



Golf Course Environment Awards: A Guide to Your Application

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STRI

Be recognised for your proactive ecological and environmental management by entering the **2009 Golf Course Environment Awards**

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From 2009 the **Golf Course Environment Awards** replace the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, with the remit of rewarding environmental management across all levels of greenkeeping through an award scheme accessible to all golf facilities regardless of size or available resources.

Through the generous support of our sponsors, STRI has developed an awards scheme that will benefit **all** those who enter.

“ The Golf Course Environment Awards focus purely on the golf course and maintenance facility, giving the Course Manager complete control over their success within the programme ”

The purpose of the **Golf Course Environment Awards** is to recognise those who are proactively managing their golf course in a manner that is both sustainable for wildlife and the environment. By entering the Awards, you will create a positive environmental image for your club which, as you progress further through the scheme, can only continue to improve.



Full prize details including a

TRIP TO THE USA!

at

www.golfenvironmentawards.com



AWARDS AND PRIZES

Environmental Achievement Award

Overall Winner:

Will receive a trip of a lifetime to the USA to visit some of the world's leading golf venues

Four Regional Environmental Achievement Winners:

- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern England
- Southern England

Will each receive a half day visit plus report from a member of STRI's Ecology & Environment Unit

Best Individual Project Winners (in each of the following areas):

- Conservation and biodiversity management
- Integrated turf management
- Waste management
- Water management

Will receive free attendance for 2 staff members at STRI's Ecology Training Courses in October 2009

Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Winner will receive a trip of a lifetime to the USA to visit some of the world's leading golf venues

For full details plus Terms and Conditions see www.golfenvironmentawards.com

WHAT'S CHANGED?

- Awards now focused purely on the golf course and maintenance facility
- Broader appeal through new three tier awards structure:-
 - ◆ Environmental Achievement Award
 - ◆ Best individual project
 - ◆ Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Award
- Increased publicity through our links with Golf Monthly
- New range of prizes including overseas trip for the Overall Winner and Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year
- Recognition for golf clubs, greenkeeping team, and motivated individuals

THE PROCESS

To enter is simple:

- Application forms can be accessed at www.golfenvironmentawards.com or are available as hard copies (if you have not received one please email info@golfenvironmentawards.com or telephone 01274 518903).
- When completing the form, provide as much detail as possible and include, wherever possible, supplementary information (i.e. photographs and any other relevant documentation).
- **The deadline for entries is JUNE 19th 2009.**
- Upon receiving all applications the judges conduct a desk top assessment and create a short list of clubs that will make it through to Stage 2 (for this reason, the more detail provided the better!).
- **All entrants will receive feedback** on their applications including advice on how to progress further in future years.
- Clubs that progress through to the second stage of the competition will **receive a judging visit from an STRI Consultant.**
- Awards are presented to those greenkeepers and clubs deemed to be making the most progress in relation to their available resources.

Judge's Tip

“Photographs and other supplementary information gives the judges a greater appreciation of the work you are doing”

CASE STUDIES

Caldy Golf Club

- Extensive areas of rough grassland created and allowed to encroach further into play via appropriate management techniques.
- Woodland blocks have been managed to maintain open structure.
- Badger setts created to extend their available habitat.
- Reedbed installed for wastewater treatment.
- Rainwater harvested from maintenance facility roofs.
- Gorse and heather nursery established to facilitate heathland regeneration on the course.
- Numerous bird and owl boxes placed around the course.



Bearwood Lakes Golf Club

- Ecological Management Plan developed and implemented.
- Woodland blocks maintained via a programme of phased management.
- Water quality and ecological diversity of lakes enhanced through management work.
- Gorse maintained on a rotational basis.
- Natural features used to enhance the strategic elements of the course.



WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION – suggestions on how to proceed

The following text provides ideas and examples to consider when applying:

Nature Conservation

Deep rough grassland: The deep rough grassland is a valuable habitat resource for insects, small mammals and ground nesting birds.

- Create linkage between habitats using deep rough (ecological corridors)
- Management that considers play and ecological value
- An understanding of priority habitats and species
- Developing structural and species diversity

Trees and Woodland: As well as forming important strategic features, trees and woodland blocks have significant wildlife value. Management aspects to consider include:

- Thinning and re-stocking work
- Removal of inappropriate trees/use of appropriate trees
- Retention of deadwood (standing deadwood, ecopiles)
- Development of woodland structure
- Promotion of bird life
- Hedgerow planting/management

Heathland: Heathland is a diminishing resource in the UK. Golf clubs can play an important part in maintaining and preserving areas of heath. Aspects to consider include:

- Creating and managing heathland
- Management of natural succession and control of scrub
- Wildlife auditing to assess value

Water features: Appropriately sited and managed water features create a great deal of visual, strategic and ecological interest on the golf course.

