



GoGreen XOTA
Participation Guidelines



Change control

Date	Version	Details
01-August-2020	0.1	First draft by Dzianis, DD1LD
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2. Introduction

There are thousands of amateur radio operating awards available, some of them offer a great way to take outdoor amateur radios. You can hike a high alpine mountain or a local hill, go to a green park or to a sunny beach around the corner, visit a lonely island or your favorite castle and "activate" them to enjoy outdoor amateur radio activities and apply for a corresponding activator award. The idea behind this initiative is **not** to create yet another outdoor amateur radio program, but to engage and participate in **GoGreen XOTA** activities that currently incorporate existing outdoor amateur radio programs:

- SOTA (Summits On The Air),
- GMA (Global Mountain Activity),
- WWFF (World-Wide Flora & Fauna),
- COTA (Castles On The Air),
- LOTA (Lighthouses On The Air),
- IOTA (Islands On The Air).

The term **XOTA** means **X-any On The Air**. You can activate or chase X-any object which is eligible for activating or chasing by the associated outdoor amateur radio program listed above (e.g. summit, castle, nature park, etc.) as long as you are compliant with the following **GoGreen philosophy**:

- Using personal cars, trucks, motorcycles, motor boots, etc. (*any personal vehicles with combustion engines, hybrid and electro vehicles*) should be avoided for any **GoGreen** activations.
- A **GoGreen** activation should be done on foot, by bicycle/e-bike, by paddle boat/canoe, with the support of an animal, and/or *by public transport in regular service* (bus, train, ferry, etc.). Taxis and carpooling are therefore excluded.
- A **GoGreen** activation *starts and ends at your QTH or at an alternative QTH*. The alternative QTH is a place where the motorized personal vehicle has been parked and not moved for any XOTA activations for at least two nights or longer, e.g. your holiday destination, resort, hotel, camping site, etc. Generally, all modes of transport can be used to reach the alternative QTH, although public transport in regular service should be preferred.
- A **GoGreen** activation is an *outdoor activity* in the fresh air compared to amateur radio indoors. If possible, you should operate the radio outdoors at least 1 km or more from your QTH or an alternative QTH.
- QRP is preferred, Low Power (100W) should also be fine. Solar and battery powered operations are welcome. Combustion engine generators should not be utilized.
- Environmental impact and ecological footprint should be minimized as much as possible. E.g. public aircraft are particularly harmful to the environment due to air pollution and noise and should be avoided during **GoGreen** activation but are allowed.
- Stay happy and healthy while enjoying **GoGreen** XOTA activities.

The **GoGreen** philosophy leaves plenty of room for individual interpretations of what **GoGreen** activation is and what is not. Finally, it is up to you how you integrate the **GoGreen** philosophy in your outdoor XOTA activities, and whether you judge that your activation corresponds to the **GoGreen** philosophy or not. E.g. you can fly to an island while on vacation and do some **GoGreen** SOTA and LOTA activations from your resort, which may be your alternative QTH. You can also claim island activation as a **GoGreen** one, if you wish.

The motivation behind the GoGreen initiative would be to foster:

- outdoor and /P amateur radio activities in the fresh air,
- homebrewing and experimenting,
- personal health and fitness,
- flora and fauna conservation (less emissions, noise, damage, impact, etc.),
- "green" thinking (less congestion and traffic jams, better life quality, better use of time, etc.),
- personal achievements (number of QSOs per XOTA reference, GoGreen mileage, etc.),
- joint family activities.

The GoGreen XOTA is basically a progress tracking and award scheme that targets your personal goals (health and fitness, number of different activated or chased objects or references, achieved GoGreen points, miles and QSOs, etc.) rather than the competition and ranking. Activators who wish to participate in the GoGreen award scheme and track their progress must submit their logs showing details of all QSOs through the GMA (Global Mountain Activity) platform at www.cqgma.org. Of course, ideally you should also submit your logs to the associated outdoor amateur radio programs (Table 1). GoGreen chasers do **not** need to register or enter the QSO details into the GMA database. You can apply for a GoGreen chaser award directly at <https://www.cqgma.org/gogreen/>

Does it sound exciting? Take a quick look at the engagement and participation guidelines and get started! There are many XOTA objects and references around you that are just waiting to be activated!

3. Participation Guidelines

Participation takes place according to the general rules of the respective outdoor amateur radio program. In other words, a GoGreen XOTA activation of an object should be done within the actual general participation rules of the associated program (Table 1). There are no extra GoGreen XOTA activation rules and no special reference numbers.

For instance, if you are going to undertake a GoGreen activation of a SOTA summit, you must act according to the actual SOTA General Rules, and this SOTA summit must be eligible for activation on the activation date. You can upload your activation log to the SOTA database to claim SOTA points, and you can upload the same log to the GMA platform to collect GoGreen points, track your progress and apply for GoGreen awards.

Table 1.

