SGP CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

SGP Partnership is the leading non-profit accreditation organization that promotes sustainability in printing practices and manufacturing operations. SGP advocates best practices and innovation through a multi-attribute, publicly vetted third-party certification that encourages reduction of environmental impact while increasing social responsibility.

Beyond creating real cost and resource savings, SGP certification differentiates your business in the crowded marketplace, and institutes a more accountable, sustainable supply chain – something more and more buyers are interested in.

No Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to certification – except a strong commitment to the goals of certification. One team member should be responsible for driving the certification process and coordinating internal teams to address requirements. We recommend that facilities allocate a dedicated staff resource for 22 hours/week for 12 months.

Qualities of a Success Process for SGP Certification –
Empowered Sustainability Champion

A company that successfully engages in the SGP certification process begins by selecting and enabling a sustainability champion. This champion will become the subject matter expert and the touchpoint for the company's sustainability initiatives, responsible for establishing the system driving certification. To be successful, management recognizes that the champion will need to dedicate time each week towards this initiative so that sustainability becomes one part of their job responsibilities.

After certification, the champion ensures that all within the facility recognize the importance of the SGP Certification brand, and are able to effectively communicate the success of the facility to all stakeholders. This would include conversations with customers, suppliers, other employees, community members, etc. Most importantly, the champion ensures that the message regarding the company's sustainability journey is constant and on target.

SGP Certification Timeline

The following is a sample timeline. Each printer will follow their own path to certification based on their unique set of circumstances.

1-3 months
- Choose sustainability coordinator
- Establish sustainability committee
- Develop sustainability policy
- Begin working on development and implementation of the Sustainability Management System

4-5 months
- Continue working on development and implementation of the Sustainability Management System. Ensure documentation procedures have been established and procedures are written for each required element.
- Identify, document and develop action plan for first continuous improvement project

6-9 months
- Establish documentation strategy for Best Management Practices
- Conduct Environmental Audit
- Conduct Safety and Health Audit
- Conduct Energy Audit
- Conduct Indoor Air Quality Testing
- Complete the SGP Metrics Form

12 months
- Ensure completion of all required documentation for Best Management Practices 13 months
- Submit application to the SGP program and request a certification audit

24 months
- Conduct first Sustainability Management System Audit and Management Review
- Consider any new directions – document all changes made to SMS!

Additional information

Please visit www.sgppartnership.org for more information on SGP certification or contact the SGP Program Office info@sgppartnership.org.