

## Case Study

### 2025 Venue Middle East – WINNER

#### Overview

As host of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Yas Links Abu Dhabi has established itself as a global benchmark for sustainable tournament venues.

Operating under independently verified GEO Certified status, the club demonstrates how one of golf's most high-profile events can be delivered in line with leading international standards for environmental responsibility, community engagement, and resource efficiency.

#### Objectives

 Set against a unique coastal landscape, Yas Links Abu Dhabi aims to combine elite sport with a long-term commitment to sustainability, including zero potable water use for irrigation and the protection of 30 hectares of coastal ecosystems, using the global platform of the DP World Tour to showcase what the future of golf can look like.

#### Implementation

-  Sustainability at Yas Links Abu Dhabi is embedded across every aspect of operations, with water stewardship forming the foundation of its approach.
- The course is irrigated entirely using Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE), eliminating the need for potable water.
- A targeted turf reduction programme has further lowered demand by replacing irrigated areas with drought-tolerant desert species.
- At the same time, the club has prioritised biodiversity protection across its unique coastal setting.
- Native planting initiatives have introduced a diverse range of species to support pollinators and birdlife, while partnerships with local schools have extended this work into the community through environmental education projects such as bird box installations.
- Operational efficiency transformation through investment in renewable energy and smarter systems.
- Solar panels provide 100% of clubhouse hot water, while LED lighting and motion sensors significantly reduce energy consumption.
- The transition to 80 electric carts saves thousands of litres of fuel annually, complemented by optimised irrigation systems that further minimise energy demand.
- In parallel, Yas Links Abu Dhabi has taken decisive steps to reduce waste and improve resource management.
- Single-use plastics have been eliminated in favour of reusable and glass alternatives, removing thousands of single-use plastic bottles from circulation each year.
- Waste is segregated at source and managed through accredited partners, while local procurement is prioritised to reduce transport emissions and support regional supply chains.
- These efforts are matched by a strong commitment to inclusivity and community engagement, with dedicated programmes encouraging female participation, structured pathways for junior golfers, and ongoing charitable initiatives that deliver tangible social impact.



#### Results and Activation

 The impact of these initiatives is both measurable and far-reaching.

 Yas Links Abu Dhabi has achieved a 20% reduction in irrigation water use, while eliminating potable water consumption entirely.

 Thirty hectares of mangroves have been protected, biodiversity has been enhanced through habitat creation, and thousands of litres of fuel have been saved annually through the transition to electric transport.

 Renewable energy solutions now supply all clubhouse hot water, while the removal of single-use plastics has prevented thousands of bottles from entering circulation each year.

 Beyond environmental outcomes, the club continues to deliver strong social impact, engaging hundreds of juniors each year, increasing female participation in golf, and generating significant funds for charitable causes.

 These efforts are amplified through the global reach of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, which is broadcast to millions worldwide, showcasing a venue that combines elite sport with measurable sustainability outcomes.

 The visibility of Yas Links' sustainability initiatives positions the venue as a benchmark for the industry, reinforcing the credibility of the DP World Tour's Green Drive and demonstrating that elite sport can be delivered in a way that is both responsible and future-focused.

 With GEO Certification secured through to 2027, Yas Links Abu Dhabi remains committed to continuous improvement, ensuring that sustainability remains at the core of its operations and that its flagship tournament continues to set the standard for venues around the world.

"Sustainability at Yas Links is embedded in how we operate every day, and hosting the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship allows us to showcase what is possible on a global stage."

**Corey Finn**

Director of Agronomy Viya Abu Dhabi – overseeing Yas Links Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Beach Golf Club and Yas Acres Golf & Country Club