Object	Program	Participation Rules
Mountain	SOTA	<i>SOTA General Rules</i>
Mountain, Hill	GMA	<i>GMA Rules</i>
National park, nature reserve	WWFF	<i>WWFF Global Rules</i>
Castle, fortress	WCA	<i>WCA Rules</i>
Lighthouse	WLOTA ARLHS	<i>WLOTA Rules</i> <i>ARLHS General Awards Rules</i>
Island	IOTA	<i>IOTA Programme Rules</i>

Take a bike ride or a walk to the next castle, hill or nature reserve, enjoy nice weather and some exercise in the fresh air, experience amateur radio and have fun, submit your log to apply for awards. That's it!

Cross activations are welcome. That means, you can undertake X-any or cross activations by a single amateur radio expedition, e.g. you can operate from a SOTA mountain or GMA hill or castle located in a WWFF area, or you can activate a lighthouse on an island, and, thus, activate both at the same time. This way you can target a wider chaser community, collect more QSOs and have more fun!

An example of a possible triple XOTA activation is shown below:

DK9JC/P	26-07-2020	 DM/RP-187  DLFF-0344  DL-04977	Wildenburger Kopf Nationalpark Hunsrück-Hochwald Wildenburg	20 QSOs
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4. Award Scheme

It is very difficult to create an award system that takes into account a wide range of interests of the participants as well as the level of complexity of an activation. We tried to make the GoGreen XOTA award scheme as general and comprehensive, as simple and sustainable as possible. The award scheme is a points-based scheme where every GoGreen activation and every GoGreen QSO counts. Basically, GoGreen XOTA activators and chasers are collecting so-called GoGreen Points (GGPs),

1 GoGreen Point  = 1 QSO.

That means, every QSO made from any object during your GoGreen XOTA activation is worth 1 GGP. If you cumulatively reach the threshold of 50 QSOs from an object, you will receive a four-leaf clover

mark  associated with this object,

1 GoGreen Clover  = 50 cumulative QSOs from a reference.

The threshold of 50 QSOs from a object for the four-leaf clover mark is selected based on:

- requirements determined by WWFF and COTA programs, as well as by GMA Triathlon rules, where at least 44 (WWFF) or 50 (COTA, some national WWFF) QSOs are required to validate activation;
- considerations of equivalent efforts to activate different objects, e.g. a minimum of 44 or 50 QSOs are required to validate a WWFF or COTA activation and only 4 QSOs to activate a SOTA/GMA summit and qualify for the points attributed to that summit;
- encouraging longer activations and renewed visits to already activated objects;
- last but not least, on compliance with the WWFF Activator Points Award that was launched in 2020.

So, the number of clovers  can indicate a number of objects or XOTA references from which at least 50 QSOs (=50 GGPs) has been achieved cumulatively. The clover mark is especially helpful to check whether you have reached at least 50 QSOs for the COTA or (national) WWFF activation to be valid. The number of clovers assigned to the object can accumulate over time, e.g. two clovers are issued for 100 cumulative QSOs from the object. This way you can create your own ambitious challenges and track your progress, e.g. from how many different objects you have achieved 50 QSOs

or how many clovers have you earned, annually or in total. One clover for each 50 cumulative QSOs from a reference means that 50 QSOs can be accrued over multiple activations and over different days.

Very special GoGreen activations with an above-average number of QSOs are identified as “Paramount Activity” and marked with an GoGreen star mark . The threshold for “Paramount Activity” is defined as twice the average number of QSOs per single activation in the respective outdoor amateur radio program (approximately),

GoGreen Star  = Paramount Activity.

The main motivation behind this is to reach as many different chasers as possible per single activation and give them more opportunities to log a new reference, as well as to offer a challenge for ambitious activators. The threshold is currently defined as 50 QSOs for SOTA/GMA and 100 QSOs for other programs per single activation and can be adjusted in the future.

It is up to you what you prefer to activate – mountains, parks or castles, lighthouses or islands, a combination of all or all. Every GoGreen activity, every activated XOTA reference and every QSO counts!

The award certificates are available in electronic format (.pdf or .jpg) and free of charge. Currently, all GoGreen awards are based solely on QSO information available in the [GMA database](#).

GoGreen awards can be claimed in two categories:

1. **GoGreen Activators**
2. **GoGreen Chasers**

GoGreen Points Award (GGPA-A and GGPA-C)

For this activator (GGPA-A) or chaser (GGPA-C) award you will need to have confirmed a minimum of 100 GoGreen Points in the GMA database. Certificate upgrades for every 100, 250, 500, etc. extra GoGreen Points are available.

Activators applying for the GoGreen Points Award whose activations are **25% or more** are “Paramount Activities” automatically qualify for the **Paramount Award** certificate. You don't have to explicitly apply for it.

The scoring for **activators** applying for **GGPA-A** is summarized in the following table:

Table 2.1.

Program	GoGreen Points 		
SOTA	Every QSO = 1 GGP, cumulative	for each 50 cumulative QSOs from a reference	50 QSOs from a reference per single activation
GMA			
WWFF			100 QSOs from a reference per single activation
WCA			
WLOTA			
ARLHS			
IOTA			

The scoring for **chasers** applying for **GGPA-C** is summarized in the following table:

Table 2.2.

