



## Ecology and Sustainability Road Map

### Introduction.

The following road map aims to guide and assist our Club in implementing ecological and sustainable practices.

The Club's goal is to match the R&A and England Golf's pledge and become carbon neutral by 2031.

By implementing these measures, the golf club will not only contribute towards environmental preservation but also enhance its reputation as a responsible and community-focused organisation.

### 1. Energy Efficiency

- a. Conduct an energy audit to identify areas of wastage and inefficiency.
- b. Upgrade facilities with energy-efficient equipment, including lighting, HVAC systems, and water heating systems.
- c. Install renewable energy sources, such as solar panels or wind turbines, to generate sustainable power on-site.
- d. Promote energy-saving practices among staff and members through awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.

#### *Work done to date:*

- *Energy audit see point one.*
- *LED lighting on the driving range.*
- *Solar panels have been installed on the clubhouse roof. More could be added.*
- *Clubhouse lighting has been made LED. The main office still needs to be done, but Lounge, Bar, and Centenary Room have been completed.*

#### *Work still to do:*

- *Communicate ecology road map to the Membership, therefore promotion of energy saving practices is still yet to be completed.*

### 2. Water and Irrigation

- a. Develop a water management plan to reduce water consumption while maintaining turf quality.
- b. Invest in efficient irrigation systems that utilise smart sensors, weather data, and soil moisture monitors to optimise watering practices.
- c. Implement a policy to reduce, reuse, and recycle water through rainwater harvesting, greywater usage, and water treatment systems.

Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby, LE9 1RG

T: 0116 2864759

E: [admin@cosbygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@cosbygolfclub.co.uk)



*Work done to date:*

- *Acquired a POGO moisture meter to ensure hand watering is done efficiently*

*Work still to do:*

- *Develop a water management plan to reduce water consumption while maintaining turf quality.*
- *Invest in efficient irrigation systems that utilise smart sensors, weather data, and soil moisture monitors to optimise watering practices.*
- *Implement a policy to reduce, reuse, and recycle water through rainwater harvesting, greywater usage, and water treatment systems.*

### **3. Environmental Assessment.**

- a. Conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment to understand the current impact of golf club operations on the surrounding ecosystem. This assessment should include analysis of water consumption, energy use, waste generation, and habitat disturbance.

*Work done to date:*

- *Progressed the species takeover from Poa Annua grass to Browntop Bent grass.*
- *Woodland management conditioning and risk assessment survey complete*
- *Hydrology report has been received., with next steps communicated to Board.*
- *Full energy review to be compiled based on work done by Jim Oswald*
- *Three recycling units installed. Placed by Pro shop, driving range and 10<sup>th</sup> tee.*

*Work still to do:*

- *Waste generation review. Recycle bins in place, Waste review to take place.*
- *Habitat disturbance review*

### **4. Conservation and Biodiversity.**

- a. Establish an ecology, conservation and biodiversity subgroup composed of experts and club members responsible for developing and implementing environmental protection initiatives.
- b. Identify and protect ecologically sensitive areas within the golf course, such as wetlands, woodlands, and native grasslands.
- c. Implement native vegetation restoration and reforestation programs to enhance habitat diversity and support local wildlife populations.



- d. Monitor and maintain water bodies and implement measures to improve water quality and conserve water resources.

*Work done to date:*

- *Subgroup has been compiled. General Manager, Head Greenkeeper, Jim Oswald, Tom O'Shea, Tony Stacey, Chris Hanning and Richard Taylor.*
- *Areas of ecological significance have been identified. These are hedgerows, areas between individual holes and the triangular area between 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes plus the three ponds and the brook/ditch.*
- *6<sup>th</sup> wildflower meadow has been reseeded*
- *Area to the left of the 17<sup>th</sup> tee has also been seeded.*
- *Full energy use review to be compiled based on work done by Jim Oswald*
- *Meeting booked with LCC's nature rediscovery strategy, the Forestry Commission, L&R Wildlife Trust, and The Woodland Trust,*
- *Several bird boxes and owl boxes have been installed for several years.*
- *Two bee hives have been in place for several years with two new hives being installed in the Spring of 2024.*

