**Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme**

**In Partnership with G.E.O. Foundation**

**Provided by Wales Government**

**Club Guidance**



**Wales Golf – ‘Playing Our Part’**

**Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme**

**The Accelerator Grant**

* The Welsh Assembly Government has made available £105,000 to support clubs in practical innovation in dealing with the subject of ‘Sustainability’. We hope to fund, support and showcase projects that help foster nature, conserve resources, reduce emissions; and strengthen communities.

The Wales Golf Sustainability Kickstarter Fund which was launched in April 2022 saw 18 Clubs from across Wales gain funding towards Sustainable Golf projects. Wales Golf are pleased to now announce the second wave of funding for Sustainability Projects.

Accelerator Grant – Funding for projects up to £5,000.

Demand is likely to be high, and funding is limited. Therefore, it is unlikely we can support all applications; however, a fair application and assessment process has been put in place and each application will be judged on its own merits and the information provided to support the application.

**Purpose**

Wales Golf has recently announced a new phase of proactive work in sustainability and climate action as we seek to support clubs to become even more efficient and resilient; to continue to grow the sport’s positive contribution to the environment and communities; and to strive to have a positive leadership influence in society.

The ‘Playing our Part’ initiative is being supported by Sport Wales and the Wales Tourism and Events Department, delivered in partnership with the international non-profit GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf.

The Wales Golf Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme is financial support for clubs to begin embedding ‘sustainability’ within their club’s operation. To support Welsh Golf Clubs, Wales Golf working alongside the G.E.O. Foundation have developed **OnCourseWales –**

OnCourseWales® is an easy to use, online application that has been custom built to help golf course and club managers, committees and staff teams to integrate sustainability across operations – generating new business opportunities, and quickly establishing the facility as a leader in their local communities.

Using OnCourse® will enable you to:

* Review and evaluate current performance against industry best practices
* Gain new ideas and identify opportunities to enhance the course, save resources and money, and generate new publicity
* Gather and track key data and trends
* Create and promote your highlights for nature, resource and community
* Gather all information needed to apply for the GEO Certified® label

**Assessment Criteria**:

Clubs will need to demonstrate:

* They meet the additional criteria as outlined below.
* That the project positively impacts upon one or all of the following – 1. Fostering Nature; 2. Conserving Resources; 3. Reducing Emissions; Strengthening Communities.
* A commitment to address Sustainability.
* That a suitable project leader (Sustainability Champion) has been identified by the club to drive and accelerate the topic within club operations.
* Other grants have not supported areas in the application.

**Who can apply?**

Any golf club affiliated to Wales Golf (as of the 1st Sept 2022) which meets the criteria and conditions of the grant.

**Ideas of what this funding could be used for:**

No set projects have been set in stone; Wales Golf are looking for clubs to be innovative in their approach to the subject.

Below is not a definitive list, and individual requirements should be considered. Applications can also consist of more than one funded area:

**Fostering Nature-**

Habitat management / Pest or disease control / Renovation projects / Restoration and naturalization / Site protection / Species conservation / Sustainable drainage / Sustainable turf management

**Resources-**

Energy efficiency / Green transport / Renewable energy / Responsible purchasing / Reuse and recycling / Waste and material reduction / water efficiency / Water sourcing

**Reducing Emissions**

Doing things differently / Measuring current impacts / Emission awareness

**Strengthening Communities**

Access and multi-use of club facilities / Community engagement / Diversity and inclusion / Education and volunteering / Golfer engagement / Health and Wellbeing / Partnerships / Staff engagement / Serving not only the community of golfers but the whole community in which the club sits.

**Further ideas on each of the topic areas can be found here-**

Sustainable Golf Highlights | Success Stories | GEO Foundation

**What this fund cannot be used for:**

* + Replacing or duplicating other already committed external Grant funds.
	+ Any retrospective projects (a project which has already started)

**How much can each club apply for?**

Accelerator Funding – Funding for projects up to £5,000.

Funding will be paid in one instalment upon approval of the application and receipt of a signed Service Level Agreement from the club/facility.

Applicants may be offered a lower amount than requested and will have the opportunity to accept or decline.

**How to apply**

All affiliated clubs and facilities will be emailed information regarding the **Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme**

The online application form can be found in the Accelerator Grant section of the Wales Golf Sustainability webpage- **https://www.walesgolf.org/sustainability-grant-funding-support/**

Additional documentation may be requested as will a minimum of 3 quotations for any individual item above £500.

