



Saltford 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:

Saltford 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 – including those provided by our Professional shop and Halfway House.

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. We will research protected species to find out which species are protected by national and international law.
- ii. We will publish a list of protected species on Salford Golf Club Website and make all Green-staff aware
- iii. We will identify the widespread species likely to be present on our golf course, such as bats and breeding birds, and will wherever possible adapt our management techniques and the timing of management operations to minimise impact upon these species.
- iv. We will employ a cautious approach to water management in order to minimise impact on protected species such as great crested newt and water vole.

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.

Designated areas

- i. The area known as Folly Wood (area to left of 10th hole;right of 16th hole;right and left of 18th hole and behind 17th green) has been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.SNCIs are sites which contain features of substantive nature conservation value at a local level. These sites are designated through a Local Sites Partnership (LSP), using an agreed set of criteria
- ii. 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 area of the golf course and will,where necessary 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. If deemed necessary we will take management action to reduce the coverage of invasive species on the golf course.
- iii. 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 gardens

- 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 regularly record 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 continue to undertake simple, cost effective measures to improve water efficiency and will research possible initiatives

Irrigation water

- i. Saltford Golf Club has installed a borehole which provides a proportion of the water required for irrigation of the golf course. We will continue to consider alternative sources of irrigation water.
- ii. We will irrigate based on weather conditions, observed ground conditions and turf condition.
- iii. We will research methods of reducing water losses using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.

Treatment for washdown water

- i. Saltford Golf Club operates a closed loop system for the treatment of washdown water. This ensures environmental impact is minimal.
- ii. 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, 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 following the introduction of energy saving measures.
- iv. We will seek to ensure that our energy supplier provides power from renewable sources.
- v. We will continue to undertake simple, cost effective measures to improve energy efficiency and will research possible initiatives.

Membership and staff transport

- i. We will introduce secure bike storage facilities for staff, members and visitors.
- ii. We will consider the installation of charge-point(s) for electric vehicles.

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

- ii. We will investigate how best to implement recycling at our club using the England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- iii. We aim to recycle waste batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment as required by law
- iv. We will investigate the viability of composting organic waste from the golf course and clubhouse and will research/consider methods of composting based on England Golf's sustainability guidance.
- v. We will ensure our staff are aware of relevant waste legislation
- vi. We will store our waste safely and securely.
- vii. We will keep records of all waste transfers for the period required by law.
- viii. We will ensure that all waste is collected by authorised contractors.
- ix. We will ensure that our waste is disposed of in appropriate manner at 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 regularly 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, e.g. nutrient status, thatch levels, shading of the turf and air movement).
- iv. Chemical control will be employed as a last resort, and only used once biological, cultural, physical and mechanical methods have been considered

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 and 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 avoid the use of peat based top dressing products
- vi. We will research energy efficient products 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 members and employees to report any energy saving ideas.

Membership education and training

- i. The club will present potential energy saving measures to the membership.
- ii. The club will provide a forum to generate ideas from the membership on how the membership can contribute to saving energy.
- iii. The club will post signage in club house and 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 club will erect signs around the course and clubhouse to encourage members and visitors to minimise waste such as single use plastics and ensure that items are recycled or correctly disposed of.