

A Guide for Golf Courses Enrolled in Eco-Certification Programs

If you're already a member of, or working through, one of golf's voluntary environmental programs (i.e., Audubon International, GEO, Groundwater Guardian, state-based programs), that's great! These programs can help you get started on a more environmentally-friendly path. It is important to understand that the journey to sustainability is long and ultimately requires a complete approach. The e-par Environmental Management System (EMS) for Golf can complement and build on these initial efforts and lead you on a path to a more comprehensive and strategic environmental management approach at your golf facility.

Why e-par's EMS for Golf?

A good environmental management plan for any golf facility should include the types of actions that are promoted through most voluntary environmental programs, including:

- Wildlife Habitat Management
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality Management
- Chemical Use, Reduction, & Safety
- Energy Efficiency
- Outreach & Communication

Likewise, many of the actions you're taking through these programs probably already follow a basic 'Plan-Do-Check-Act' path (i.e., the foundation of an EMS). Yet, a sophisticated and comprehensive environmental management approach should also include the following:

- Regulatory Compliance
- Risk Management
- Liability Containment
- Ongoing Staff Training
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Enhanced Metrics & Recordkeeping
- Regular Internal Auditing
- Upper Management Commitment

This is where the e-par EMS for Golf comes into play—filling in the gaps and building on your initial efforts. The e-par EMS for Golf provides the security in knowing you're better-positioned to achieve regulatory compliance, manage risk, and implement best practices in a continually improving manner. It's also equipped with a full set of tools to make day-to-day environmental management easier, and these easy-to-use online tools can help manage your voluntary environmental program projects as well (i.e., bird counts, nest box projects, stream restoration).

For the Whole Golf Property, Not Just the Golf Course

E-par's EMS for Golf provides this support not just for the golf course. That's not the only place where environmental impacts exist. There's also an Environmental Management System for Clubhouse and Pro-shop operations. In this way, it's the only comprehensive, full-facility environmental management program available for golf.

How Does It Work?

The e-par EMS for Golf is an online, database-driven management system that makes environmental management easy, efficient, and effective. Using the e-par EMS for Golf in conjunction with and in support of any eco-certification projects is easy.

1. **Join:** Enroll with e-par USA (www.eparusa.com/signup), create your online e-par EMS for Golf member profile, and get started on building your internationally-recognized (ISO 14001-compliant) Environmental Management System—which federal and state agencies support.
2. **Initial Environmental Review:** e-par's EMS starts with a set of questions to help determine existing performance and recommend improvements. This is a great way to see how you're doing and double-check yourself against a set of leading environmental management practices.
3. **Build Your Environmental Policy:** You probably have a written Environmental Policy if you are involved with a voluntary environmental program. If so, simply input it into the e-par platform as you build your EMS. If not, the e-par EMS for Golf will create one for you.
4. **Develop Objectives, Goals & Environmental Action Plans:** The e-par EMS is highly automated—with pre-loaded management practices, check-boxes, and drop-down forms throughout to make it easy to assess risk, develop objectives & goals, and develop written environmental action plans. However, you also have the freedom to develop your own environmental plans. Here's where you can capture, track, and manage any projects you're doing through any voluntary environmental program.
5. **Building Your EMS:** The 18-Hole online layout includes all of the elements required to make your Environmental Management System compliant with the internationally-recognized environmental management standard, ISO 14001. These elements develop a comprehensive and strategic environmental management plan—helping with regulatory compliance, record-keeping, ongoing training, implementation of best management practices, and continuous improvement.
6. **Manage Your Voluntary Environment Improvement Projects:** Once you've built your EMS (it only takes a few hours), manage any activities and projects related to your participation in other voluntary environmental programs through the e-par EMS. The online system allows you to track progress and measure results along the way.

Do More...Easier, Better, Faster

Enroll today as a member of e-par USA's EMS for Golf and start building a more comprehensive and sophisticated environmental management approach. You'll learn why so many other golf business owners and operators are using e-par USA to work smarter, not harder.

To learn more, see demonstration videos of the e-par EMS for Golf, or to start leading today, contact e-par USA at info@eparusa.com, or visit www.eparusa.com.