



WATERWISE GOLF COURSE PROGRAM INFORMATION



What is the Waterwise Golf Course program?

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Western Australia (GCSAWA) and the Department of Water have developed a Waterwise Golf Course program. The aim of this program is to provide security for the WA golf industry through efficient and sustainable use of water for irrigation.

About the program

The standards and efficiency indicators within this program have been jointly developed and agreed between the Department of Water, GCSAWA and industry experts. The program provides a framework for assessing existing practices and ensures that operators are provided with the right tools to achieve fit for purpose surfaces with the least volume of water.

The program will:

1. establish practical and achievable targets for water efficiency
2. develop water use efficiency standards for irrigation systems
3. develop agreed measures and indicators for reporting on water use efficiency
4. develop guidelines for water use efficiency and current best practice irrigation
5. establish an accreditation scheme to recognise achievement of standards for efficient use of water.

Why have a Waterwise Golf Course program?

Climate change and predictions of reduced water availability present significant challenges to those managing our water resources.

Waterwise programs in other sectors have achieved substantial water savings in irrigated spaces. Golf courses are considered a substantial water user and due to their high profile nature of water use, they can be a leader in promoting efficient and effective water management.

What are the benefits of becoming Waterwise?

Becoming a Waterwise Golf Course will provide a number of benefits, including:

1. A better understanding of the course's water use
2. Potential water and financial savings through improved efficiency
3. Access to Waterwise branding to promote the course as sustainable
4. Access to Waterwise materials on water efficiency and conservation.

How can I become Waterwise?

The Waterwise Golf Course program is open to all golf courses in Western Australia. The criteria information sheets outline the requirement for each level of accreditation.

Register your interest

To register for the Waterwise Golf Course program, contact the GCSAWA and request an application form, complete the form and return it to the Program Administrator, together with the necessary payment. Full contact details are given on the application form.

GCSAWA contact, Paul Needham, email: gcsawa@bigpond.com
Program Administrator, Colin Campbell, email: cjcmal@ozemail.com.au

Once you have registered, you will be contacted by the Waterwise Golf Course program administrator who will provide you with program materials and guide you through the criteria.

Criteria to enter the Waterwise Golf Course program

To be eligible to enter the program, the following prerequisites must be met:

1. Be a financial member of the GCSAWA
2. Comply with all terms and conditions of water licence(s) issued by the Department of Water
3. Be committed to promote the golf club as being Waterwise
4. Be committed to ongoing skills development in efficient and sustainable use of water
5. Pay the required fee at each level.

Once the prerequisites have been met courses may apply to be recognised at either bronze, silver or gold level. Any level may be applied for.

Retaining the Waterwise Golf Course endorsement

1. **Continue reporting on water efficiency targets and performance annually**
2. **Continue implementing the irrigation efficiency plan and operating strategy**
3. **Have not breached water licence terms or conditions**
4. **Continue to train and induct new staff members to maintain compulsory levels of competence required by the program.**

The Department of Water will verify that there have been no breaches of water licence terms and conditions, as part of the re-endorsement process.

It should be clearly understood that being accredited as a Waterwise golf course will not guarantee any golf course favourable treatment if more water is requested in areas where the existing water resource is fully allocated. Any such request will always be considered on the basis of sustainability of the resource and impacts of extraction on the environment and other water users.

Evidence to demonstrate the criteria above will be requested by the Waterwise Golf Course program administrator on an annual basis to ensure that the high level of standard for the Waterwise Golf Course program is maintained. Should an organisation fail to meet the above criteria, the GCSAWA and Department of Water may remove the Waterwise Golf Course endorsement status.

If Waterwise Golf Course endorsement is withdrawn this automatically removes the course's right to use the program logo and any promotional material.

Related websites

Information about saving water is available on the Department of Water's website:
www.water.wa.gov.au

Australian Golf Course Superintendents Association
<http://www.agcsa.com.au>