

## The Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program

Through participation in the program, Audubon Lifestyles assists golf facility managers, superintendents, staff, and owners who desire to manage and operate their golf facilities sustainably. The program is geared toward assisting golf facilities seeking to become local, regional, national and international models of sustainability by incorporating sustainable principles, concepts, and management strategies.

Once a facility meets all of the requirements of the program, which includes adopting a Sustainability Charter and completion of the Sustainability Audit, Audubon Lifestyles will designate the facility as an Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility and develop an Improvement & Implementation Report specific to the facility.

In addition, based upon an evaluation process and the Sustainability Audit, the facility may be awarded between one and five stars and earn the right to use the International Sustainability Council's Seal of Sustainability.



## The Definition of Sustainable Golf

A sustainable golf facility is an economically sound business that provides safe, healthy and enjoyable environments for all employees, members, visitors, and guests. A sustainable golf facility is sited, designed, and constructed in ways that enhance the local community, and reduce or eliminate its impact on natural resources. It is managed in ways that provide balance between optimum playing conditions for golfers, and good stewardship of the natural environment. Management strategies are based upon scientifically sound site specific best practices that improve the quality of all life on the site, regionally, and beyond. Through outreach and education a sustainable golf facility is a champion and advocate of sustainability.



AUDUBON  
 Lifestyles

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# AUDUBON LIFESTYLES SUSTAINABLE GOLF FACILITY PROGRAM



Photo courtesy of Eric Yallen/Oregon Golf Association

## Common Questions

**Q. We don't feel that we are "sustainable" yet, but want to work towards that goal. Is this the program that our facility should join?**

**A:** Yes. That is exactly the purpose of the program. Before we can determine how "sustainable" your facility may be, a baseline for current management practices must be established. Many golf facilities are actually a lot more "sustainable" than they give themselves credit for.

The program is meant as a way to showcase the activities presently underway that are being done correctly at your facility, and to offer assistance to promote additional sustainable management strategies that can be employed in the future.

**Q. Should we have all of the program requirements met prior to joining?**

**A.** Absolutely Not. Part of the benefit of joining the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program is the assistance that your facility will receive from Audubon Lifestyles staff as you work through the requirements of certification. Among other things this includes assistance with filling out the Program Audit, producing a Sustainability Charter, and developing a Natural Resource Inventory.

**Q. How difficult is the program?**

**A.** The program was developed to be achievable yet comprehensive to most golf facilities. However, facilities that achieve a higher standard in sustainability are rewarded through higher levels of recognition, and have the opportunity to earn the ISC Seal of Sustainability.

**Q. How is this program different from other golf certification programs?**

**A:** Most certification programs focus primarily on water and wildlife, but do not capture the social and economic values associated with managing a truly sustainable golf facility. The Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program fills the gap between environmental certification programs, and what it actually means to be truly sustainable. The Program should be seen as a complement to environmental certification programs, and the next logical step for golf facilities that have already been certified by credible third-party organizations.

**Q: How discrete is the program?**

**A:** None of the information submitted, gathered, or learned about your golf facility will ever be provided to the public in any way without your golf facility's full consent.

*"The Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Golf Facility Program is right on target, and very timely for the integration of sustainable management for various turf areas."*

*- Robert Carrow, Ph.D., University of Georgia*

## Join the Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
facility name

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contact name

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address info

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phone

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website

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name on credit card

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credit card number

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exp date



Platinum Membership is required for participation in the Sustainable Golf Facility Program. Platinum Membership consists of a one-time registration fee of \$250. Thereafter, annual membership is only \$100.

To begin participation, mail or fax this completed form with check or credit card information to:

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f: 727-683-9153



PLATINUM  
MEMBER