FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING CERTIFIED BY THE SUSTAINABLE GREEN PRINTING PARTNERSHIP (SGP)? SGP is the leading non-profit accreditation organization that certifies printing facilities of all types and sizes for sustainable manufacturing practices. Certification by the SGP program provides a strong return on investment by helping companies to identify operational improvements and waste reductions. SGP certification is a significant demonstration of commitment to sustainability and is recognized in the marketplace meeting the demands of customers for a sustainable supply chain.

WHO CAN APPLY? Any printing facility, small or large, using any print process, including lithography, flexography, screen, digital and gravure and is located in the United States or Canada is eligible. SGP also certifies in-plant printing operations, multiple locations of the same corporation, and printing departments within government agencies and educational institutions.

WHAT ARE THE SGP CERTIFICATION FEES?*

- *Application*: $600. Must be submitted with the completed application for the certification process to begin.

- *On-site Audit*: $2,000. Invoiced once the pre-audit review of documentation and the on-site audit is complete.

- *Desk Top Audit (DTA):* $1,000. After the initial on-site audit, facilities in good standing with SGP may be eligible for a DTA in lieu of a future on-site audit. This also alleviates travel cost of the auditor. DTA eligibility is determined by SGP.

- *Auditor Travel*: Variable. The facility undergoing an audit is responsible for the travel expenses of the auditor. Costs will be kept as reasonable as possible and invoiced with the audit fee.

- *Corrective Action Required* (CAR) *Review*: $75 per hour. Sometimes facilities require corrective actions to achieve certification. An auditor may have to spend additional time interacting with the applicant. This fee is invoiced with the audit.

- *Annual Renewal*: $750 each year after the initial audit, the facility will be charged an annual fee as part of the annual review.

WHAT ARE THE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SGP CERTIFIED? All facilities must implement and operate a robust Sustainability Management System (SMS) based on the program's Certification Criteria. The SMS elements include developing an annual continuous improvement project; conducting bi-annual environmental, safety, health and energy audits; implementing mandatory best practices; and beginning in mid-2018, reporting data elements as required by the SGP on-line dashboard.

HOW LONG DOES CERTIFICATION LAST? Facilities undergo a recertification audit (on-site or DTA) every two years and must complete a report annually.

WHERE ARE THE CERTIFIED FACILITIES LISTED? The SGP website (www.sgppartnership.org) identifies all the facilities with current certifications. There are details about each company including full contact information, where they are located, company information, products, printing processes.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?
Visit the SGP website at www.sgppartnership.org or contact the SGP Program Office info@sgppartnership.org.

*Fees valid as of March 1, 2018 and subject to change.