*Work still do to:*

- *Follow through the with the Woodland Management Plan. (WMP) An initial 5 phase project (See WMP for details).*
- *A survey is to be conducted using FEH-WEB data, to highlight other areas where water courses might be installed. LIDAR imaging can assist with areas that continually saturate. This is common for golf courses built on clay silt land to prevent the need for maintaining these areas.*
- *All other scrub and fallow areas between holes are to be biannually cut and collected. The aim is to remove nutrients form these areas and promote a finer fescue like environment. These fallow areas are currently very dense, unsightly and full of weeds.*
- *The triangular area between 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes, is to be reviewed by the L&R Wildlife Trust. It is believed that they will offer grants and will likely offer to remediate this area for the Club.*
- *The Wildlife Trust might also offer grants for hedgerow development. There is much to do on the home field side of the Shuttleworth Lane hedge. This will promote biodiversity and security.*
- *Implement native vegetation restoration and reforestation programs to enhance habitat diversity and support local wildlife populations. Areas TBC.*
- *Monitor and maintain water bodies and implement measures to improve water quality and conserve water resources.*



## 5. Waste Management

- a. Establish a comprehensive waste management system that includes recycling programs, composting facilities, and appropriate waste disposal methods.
- b. Reduce single-use plastics and encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives.
- c. Collaborate with local recycling initiatives and composting facilities to ensure proper waste processing.

*Work done to date:*

- *Non/applicable*

*Work still to do:*

- *All of the above*

## 6. Chemical Management

- a. Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to minimize the use of harmful chemicals.
- b. Use organic fertilizers and compost to maintain turf health and minimize environmental impact.
- c. Train staff on proper chemical handling, storage, and disposal methods to prevent contamination of water bodies and surrounding areas.

*Work done to date:*

- *Non-applicable*

*Work still to do:*

- *All of the above*

## 7. Community Engagement

- a. Educate golf club staff, members, and neighbouring communities about the importance of ecological and sustainable practices.
- b. Host workshops, events, and seminars on sustainability and environmental conservation.
- c. Engage with local schools and organisations to promote environmental awareness and provide learning opportunities.

*Work done to date:*

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- *Non-applicable*

*Work still to do:*

- *All of the above*
- *Organise a biodiversity event where we invite the village to the Club.*

## **8. Monitoring and Reporting**

- a. Monitor and track progress by implementing measurable indicators, such as water and energy consumption, waste reduction, and wildlife populations.
- b. Publish an annual sustainability report to communicate initiatives, achievements, and future goals to stakeholders and members.

*Work done to date:*

- *Non-applicable*

*Work still to do:*

- *All of the above*

## **Conclusion.**

Implementing these measures outlined in the ecology and sustainability action plan will position the golf club as a leader in environmental stewardship within the golfing industry. By prioritising ecological preservation, the golf club will contribute to the overall well-being of the surrounding ecosystem and foster a sustainable future for generations to come.



