



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## Project period 2026 - 2028

**STERF (Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation) is an independent research foundation that supports existing and future R&D efforts and delivers applied 'ready-to-use' research results that benefit the golf and turfgrass sector. STERF was set up in 2006 by the golf federations in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and the Nordic Greenkeepers' Associations. STERF's vision and strategic objectives can be found in 'Guide for applicants' at [www.sterf.org](http://www.sterf.org).**

### Sector specific and global challenges

The future challenges for golf and the larger turfgrass industry are many and diverse, in order to provide high quality golf courses and other sport fields. Climate change is transforming abiotic stress patterns, pest life cycles, and basic turfgrass selection and management. Strong restrictions on the use of chemicals and fertilizers, and increasing pressure on natural resources (notably water, energy and land) and rising operating costs for turfgrass maintenance are expected.

Development is accelerating the loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity. All this calls for more research and innovation for a sustainable future.

### Programmes

We recognize that sector specific and global challenges need concerted action and collective solutions, underpinned by robust, applied science. To meet these challenges, STERF has created four international and trans-disciplinary R&D programs, including:

- Winter stress and integrated pest management
- Sustainable use of natural resources in golf course management
- Multifunctional golf courses and ecosystem services – landscape perspective
- New technologies for sustainable future

Further details on the scope and intended outcomes from these STERF R&D programmes can be found on [www.sterf.org](http://www.sterf.org)

In this call for proposals, STERF has decided to prioritize research and development within all four R&D programmes.

### Guidelines for applicants

STERF has reserved about 3,5 million SEK (€315 000) per year for 2026, 2027 and 2028 for new research projects. We recognise that industrial engagement and financial support for projects is a critical component to deliver additional impact and outreach.

Projects that combine practical applicability with scientific excellence and international collaboration will be prioritized. We also welcome complementary financial support from for example research councils, research foundations, research-oriented companies.

Applicants are therefore encouraged to secure additional financial and/or in-kind support for their planned research projects. Collaboration and joint projects between Nordic research organizations is an important aim for STERF, but STERF also encourages collaboration with international research organizations outside the Nordic countries.



Instructions for those wishing to apply for funding for research projects from STERF can be found in the “**Guide for applicants**” at [www.sterf.org](http://www.sterf.org). The “Guide for applicants” provides details on the template for proposal submissions and describes how applications for funding are assessed by STERF.



## Deadline

Deadline for application: **October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025**.

Agreement for approved projects will be written for one to three years; however continuation of the project will be determined annually based on progress and status reports delivered to STERF.

Decisions regarding funding should be made by December 2025.

### **The proposal should be sent as a PDF-file to:**

Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environment Research Foundation  
Att: Maria Strandberg  
[maria.strandberg@golf.se](mailto:maria.strandberg@golf.se)

If more information or clarification is required,  
please contact:

**Maria Strandberg**, STERF  
Telephone: +46 (0)8 622 15 27 alt. +46 70 620 17 87  
E-mail: [maria.strandberg@golf.se](mailto:maria.strandberg@golf.se)

**Pål Melbye**, Norwegian Golf Federation  
Telephone: +47 21 02 91 90 alt. +47 90 820 190  
E-mail: [Paal.Melbye@golfforbundet.no](mailto:Paal.Melbye@golfforbundet.no)

**Torben Kastrup Petersen**, Dansk Golf Union  
Telephone: +45 43 26 27 09 alt. +45 40 40 91 02  
E-mail: [tkp@dgu.org](mailto:tkp@dgu.org)

**Jari Koivusalo**, Finnish Golf Union  
Telephone: +358 40 663 1277  
E-mail: [jari.koivusalo@golf.fi](mailto:jari.koivusalo@golf.fi)