

Summary of Proposed Changes

Summary

The revised criteria move SGP from a primarily best-practice-based certification model toward a data-driven sustainability management and reporting framework. Assessments are elevated into a formal, performance-based framework supporting KPI development, CIP selection, and management review. By aligning with SDGs and SASB, requiring KPI measurement, conducting materiality assessments, and documenting continuous improvement through verified metrics, certified facilities will be better positioned to support customer sustainability reporting requirements and strengthen ratings within sustainability assessment platforms such as Eco Vadis.

The SGP Certified Criteria 5.0 establish the systems, governance structure, KPI tracking, and continuous improvement processes needed to manage sustainability performance. The SGP Certified Leader 1.0 Criteria build on that foundation by requiring measurable climate commitments, public sustainability reporting, supplier engagement, Scope 3 emissions management, and broader accountability across the value chain. Together, the two certification levels create a pathway from foundational sustainability management to recognized sustainability leadership.

Key Difference	SGP Certified Criteria 5.0	SGP Certified Leader 1.0
Continuous Improvement Projects (CIPs)	One annual CIP focused on a selected sustainability topic.	Two CIPs: one focused specifically on Climate performance (Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions), plus one additional CIP on another sustainability topic.
Greenhouse gas reduction target	No specific GHG reduction target is required.	Establish a climate CIP targeting at least a 10% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions within five years, supported by a five-year action plan.
Scope 3 emissions KPI	Track Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions.	Track Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions, expanding accountability beyond direct operations.
Supply Chain & Governance	Optional sustainability topic.	Mandatory sustainability topic.
Annual public sustainability reporting	Public reporting is encouraged but is not a required performance metric.	Publish an annual sustainability report including all mandatory KPIs.
Supplier sustainability engagement	Formal supplier sustainability surveys are not required.	Annually survey suppliers representing 80% of raw material spend regarding GHG emissions and reduction targets, hazardous chemicals, sustainability practices, and human rights/labor-related attributes.
Required assessments	Assessments required only for energy, VOC/HAP emissions, and solid waste.	Assess social impacts, substrates, chemicals, inks, coatings, cleaning materials, and other consumables.

Key Difference	SGP Certified Criteria 5.0	SGP Certified Leader 1.0
Customer communication	No requirement to provide end-of-life instructions or diversion program information.	Provide customers with end-of-life instructions and diversion program information for products where applicable.
Climate leadership and value-chain sustainability	Focuses primarily on the systems, governance structure, KPI tracking, and continuous improvement processes needed to manage sustainability performance.	Moves beyond operational sustainability by requiring organizations to address emissions throughout their value chain, engage suppliers, publicly report performance, and establish measurable long-term climate reduction goals.