



**United States Golf Association**  
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[www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org)

July 23, 2009

Dr. Noble Hendrix  
Golf Preserves  
93351 Overseas Highway, #3  
Tavernier, Florida 33070

Re: Colorado Golf Carbon Project

I am writing to you in support of the Colorado Golf Carbon Project. The USGA strongly supports the group of scientists, associations, and companies that have come together to provide their time and expertise on this emerging environmental issue. This is a great project and will provide important information at a time when climate change legislation is being addressed.

I am excited about the opportunity you have in Colorado because they are leading the way to a better understanding of the carbon footprint of golf courses. The USDA-ARS and Colorado State University published the first peer-reviewed research on the carbon sequestration of golf course turfgrass. It is amazing that golf course fairways can sequester up to 14 tons of soil organic carbon per acre over 30 years. The proposal also addresses the amount of carbon released by golf course facilities. This information will provide the first scientific estimate of the carbon footprint of golf course facilities.

The golf industry has provided leadership and innovation for the entire turfgrass industry. Turfgrasses in urban environments may provide a significant amount of carbon sequestration. The proposed project for golf courses will provide information for cities to estimate the carbon sequestration of turfgrass in parks, commercial properties, and right-of-ways.

Energy and water conservation are extremely important issues for us to consider. This project will help golf course facilities to determine energy use efficiency and how it relates to the emission of carbon. Water conservation will reduce energy use through more efficient use of irrigation pumps. Again, the information learned on golf course turfgrass can be extrapolated to urban turfgrass areas.

I strongly support your efforts on the Colorado Golf Carbon Project. I appreciate the opportunity that the State of Colorado has provided in an effort to lead the nation on this important environmental issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Kenna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael P. Kenna, Ph.D.  
Director