

# Scottish Golf Environment Group - Strategy 2011 to 2014

## Introduction

The Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Scottish Golf Union Limited (SGU) and is an integrated part of Scottish Golf's Strategy for supporting clubs. Entering into the next phase of SGEG operations, we aim to continue to provide a **world leading golf environmental advisory service** to golf facilities in Scotland.

While environmental awareness and enthusiasm in the sector is ever increasing, golf clubs are, like all small businesses, facing increased climatic, legislative and economic challenges. SGEG's Advisers, supported by the Scottish Golf Club Services and Development Team, together with a network of external specialist consultants on technical golfing /course management and environmental issues, intend to help clubs address these challenges. SGEG's environmental advisory service is free to affiliated clubs.

Through the Club Environment Programme (4 stages detailed below), SGEG will assist facilities to become more sustainable. Advice on key areas such as **Nature, Landscape & Heritage** and **Turf** will assist in protecting and enhancing their key asset - the golf course. Additionally, advice on resource management such as **Water, Waste** and **Energy** will enable clubs to become more efficient and lower costs while meeting legislative requirements.

Along with a programme of environmental education, training, promotion and awareness raising both within and outwith the golf sector, delivery of this strategy will enable golf facilities to contribute to Scotland's national biodiversity, resource efficiency and sustainable tourism targets.

## Our Vision

Through the implementation of this and future strategies, and with support from relevant organisations within the golfing and environmental sectors, our Vision is that:

- Golf facilities will implement, as standard, environmental best practice across all their operations.
- Golf courses will maximise their ecological value and play an important part in the delivery of Scotland's Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Golf facilities will minimise their resource consumption and waste production.
- Golf facilities will be key focal points of the community for environmental awareness raising.
- Scottish Golf will be an exemplar of sustainable development, within Scotland and respected worldwide.



## **Strategic Goals 2011-2014:** *(delivered via the more detailed annual SGEG Action Plans)*

- Goal 1**      **Assist Golf Facilities in Scotland to implement best environmental practice in golf facility management and development (Club Environment Programme Stages 1 and 2)**
- Actions to achieve this goal include site advisory visits, reporting and project development to help implement environmental best practice in clubs.
- Goal 2**      **Assist Golf Facilities in Scotland operate a structured approach to Environmental Management Planning (Club Environment Programme Stage 3)**
- Actions to include development and promotion of Management Planning methodology and templates.
- Goal 3**      **Have a fully implemented Scottish Golf Environment Certificates scheme (Club Environment Programme Stage 4)**
- Actions to include development and launch of a new certification scheme to recognise and reward clubs that have reached a high standard in one or more of the key environmental categories. Scheme to be available to all affiliated clubs in Scotland.
- Goal 4**      **Education & Training: Provide access to training, knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, and their relationship with golf course management and development within and outwith the golf sector.**
- Actions to work with Greenkeepers Training Committee, partner environmental organisations and via Scottish Golf Education Group to provide environmental education and training seminars within and outwith the sector.
- Goal 5**      **Promotion & Awareness Raising: SGEG to continue championing the best environmental practice within Scottish Golf and be regarded as the pre-eminent source of information regarding golf and environmental issues by the golf sector, the environmental sector and the wider public.**
- Actions to include utilising the SGEG Communications Plan to promote golf environmental news via websites, e-bulletins and direct communications.
  - Promotion of a variety of downloadable technical guidance information, case studies and publications available through our website [www.sgeg.org.uk](http://www.sgeg.org.uk).
- Goal 6**      **Coordination & Partnership: To have strong partnerships with a wide a range of relevant organisations for the identification of common goals and the delivery of our goals and actions.**
- Actions include continuing liaison with our network of technical golfing /course management and environmental expert specialists for further support and guidance.



## CLUB ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

### STAGE 1 - ADVICE

Introductory site visits - advice and Summary Environmental Reports (SERs) on existing habitats, management practices, legislation and recommendations for improvements and cost savings

### STAGE 2 - PROJECTS

Follow up visits - assisting clubs to implement improvement projects, assisting with habitat, species & landscape surveys, sustainable drainage, waste, water and energy audits, grants and environmental training

### STAGE 3 - PLANNING

Assistance in preparing a Club Environmental Policy and an Integrated Management Plan.  
New Development and Planning Advice

### STAGE 4 - RECOGNITION

Scottish Golf Environment Certificates

## Supported by:

