

## **Subject: Invitation to Pilot-Test a New Environmental Management System for Golf Facilities in Canada**

Canadian Golf Course Superintendent Association (CGSA) members managing golf facilities of all sizes, budgets, and types are invited to participate in a “pilot test” of a web-based environmental management platform specifically designed to help golf operations in Canada reduce environmental risk, comply with regulatory requirements, and adopt best management practices. In total, 15-20 golf course superintendents will be selected to “pilot test” e-par’s Environmental Management System for Golf (EMS). This pilot project is being launched on the heels of a recent survey of CGSA members’ environmental practices. In total, 90 CGSA members responded, verifying the potential value of providing this environmental management resource to Golf Course Superintendents. An executive summary of the survey results is found here:

<http://www.e-parusa.com/uploads/files/State%20of%20Sustainable%20Golf%20in%20Canada%20-%20Executive%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

### Background

In 2009 and 2010, The e-par Group, in cooperation with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, conducted a pilot test for the e-par Environmental Management System for Golf tailored specifically for golf businesses in the United States. Now successfully operating in the US with members in 26 states, the e-par EMS for Golf has been modified for adoption throughout Canada. The EMS framework follows a “Plan-Do-Check-Act” approach, and it is compliant with the internationally-recognized environment standard, ISO 14001:2004. It is an environmental management tool that’s been widely adopted by tens of thousands of businesses in hundreds of industries. Currently, the e-par EMS for Golf operates as the national standard for golf course environmental management in Australia and is also being used in 32 countries.

### What’s Expected of Participants?

Participants will take part in an initial 30-40 minute webinar about Environmental Management Systems, and the e-par system specifically. Each participant will then be given access to the password-protected online system and will commit to complete the “18-hole” EMS layout. Each “hole” is populated with short surveys and questions to help develop a site-specific environmental improvement plan. Total time commitment for completing the EMS (i.e., complete the set of online questionnaires and surveys) is approximately 3-4 hours. Participants will have 6 weeks to complete the 18-hole EMS and can do so in multiple sittings (i.e., complete a few holes at a time). A follow-up interview will be conducted with each participant to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the tool.

### What Will Pilot Participants Receive in Return?

Golf course superintendents selected for the pilot test will be given a year of free access to the e-par EMS for Golf (along with reduced cost for use once a final version is launched in Canada). This includes access and use of the following (all features of the e-par EMS for Golf):

- Complete online EMS for Golf Course, Clubhouse, & Pro Shop – All of the features shown below are covered for the entire golf facility.
- Improvement plans based on an Initial Environmental Review – A comprehensive questionnaire assesses the status of common best management practices across the entire property. User’s get a PDF report identifying areas for improvement.

- Written environmental policy compliant with ISO 14001 standards– Provides a written commitment of the golf facility management’s adherence to legal compliance and best practice.
- Risk Assessment & Profile for all areas of operation – The user examines a list of dozens of common practices and assesses the frequency and the potential impact of each. This creates a Risk Profile and a prioritized list of improvements for the EAP (below).
- Comprehensive Environmental Action Plans (EAP) – Each risk item identified is placed in the EAP area where the user assigns a corrective action, person responsible, and a deadline.
- Set of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs)– The e-par EMS includes 1-2 page written SOPs for a wide range of activities, such as chemical storage, mixing and loading, etc.
- Training, communications, & incident registries – Online registries allow the user to conduct training (i.e., review of SOPs with staff) and keep training records. These records provide assurance that the EMS is being actively used to manage risk and minimize liability.
- Environmental performance checklists for ongoing review – One page compliance checklists (for weekly use) and longer checklists (semi-annual and annual use) create a culture of responsibility, awareness, and continuous improvement.

### Learn More

Once again, participation in this pilot project is limited to CGSA members only. For more information about the e-par EMS for Golf or the expectations as a pilot project member, please contact Kevin A. Fletcher, Ph.D., President & CEO of e-par USA and Head of North American Operations for the e-par Group at [kevin@eparusa.com](mailto:kevin@eparusa.com) or at 855-372-7872.