



National Golf Course Owners Association
Canada
Association nationale des propriétaires de terrains de golf

NGCOA Canada Environmental Position Statement *Board Approval Feb 25, 2008*

Golf and golf courses are intrinsically linked to the natural environment. The National Golf Course Owners Association Canada recognizes that as operators of golfing facilities we have a duty to be good stewards of the environment. Golf is both influenced by, and exerts an influence on society and the natural environment in which it takes place. By drawing on its traditions and values, golf therefore has a remarkable opportunity and a responsibility to play a positive role in moulding the attitudes and goals of our communities, and to set an example in environmental stewardship.

The NGCOA Canada is committed to ensuring that golf courses can be a positive influence on the environment. By using best management practices, golf courses can conserve habitat variety, maintain biodiversity, and protect delicate and rare habitats. By using science as a foundation for research and education programs in the areas of turfgrass management, sustainable development and environmental protection, we also believe it is possible to develop initiatives and partnerships for the benefit of golf, the environment and people.

The NGCOA Canada mandate is to assist its membership in pursuing a business model that combines environmental and social responsibility and economic sustainability by providing access to the resources which will best help to reach these goals.

These goals can best be supported by having the NGCOA Canada work with its allied golf partners and by endorsing and communicating their environmental policies to our members.

- Complying with all legal requirements affecting operations and products by providing through our website access to regulations and websites so our members will know what is available to them currently.

- Ensuring that all operations present the safest possible environment to employees, golfers, the public and the environment by providing access to materials outlining Environmentally Responsible Golf Principles in all aspects of planning and policy making
- Develop and implement environmental stewardship activities that conserve and enhance natural resources, making sure that every allied association's website clearly and easily links to our website for environmental information and tools.
- Communicate with both the golfing and non-golfing public on issues concerning golf development or maintenance and the environment through promotion and recognition to golf courses establishing an environmental plan of action. Develop a (media) plan around specific opportunities (e.g. golf tournaments) reinforcing that golf courses are assets to the community. Utilize Research Department to identify areas of concern and opportunity to develop most effective strategies and messages.
- Communicate with and assist governments to encourage fair and attainable standards based on scientifically supported data by promoting and endorsing research and education as well as resources, information to be utilized such as IPM, Environmental Resource Manual and Best Management Practices Report and Audubon Co-Operative Sanctuary Program. Ensure that all resources are understandable by both technical (e.g. superintendents) and non-technical (e.g. government decision makers) users of the information.
- Being responsive and sensitive to community concerns by developing a tool kit providing allied statements/letters that can be made available to assist golf courses and industry associations in their response to environmental issues and requirements. Include both environmental and economic information and resources.