Program	GoGreen Points 
SOTA	Every QSO = 1 GGP, cumulative
GMA	
WWFF	
WCA	
WLOTA	
ARLHS	
IOTA	

GoGreen Clover Activator Award (GGCA-A)

Ambitious activators who collect 10 GoGreen Clovers  can apply for a **GoGreen Clover Activator Award (GGCA-A)**. Certificate upgrades for every 10, 25, 50, 100, etc. extra GoGreen clover marks are available. The GoGreen Clover Award is primarily of interest to WWFF and COTA activators where 44 QSOs and 50 QSOs are required, respectively, to validate activation, as well as to ambitious object re-activators.

GoGreen Miles Activator Award (GGMA-A)

Activators who collect 1000 GoGreen Miles can apply for a **1000 GoGreen Miles Activator Award (GGMA-A)**. Certificate upgrades for every 1000 extra GoGreen Miles are available. GoGreen miles or kilometers are a distance you traveled GoGreen (according to the GoGreen philosophy) to activate an object. It can be actual or, in some cases, virtual (e.g. for multiple or cross activations) miles. It is up to you to keep your millage input as accurate and fair as you judge it.

E.g. if you have activated 3 references (SOTA DM/RP-187, COTA DL-04977, WWFF DLFF-0344) at the same time and covered 12 km by bike, it is up to you how you count your GoGreen Miles:

- Actual GoGreen Miles. 12km in total or 4km per reference (you enter 4km in the database),
- Virtual GoGreen Miles. 12km per reference or 36km in total (you enter 12km in the database).

Public aircraft are particularly harmful to the environment due to air pollution and noise and should **not** contribute to your GoGreen mileage.

Keep in mind, it is your personal GoGreen mileage, your personal achievement and your choice of what to put in the database!

5. How does it work?

Max, DLOABC decided to engage in GoGreen XOTA and activated various objects by bike and on foot. Max, DLOABC uploaded his activations logs to the GMA platform. His GoGreen activities were summarized as follows:

Table 3.

Date	Reference	QSOs	GoGreen Points	Remarks	
01.05.2020	SOTA DM/BW-298	18	18		
15.05.2020	SOTA DM/BW-298	33	33		
30.05.2020	SOTA DM/BW-298	7	7		
07.06.2020	WCA DL-01166	68	68		
21.06.2020	WWFF DLFF-0398	112	112	2x 	
23.06.2020	GMA DA/BM-148	150	150	3x 	
	WWFF DLFF-0061		150	3x 	
Summary:	6 XOTA Expeditions 7 XOTA Activations 5 XOTA References	388	538 x 	10x 	3x 

Now Max, DLOABC can apply for the **500x GoGreen Points Paramount Activator Award** as well as for the **10x GoGreen Clover Activator Award**.

This GoGreen award and progress tracking scheme offers you a variety of ways to set your goals and pursue your strategies to achieve them. For example, if you want to maximize the number of GGPs on a SOTA/GMA day tour, which strategy is currently best for you - to continue the CQ calling from that mountain/hill or move to the next one? Right, it depends...

Log Submission

The log submission via the GMA platform is quite simple. You need to register at www.cqgma.org and upload your logs yourself. Just don't forget to choose the option "GoGreen XOTA Activation" and enter the GoGreen mileage when uploading your activator log. Of course, you will be able to mark your already submitted activations as GoGreen and adjust your mileage afterwards. All of your GoGreen activations are highlighted in green. We highly recommend uploading a photo taken at the operating location showing your portable set-up. Your submitted logs are automatically eligible for other GMA awards, e.g. for GMA Triathlon. GoGreen chasers can apply for an award directly at <https://www.cqgma.org/gogreen/>. For information on how to register, upload your logs and apply for awards, visit the GMA website:



6. Miscellaneous

The GoGreen XOTA award scheme starts in a pilot mode from August 1st, 2020. All GoGreen activations from January 1st, 2020 can be considered.

There is a small steering team to keep the GoGreen XOTA award scheme as lean as possible. The team consists of the following members:

- *DD1LD, Dzianis*
- *DF3MC, Martin*
- *DL4MFM, Mario*

and may grow in the future. Some changes and adjustments in GoGreen XOTA are possible as the initiative evolves.

Participation is completely free and open to everybody, although use of the GMA platform requires registration. The steering team reserves the right to withdraw permission to participate in the GoGreen XOTA award scheme and to remove previously entered data in case that any participant behaves in a manner contrary to the Ham Spirit or to the GoGreen philosophy or to the rules of the associated outdoor amateur radio program (summarized in Table 1).

We want to shape the GoGreen XOTA initiative as much as possible based on community suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact a team member for questions and constructive suggestions. The contact information is available at www.QRZ.com

The GoGreen XOTA award scheme may not be perfect. Please keep in mind that GoGreen XOTA initiative is mainly about outdoor amateur radio experience, environmental consciousness, fun and personal health!

73 and 77 (meaning GoGreen)!

