

Minnesota Golf Course Environmental Stewardship/BMP Certification Program

The Minnesota Golf Course Environmental Stewardship Program (MGCESP) is intended to organize efforts of, golf allied associations, state agencies, the University of Minnesota (UMN), and environmental advocacy groups to advance the environmental stewardship of the golf industry, recognize conservation and BMP achievements and provide public assurances that the golf industry is committed to protecting the state's resources. The program is to be developed at the UMN with support from the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association (MGCSA), the Midwest Golf Course Owners Association, Minnesota Golf Association (MGA), Midwest PGA Section (PGA), Midwest Chapter Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Department of Pollution Control (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Bureau of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The Minnesota Golf Environmental Coalition (MGCSA, MWGCOA, MGA, MWPGA, and the MWCMAA) and the GCSAA will provide the base funding to develop and operate the program.

This program is focused around 12 modules that need to be completed for certification. Once completed, a site visit is conducted by a UMN trained MGCESP Stewardship Specialist to verify all items are achieved. All of the modules shall be created with help from the DNR, MPCA, MDA, MDH and BWSR, and are to be reviewed on a yearly basis to keep them compliant with new laws and regulations. This is a voluntary program that covers laws, regulation and best management practices for environmental stewardship.

The modules in the program are:

- Program Overview
- Site Evaluation
- Wellhead Protection
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage
- Pesticide Mixing and Loading Pad
- Pesticide Handling and Application
- Fuel Storage
- Equipment Wash Pad
- Emergency Response
- Buffer Strips
- Green Purchasing, Conservation, & Waste Reduction
- Irrigation; conservation management and drought contingency planning

Completion and certification would gain permit variance from the DNR to provide assurances that irrigation sources would never be revoked completely and participants would have the ability to craft their own water conservation and drought management programing.