- Pond and ditch management
- Water quality restoration project
- Introduction of native aquatic plant species
- Control of non-native plants
- Provision of buffer zones and wildlife refuge areas

Specific species conservation projects: Detail any work you are undertaking to protect or enhance any specific species on the golf course. For example, provision of reptile hibernacula or deep rough grasslands for nesting skylark.

Designations: Describe any on-site designations (SSSI, SAC, etc.), the reason for that designation, and work undertaken in light of them.

Judge's Tip

“ The judges are always impressed by a joined up approach to course management whereby environmental issues are considered through all aspects of routine maintenance ”

Turfgrass Management

Turfgrass management is crucial to the success of a golf facility. Inappropriate management can lead to poor quality surfaces, be damaging to the environment, and may be extremely costly.

- Detail your typical management programme and any environmental protection measures
- Aims and objectives for the future

Waste Management

How waste is managed on the golf course is an issue of increasing importance.

- Recycling initiatives
- Use of recycled materials
- Composting
- Waste management policies

Communication

Maintaining a communications network between greenstaff, green committee, members and the general public is important if progress is to be made at the club. Are you communicating through any of the following?

- Newsletter
- Notice board
- Website
- Presentations
- Wildlife booklets
- On-course signage

Judge's Tip

“ A team effort will be more sustainable in the long-run ”

Consultation and cooperation

Detail consultations/working partnerships with environmental bodies, for example:

- Natural England
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Environment Agency
- Local wildlife groups
- STRI

Water management

Water use is an issue under increasing scrutiny on the golf course. All aspects, from sourcing to application to discharge, require careful consideration.

- Minimising irrigation requirements
- Water sourcing – borehole, irrigation reservoir, water butts, etc.
- Contaminated water issues – do you have a reedbed or mechanical water recycling facility installed?

Certification

We request details of other programmes you may be involved with purely for our information. This question has no bearing on your progress through the Awards.



INDIVIDUAL PROJECT AWARD

You may feel that, whilst you are making progress at the club, you haven't advanced in enough areas to be successful in the **Environmental Achievement Award**. However, if you have undertaken a noteworthy project that could be described under one of the following headings:-

- **Conservation and Biodiversity Management**
- **Integrated Turf Management**
- **Waste Management**
- **Water Management**

you will be eligible for the best **Individual Project Award**.

Provide as much detail as possible about the rationale behind the project, how it was done, and the benefits of the end result. Before, during and after photographs may help.

“The Winner of this Award will receive free attendance for two staff members at STRI's Ecology Training Courses 2009”

Judge's Tip

“Dedication and enthusiasm help achieve the greatest results”

CONSERVATION GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Whilst a joined up and communal approach to environmental and ecological management may facilitate greater progress, it is often the case that the majority of work in these areas is undertaken by enthusiastic individuals. The **Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year Award** serves to recognise those individual efforts.

If you or a member of your team wish to be considered for this award, simply fill in the relevant section of the application form detailing the person in question with

- A description of the work they have undertaken
- Projects they may have led
- Efforts to instil environmental thinking throughout the club
- Resulting improvements to the golf facility.

Please feel free to attach as much supplementary information as you feel necessary.

“The winner of this Award will accompany the Overall Winner of the Environmental Achievement Award on a study trip to the USA”

CASE STUDIES

Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club

- Extensive heathland regeneration undertaken, including maintenance of existing resource and introduction of new heathland areas.
- Grazing initiative implemented to deal with encroaching scrub.
- Pond and ditch management work undertaken to maintain healthy and aesthetically pleasing ecosystems.
- Reedbed installed for wastewater treatment.
- Bird boxes introduced and monitored with details of bird sightings displayed for members' interest.



Minchinhampton Golf Club

- Hedgerow management undertaken, including laying and planting.
- Rough grassland developed and managed to define fairways and provide habitat for insects and ground-nesting birds.
- All green waste composted.
- Disused water tank converted into ecologically diverse water feature.



The logo for STRI, featuring the letters 'STRI' in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a dark green background with stylized white grass blades.

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The logo for Syngenta, with the word 'syngenta' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. A small green leaf icon is positioned above the letter 'a'.The logo for Ransomes Jacobsen, featuring the name 'RANSOMES JACOBSEN' in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. Below the name, it says 'A Textron Company' in a smaller font. A stylized green and red graphic element is positioned to the left of the text.The logo for Scotts, with the word 'Scotts' in a white, serif font, enclosed within a green oval shape.The logo for Golf Monthly, with the words 'GOLF MONTHLY' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the main text, it says 'THE UK'S BEST READ GOLF MAGAZINE' in a smaller font.