**Proposed Timeframes**

**Wave 2 – Sustainability Accelerator Fund – Projects up to £5,000**

* Promotion to clubs **SEPTEMBER 2022**
* Deadline for applications is **22nd OCTOBER 2022.**
* All applications will be agreed by the Wales Golf panel (to include 1 board member, the CEO, relevant development officer, Director of Development, The G.E.O. Foundation plus a minimum of 1 independent member)
* Applicants will receive notification as to whether they have been successful via email.
* Successful clubs will be required to the register with OnCourseWales following grant confirmation. (further information will be provided with the grant offer)
* Wales Golf will distribute grants as soon as practically possible once the Service Level Agreement is received.
* Funding to be spent by clubs by **1st MARCH 2023**
* Project completion and reporting to be received **1st APRIL 2023** (although reporting will be required and Highlights shared at several intervals throughout the year)

**Eligibility Criteria & Conditions**

**Criteria**

All clubs applying must meet the criteria outlined below to qualify:

1. Affiliated to Wales Golf (as of the 1st Sept 2022)
2. Demonstrates a commitment to growing the game and long-term sustainability, through **engagement** with relevant initiatives and **Wales Golf development programmes** as well as support/engagement with Wales Golf High Performance Programmes (where applicable).
3. Completed the **Wales Golf** **strong club matrix** and are committed to improving areas highlighted.
4. A clear commitment to reviewing and implementing **good governance practice**.
5. Adheres to **all terms & conditions of** **Wales Golf affiliation**. Subscription fees for the period of 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 to the 31st AUGUST 2022 must have been actioned prior to a grant being released.
6. Provide 3 quotations for any individual items of £500 or more (where possible) with the application.

**Conditions**

1. The selection process will be at the discretion of Wales Golf. Applications will be assessed against a set Assessment Criteria and must meet the eligibility criteria outlined above.
2. Applicants may, at the discretion of Wales Golf, be offered all or part of the amount requested.
3. Any requested additional documentation must be provided to Wales Golf prior to funding being awarded.
4. Any information provided on the application and any subsequent documentation requested will only be used for the purposes of administering, monitoring, and evaluatingThe Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme. As the Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme funder, The Welsh Government and/or Sport Wales may also request specific information on successful grant applications. Prior agreement/approval from the applicant will need to be sought for any wider use.
5. The Golf Club must declare if they were in receipt of any other grant or loan funding towards this project.
6. The Golf Club must be able to demonstrate that it has a viable future and must submit the financial information requested in the application.
7. Incomplete or incorrect claims (including claims without full supporting documentation) will not be considered.
8. All successful applicants will need to complete a Service Level Agreement to accept Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme Funding offer being made and will be requested to provide BACS payment information.
9. Funding should be spent within the agreed timeframes detailed in the Service Level Agreement. Any amendments to this should be discussed with Wales Golf, with written approval given.
10. All funding awards will be paid by BACS directly into the nominated club or facility business account.
11. If funds are not allocated or spent, Wales Golf has the right to request that a full or partial repayment is made.
12. Any funding returned will be made available to other clubs.
13. To understand how this funding has been utilised, Wales Golf will request a project completion report and further reporting will be required at intervals. A review form will be provided upon award of funding. In addition, applicants may be asked to support in the production of a case study or other promotional piece and. The report and case studies will be shared with The R&A and Welsh Government.
14. Clubs can only submit one application for the Sustainability Accelerator Grant.
15. Signatories on behalf of applicants must be 18 or over. If the lead or secondary contact changes, Wales Golf must be notified.
16. Changes to a successful application must be approved by Wales Golf in writing.
17. Funding cannot be claimed in retrospect.
18. **All successful clubs must register with OnCourseWales.**
19. It is expected that each club identifies an individual/working group who will act as chief liaison contact (Sustainability Champion) for the project.

**Application Form Content**

**Important points to note**

Before starting to complete the **Sustainable Innovation Grant Scheme** application, we ask that you have thoroughly read and understood the supporting information and can adhere to the Criteria and Conditions.

If you have any questions relating to any elements of this fund, please contact your development officer.

**Completing the application**

Please read the questions carefully and ensure your club/facility can meet the criteria, if not this will make your application void. Some questions are mandatory, and some are for information only. Some questions have a specific word count and the form will not allow you to go beyond these. Please provide clear, concise answers and list information as appropriate, no additional documentation outside of the application form will be accepted unless specifically requested.

As previously noted, funding is limited. Please ensure that you provide us with ample information in response to each question. Funding will be allocated on the clear merits, benefits and impacts presented in each application.

**Data Protection & Privacy Notice**

Wales Golf is committed to compliance with all relevant data protection legislation, and to ensuring that all personal information provided to us is handled properly. We will use the information you give us on this application and any supporting documents to:

• Assess applications

• Monitor funding/grants

• Evaluate the impact of funding

• Report to our stakeholders.

We may also give copies of the information provided to other organisations such as:

• The Welsh Assembly Government and/or Sport Wales as the provider of funds

• Our accountants, auditors or other external advisors or evaluators

• Any other organisations involved in delivering the project

• Other organisations for the prevention and detection of fraud, bribery, or other offences