liaise with the secretary to report any energy saving ideas.
- iv. The club will arrange for external staff training to increase energy efficiency.

Membership education and training

- i. The club will present potential energy saving measures to the membership at the AGM.
- ii. The club will provide a forum within the AGM to generate ideas from the membership on how the membership can contribute to saving energy.
- iii. The club will post signage in locker rooms to remind members of the energy savings that can be made through simple behavioural changes such as switching off lights and taking shorter showers.
- iv. The membership will appoint named environmental champions to liaise with the club staff and bring forward energy saving ideas from the membership.
- v. The club will arrange for external membership training to increase energy efficiency.

BSE GC implemented initiatives

- Biomass Boiler
- Solar Panels (20KW)
- Minimum Watering Policy
- Collection of rainwater (In Process)
- Water Reservoir (Being looked at)
- Encourage staff to use Electric Transport (Electric points provided by BSE GC)
- Change from plastic tees to environmentally friendly tees