



# Dundonald Links: Waste Recycling

**INTRODUCTION:** Since opening in 2003, Dundonald Links on Scotland's Ayrshire coast has been committed to the implementation of a wide range of environmental policies and proactive measures to help protect and sustain the local, national, and global environment. They have a highly commendable environmental vision to provide players with an authentic and distinctive links land experience by using best environmental policies and practices on and around the golf course. They have pledged their commitment to sustainable golf. Specifically, to reducing their carbon footprint, pursuing sustainable resources, whilst integrating the golf course with its natural surroundings by promoting and enhancing biodiversity.

## THE ISSUE

Through continual improvement of their environmental management systems their aims are to:

- Minimise waste, working towards zero waste;
- Minimise energy consumption;
- Protect and enhance biodiversity;
- Maximise the Club's role to provide the public with knowledge of ongoing environmental issues;
- Inspire others to pursue sustainable resources.

To address the first of these aims, they introduced their **Waste Management Policy** in 2007 in conjunction with their owners Loch Lomond Golf Club. There are a variety of products and materials coming onto site and being used on the golf course and in the clubhouse. There is an ongoing challenge to avoid waste generated from the club's activities from going to landfill.

## THE SOLUTION

To reduce, reuse and recycle waste generated on site Dundonald Links implemented systems and procedures across all departments. They did this with external advice from Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), Scottish Enterprise, and recycling and resource company William Tracey Group.

- Following a **waste audit**, they gathered data and recorded quantities of different waste streams that were being generated and where they all went.
- Through improved **sustainable purchasing** and procurement and improved management practices and more crucially the dedication and teamwork of staff, they have reduced the amount of waste generated from glass, paper, cardboard, packaging, plastics and food waste.
- They also actively **reuse** paper, cardboard, packaging and metals where possible.
- By having separate **recycling** bins for glass, paper, cardboard, packaging they further avoid waste going to landfill. They also recycle metals, lubricating oils, cooking oil, food waste and other organic waste which is composted.

## AT A GLANCE...

>> Dundonald Links is a leading club in Scotland to demonstrate their sustainability credentials

>> Resource Efficiency and waste management are key areas they have addressed

>> Sustainable purchasing practices have reduced the amount of waste generated from glass, paper, cardboard, packaging, plastics and food waste.

>> All waste streams are reused or recycled as Dundonald Links are now Zero Waste to Landfill

***"This is a tremendous achievement for the team at Dundonald Links and is testament to all their hard work and commitment in ensuring that the golf course is maintained to the very highest of standards with environmental best practice always in mind."** Bill Donald, General Manager, Loch Lomond Golf Club and Dundonald Links*

- On the golf course green waste such as grass clippings and woody waste are stored and screened for recycling. This has resulted in 3000 tonnes of top soil, which is used for all golf course construction Dundonald have also made new course signs from old wooden railway sleepers.

## IMPACTS

Through the successful implementation of their Waste Management Policy, Dundonald Links announced in 2011 that they had achieved **Zero Waste to Landfill**.

In 2011, Dundonald Links received the ‘**Best Environmental Performance Award**’ at the Ayrshire Business Awards. Over 260 business leaders from Ayrshire and beyond attended the annual awards ceremony which recognises the best performing companies in Ayrshire. The event was held at the Gailes Hotel, Irvine where the BBC’s Kaye Adams presented the awards.

The ‘Best Environmental Performance Award’ award, sponsored by Nestle (world leading Nutrition, Health and Wellness Company), has been designed for organisations that demonstrate environmental best practice, ethical best practice or sustainable development. In order to qualify for the final selection process, Dundonald Links was invited to demonstrate these practices and to explain the impact that these initiatives have had on the company.

Dundonald competed with two major employers in Scotland, McCaig Renewables and Lowmac Recycling, for the award.

## NEXT STEPS

Dundonald Links will continue to achieve their environmental goals by communicating the recycling plan to staff and visitors to the course and through working closely with the William Tracey Group to keep up to date with the latest waste legislation and recycling innovations.

Dundonald Links have also achieved the Geo Certified status for overall sustainability excellence.

## FIND OUT MORE

If your club would like to promote an environmental success story or require support in this area, please contact Scottish Golf Environment Officer, Carolyn Hedley

[c.hedley@scottishgolf.org](mailto:c.hedley@scottishgolf.org)

## WHAT THE CLUB SAID

*“The commitment and teamwork from all the staff through the years has been tremendous. All staff training has been received in a positive manner and played an integral part in getting everyone on board. The combined efforts of the Club and the William Tracey Group has taken us one step closer to our goal of sustainable golf. We believe we are the first links golf club to have achieved zero waste and hope that we can act as inspiration to other clubs in creating a waste free, friendly environment for golfers and wildlife.”* Guy Redford, Director of Golf.

*“The team at Dundonald Links are well briefed and extremely enthusiastic about recycling. The William Tracey Group has also made improvements to the frequency of waste uplifts, reducing pick ups to lower cost and reduce the carbon footprint of transporting recyclate.”* Tom Horner, Account Manager, William Tracey Group

*“Dundonald’s achievement in getting to a position of zero waste to landfill demonstrates what can be done to minimise golf’s impact on the environment. Waste management is one of the key issues regarding the game’s social responsibility. Hopefully, the efforts at Dundonald will inspire others to investigate how they can move towards zero waste to landfill.”* Steve Isaac, The R&A

