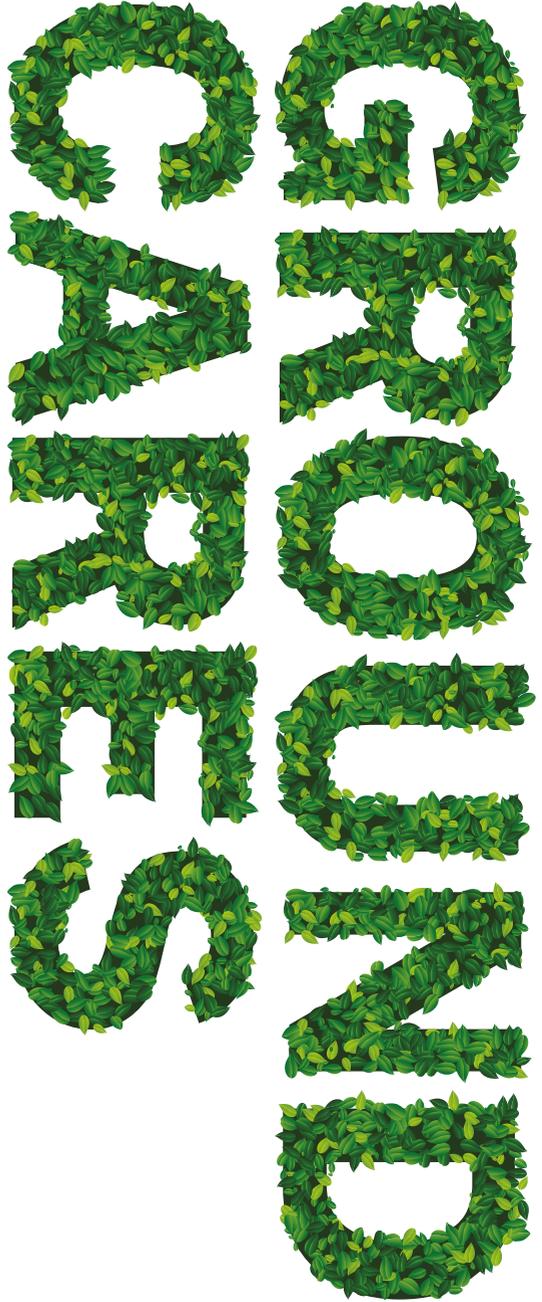


# It's time to get serious about sustainability

This is your invitation to join us in a grounds care industry initiative to make your contribution towards an environmental and sustainable responsibilities charter; to know you were there at the beginning, driving meaningful change.



This initiative is a collaboration between:



# Solving sustainability together

To help you get started, we've pieced together some best practices known to contribute to meaningful sustainable grounds maintenance. They're designed to help you get the ball rolling, get you thinking, researching and talking.

## First things first



It's easy to think of a million things that need doing and can contribute to the goal, but what we find is best is to draft realistic, meaningful and deliverable sustainability goals and make focused, thoughtful decisions. There's no room for greenwashing! Start as you mean to go on.

## Biodiversity, the quick win



Looking after wildlife and local fauna is always a good thing. Wildflowering, making space for nature, planting trees, there are so many ideas and turfcare sector forums are a great starting point for seeking out what others are doing and what worked for them and what didn't. Start a conversation and find like-minded turfies.

## What precisely is precision?



Irrigation is considered by some to be wasteful, but it doesn't have to be. Technology is definitely your friend here. Checking moisture levels means you won't be watering unnecessarily and choosing an irrigation solution wisely will mean you can irrigate to the millimetre, not minute, to the smallest of areas without wasting a drop.

## Let the sun shine...



And use it to your advantage. It can deliver unlimited energy to power your buildings and infrastructure needs. This is a classic example of considering the total cost of ownership. Yes, solar panels are an initial investment, but the savings soon start mounting up and for many, it proves to be one of the best investments they've ever made. It's certainly worth a look into - you could be next.

## Put your trust in the battery



When it's time for new machines, your due diligence process should surely consider electric-powered or hybrid machinery. The upfront cost is coming down and there are long-term savings to be made. Plus, it makes life out on the machines cleaner, quieter and more comfortable. It's a win-win.

## Organic turf practices



This is a game changer without changing the game. Organic practices help build soil health, which reduces the need for chemical fertilisers. They reduce the area's carbon footprint and environmental impact, creating a better playing surface and environment.

### **Washing away problems, literally**



Many venues and clubs routinely wash their machinery and while this is a necessary task it is terribly wasteful of huge volumes of water. But what if there was a way to wash down while using minimal water? Well, there is! Research *sustainable machines and parts washing products* and discover how to put an immediate stop to water waste.

### **It's time to pipe up about cables**



Did you know, it's now possible to irrigate with no cabling at all? Thanks to technology and innovation, WiFi and Bluetooth control systems can now talk to decoders and sprinklers without the need for miles of plastic and rubber cables. Admittedly, it's not a quick fix but it is one to consider when the time comes to upgrade.

### **The march is on for turf agents**



Chemical applications need no longer be the go-to. Organic wetting agents are comparable to their synthetic alternatives, industry-approved, competitively-priced and now the far more desirable option. This is a quick win so make sure those responsible for buying products are fully aware of all the choices and make a change for the better sooner rather than later.

### **Water recycling is as old as Earth itself**



There's not a drop of water on Earth today that wasn't already here when the Earth as we know it formed, we just need to keep recycling it! Not only is it important to consider capturing and storing it, but can you reduce wastage or be more efficient with usage? There are lots of ways to make a difference.

### **Reservoirs need managing?**



Doesn't everything? But yes, applying best practice management prevents wasteful evaporation by the gallons every year, conserving water and money. Another one where starting the conversation will bring dividends. Approach your contractor to learn how to add an effective reservoir management programme to your sustainability strategy.

### **Proper planning prevents poor performance**



Those with successful and usually award-winning sustainability strategies have not dabbled and fallen foul of greenwashing, they've drafted a plan, tackled realistically achievable tasks and built up to a plan with attainable objectives. Have a go, and make a couple of sustainability goals of your own, starting shouldn't take more than five minutes.

## What is GreenGrounds?

GreenGrounds is an initiative that aims to promote environmental awareness of sustainability solutions within the turf and grounds care industries. The idea is to form a collective approach and help the industry with free advice and knowledge, and creative and practical solutions to everyone ready to make a difference.

*How to start a sustainability project* is one of the most frequently asked questions, which is where the seed for GreenGrounds comes from. There is a real and growing interest and enthusiasm to start making a difference and we're here to support and encourage that.

## Why is such an initiative needed?

Sustainability and biodiversity are here to stay, and rightly so. Climate change is at a crucial point. We're at the sweet

spot where we have the power to make change and make a difference for the future. If we leave it much longer, we won't have a choice to make. Any change no matter how small, from all industries is needed. This is our contribution to the grounds care industry.

## Future planning, for a greener future

There's currently no consensus on what effective sustainable grounds care measures are, and no universal sustainability guidelines for clubs and businesses to follow. We've found that quite often sustainability is viewed as simply an activity to tick a box, done without holistic thought or measurement, which means opportunities are missed. It's better when there's combined direction and accountability to avoid confusion within our sector.

It's time to plan properly, together.



**Plant me!**

I'm made from wildflower seed paper, so when you've finished, cover me with soil, water me and then watch me grow!

## Join the conversation

Get involved and learn how we can work as an industry to deliver sustainable grounds maintenance, meaningfully.

