



Ideas for Environmental Communication & Awareness Raising in Golf Clubs

Here are some ideas for your club, aimed at improving communications about course and facility management and environmental issues.

Environmental Team / Committee:

- Set up an Environmental team/ committee to discuss environmental issues. This could be added in to the remit of the Greens Committee, but it may be better to have a separate linked group, which devotes their time to discussing environmental and out of play issues.
- Identify interested people within the club who could assist in gathering information, or who themselves may be able to bring expertise to the club.
- Ensure environmental and course management issues are on the agenda of all full committee meetings and AGM's.
- Go for one or more of the Scottish Golf Environment Certificates to show that good environmental actions are recognised.

Staff:

- Make sure greenstaff have ample opportunity to advise the Committee, and the opportunity to discuss matters in full.
- Provide information to all employees and contractors on the potential environmental impacts associated with the activities they perform.
- Carry out an education audit for each management category, to ensure staff have a broad understanding of the programme and are trained accordingly.

- Develop and communicate a Club Emergency Incident Plan in accordance with National health and safety regulations. This should include an accident register, and a safe working environment for all staff.
- Encourage Golf Professionals to include some environmental thinking in their junior coaching sessions (e.g. respecting wildlife, litter, awareness of what is involved in looking after a golf course and its habitats.) Perhaps greenkeepers could be pulled into such sessions.

All staff, members and visitors:

- Utilise the club communication tools such as email, website, notice boards, course guide, and newsletters to keep staff and golfers up to date about environmental projects, timings and progress. Invite comment and feedback.
- Establish a corner or table in the clubhouse on which to display any reports, information and material relating to the environmental qualities of the course, the actions the club are taking and the results and benefits being accrued.
- Create information posters and interpretation boards or a small leaflet explaining the value of the golf course for wildlife and the range of environmental considerations the Club are undertaking to conserve and enhance these qualities. It could also explain much of the course's historical background and features of significance.
- Undertake evening presentations or guided walks for interested (and sceptical) members. Create a nature trail leading to interesting areas of the course.
- Promote activities in a wider context e.g. contributing to the LBAP, Council waste strategy, or pertinent golfing initiative or promotional campaigns.
- Involve members, of all ages and abilities, in environmental projects e.g. photographic exhibition, species sightings records, small scale tree or wild flower planting projects.

External experts and local community:

- Have regular liaison meetings, talks, course walks and evening presentations with outside environmental specialists, local LBAP officer and local interest groups improving public access to the area.
- Invite representatives from local environmental and community groups to sit in on meetings of your Greens or Environment Committees.
- Use volunteer conservation management groups on special projects.
- Support local conservation initiatives with loan of equipment and/or labour.
- Establish partnership projects with local environmental organisations: e.g. contributing to local/regional wildlife surveys, species counts, migration watches.
- Initiate discussions with Ranger Services, Scottish Wildlife Trust and local schools / Clubgolf groups to utilise parts of the course as an outdoor classroom, possibly culminating in school children and teachers taking part in bird and bat box creation and monitoring, wildlife surveys, talks and displays within the school, water sampling of invertebrates and so forth.
- Seek opportunities to promote examples of good environmental practice/ environmental leaflets etc. in local media press releases/ libraries.
- Mention your work to other clubs and encourage them to become involved in good environmental practices.
- Promote any Environmental Awards or Certificates gained to the local community.