## Off the Course Checklist

Focus Area	Yes	No
<b>Biodiversity and Habitats</b>		
Have we investigated the opportunity to increase biodiversity around the clubhouse/ buildings, such as a herb wall or vegetable patch?		
Does our building offer any habitats to wildlife? E.g. Bee bricks, bat boxes, bird boxes?		
Do we have signage around the buildings to educate facility users about biodiversity and wildlife at your facility?		
<b>Water Resources, Energy and Emissions, Transport and Travel</b>		
Do we have a water resilience plan in place, complete with water storage and/or rainwater capture, from the car park and/or buildings?		
Do we have any 'green-tech' in place at the facility, such as solar panels, EV charging points, air source heat pumps etc?		
Do we encourage members to car share to the golf club?		
Have we swapped all lightbulbs to LED?		
Have we installed water saving shower heads, taps, and toilets?		
Have we insulated the building through things like roof insulation, cavity wall insulation, upgrading windows to double/triple glazing, draught proof doors?		
Do lights and taps have auto-off sensors to avoid unnecessary wastage?		
<b>Materials and Chemicals, Food and Drink, Waste Management</b>		
Do we reduce single use plastic each year by changing suppliers and ensuring packaging is reduced?		
Do we compost food waste and coffee grounds?		
Do we use refillable chemicals rather than buying a new bottle each time?		
Do we use local produce to avoid unnecessary food milage?		
Do we ensure all waste is separated so that as much waste as possible can be recycled?		
Do we educate members about recycling, waste management and its benefits through signage and webinars?		



## On the Course Checklist

Focus Area	Yes	No
<b>Sustainable Management</b>		
Do we keep a record of how much water, gas, electricity, seed, fuel, and agrochemical are used each year?		
Do we have a budget set aside for sustainability?		
Do we have in place a person/committee who will take the lead on sustainability and sustainable planning?		
Has the club made projections as to how becoming more sustainable could impact the club financially?		
<b>Biodiversity and Habitat</b>		
Do we know what species are present at your facility, through an ecology survey or land management plan?		
Have we looked at the entire site to establish where rewilding, naturalisation, and carbon sequestration may be an option?		
Have we installed any insect, bird, bat or hedgehog boxes?		
Do we educate members on course changes and biodiversity e.g. through signage, newsletter, website?		
<b>Water Resources, Energy and Emissions, Transport and Travel</b>		
Do we have a water resilience plan in place, complete with water storage and/or rainwater capture opportunities?		
Have we conducted a thorough irrigation audit to establish where irrigation improvements can be made, including focusing on arcs and leaks?		
Have we consulted with agronomists on sustainable grass type options which reduce water and chemical inputs to the turf?		
Have we conducted a mowing audit to show where reductions can be made in terms of machinery mileage on the golf course?		
Have we looked into electrifying greenkeeping equipment and buggies?		
<b>Materials and Chemicals</b>		
Do we reduce single use plastic each year by changing suppliers and ensuring packaging is reduced?		
Do we have a compost procedure in place for things like grass clippings, food waste and coffee grounds?		



## Professional Shop & General Purchase Ledger Checklist

Focus Area	Yes	No
<b>Sustainable Procurement Methods</b>		
Do we have a plan as to how sales and procurement will become more sustainable each year?		
Have we considered areas where sustainable changes can be made, such as prioritising companies which use primarily recycled packaging?		
Do we track trends, so you can see what sells well and what doesn't, so there are less unused products?		
Have we surveyed our Members to establish whether or not sustainable purchasing is something they'd be interested in, and which products they would like us to stock?		
Do we provide educational information to Members to inform them of the sustainable alternatives, and the reasoning for their introduction?		
Have we tried to streamline the amount of suppliers we use, to reduce the number of trips being made to your facility?		
<b>Materials, Food and Drink</b>		
Do we offer sustainable alternatives to all products, including clothing and shoes?		
Do we offer a trade-in or swap scheme for golfers that want to recycle used products?		
Do we offer an incentive scheme for those Members who are making sustainable choices?		
Have we investigated your suppliers to see if they act in a sustainable way. E.g do they have environmental or ethical policies in place?		
Have we swapped single use water bottles for reusable water bottles at your facility?		
Have you made sure that things such as plates, cups, and cutlery are reusable or compostable instead of single use?		
Do you buy from local suppliers, where possible, to minimise food mileage?		





### Review Changes

Date of Review	Amendment	Person responsible for Amendment
7.12.23	Moved Energy Efficiency to point number 1	WB
7.12.23	Moved Water & Irrigation to point 2	WB
9.1.24	Recycle bin installation added	WB