BIC Accreditation Badges and Standards Map

Table of Contents

Introduction to the BIC Accreditation Badges and Standards Map

Background

This map is a result of the work completed by Task & Finishing Working Group of the BIC Environmental Accreditation Badges project. The project is part of the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan which is leading various environmental and sustainability projects to help the book industry supply chain.

Aims of the project

The aim of this project is to help the industry make better purchasing decisions and allow for sustainability data to be included to the ONIX feeds from publishers to the wider world.

The project was to research all the sustainability accreditation badges and standards, otherwise referred to as 'badges,' which are applicable to the book industry supply chain. These badges would then be curated onto a 'map' at the point in the supply chain that they are relevant and used by organisations. Alternatively, mainly in the case of the ISO standards, they would be applicable across the whole supply chain as they are about the processes a company uses in its business and not about a particular point in the supply chain.

How the badges have been reviewed

Initial research found 91 potential badges, but upon further investigation this original list was reduced to 49 badges. This investigation first looked at whether each badge was an accreditation or standard, if it was applicable to the book industry supply chain and what type of entity it was certifying. The project then proceeded with a deeper dive into 34 specific areas of each badge, covering environmental and social responsibility credentials and so this number was refined again. It was then decided to include not only the relevant badges to the book industry supply chain, but also the organisations that provide useful information along with relevant regulations. The finally tally is currently 34 badges, 47 organisations of useful information and 14 regulations. The listed badges certify for both environmental and social responsibility and have been reviewed considering the key impact areas they assess, the quality of their governance and the support provided for organisations to improve their impact.

The map is a guide to the badges available to the industry and does not compare one against another. Its purpose is to provide the user with information to help them make better sustainability and purchasing decisions and to lead the user to investigate other helpful websites.

How to use the online Map and PDF file

It is possible to use the online map in a number of ways. You can either enter it from the list of badges if you know what you are looking for. Alternatively, you can look at the diagram of the supply chain and pick a badge in its location on the map. In both instances you can click on the logo or icon, and this will take you to the environmental and social responsibility data about that badge or to the relevant website.

The PDF version is a downloadable file from the main online Map. The PDF version displays basic data about the various sustainability accreditation badges and standards, as well as an information section, that are applicable to the book industry supply chain. For the full data around the environmental and social responsibility of the badges you need to look at the online Map.

Useful information

During the project a number of organisations and regulations were found in the research phase. Although these are not actual badges they are still very informative for the industry. So, these have been included around the online map, allowing the user to read some basic information about them combined with a link to the website for further investigation and reading. This information is also available in the PDF version.

Carbon

The Carbon Group currently only has one accreditation that issues a badge. Most of the organisations that fall into this group are about carbon offsetting and don't issue a badge. These carbon offsetting organisations are mentioned in the 'Information' section of the online rendition of this project.

Cradle to Cradle

Cradle to Cradle are powering the shift to a circular economy by setting the standard for materials, products and systems that positively impact people and the planet.

Website	https://www.c2ccertified.org	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Mill, Printer, Finisher, Distributors, Ink manufacturers
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	No

Useful organisations

These useful organisations all award accreditation badges to the applicant and are relevant across the book industry supply chain. They are about accrediting products from any industry or organisation to a range of environmental and social criteria.

B Corp

B Corp certification aims to measure a company's entire social and environmental impact to benefit all people, communities and the planet.

Website	https://www.bcorporation.net/en-us	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	No

EU Ecolabel

The EU Ecolabel is the official European Union voluntary label for environmental excellence. Established in 1992 and recognized across Europe and worldwide, the EU Ecolabel certifies products with a guaranteed, independently verified low environmental impact. To be awarded the EU Ecolabel, goods and services should meet high environmental standards throughout their entire life cycle: from raw material extraction through production and distribution to disposal. The label also encourages companies to develop innovative products that are durable, easy to repair and recyclable.

Website	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/	Region / Country	EU
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Product
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Blue Angel

The Blue Angel has been the ecolabel of the German Federal Government for more than 40 years. It is an independent and credible label that sets stringent standards for environmentally friendly products and services. The Blue Angel is the guide for purchasing.

Website	https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/productworld/print-houses-and-printed-matters-until-12-2022	Region / Country	Germany
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Product
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

EMAS – EU

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a premium management instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance.

Website	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm	Region / Country	EU
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Nordic Swan

Nordic Ecolabelling works to reduce the environmental impact from production and consumption of goods with the aid of our logo: the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. This makes it easy for consumers and professional buyers to choose the environmentally best goods and services.

Website	https://www.nordic-ecolabel.org	Region / Country	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Distributor, Sellers, Printers, Warehousing
Who / what has accreditation	Product and Services	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Useful organisations

Imprimvert

The IMPRIM'VERT® brand aims to reduce the environmental impacts related to printing industry's activities. This can be the printing on paper or material.

Website	https://www.imprimvert.fr/presentation	Region / Country	EU
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Printers
Who / what has accreditation	Printers	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO standards are written to cover various aspects of how a company or organisation operates. They set out defined ways of achieving objectives so that all assessments are measured in the same way.

ISO Standards

ISO 14001:2015 - Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use

Specifies the requirements for an environmental management system.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/60857.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14025:2006 - Environmental labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations - Principles and procedures

Principles and procedures for developing Environmental Labels and declarations - Type III environmental declarations.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/38131.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14021:2016 - Environmental Labels and declarations - self declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling) - Amendment 1: Carbon Footprint, carbon neutral

Principles and procedures for developing Environmental Labels and declarations - self declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling) - Amendment 1: Carbon Footprint, carbon neutral.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/81242.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14024:2018 - Environmental labels and declarations - Type I environmental labelling - Principles and procedures

Principals and procedures for developing type I labelling product categories, product environmental criteria and for assessing compliance.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/72458.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14040:2006 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework

Framework for LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) Phases of the LCA and the reporting and review. Does not cover the LCA technique in detail.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/37456.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14044 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines

Specifies the requirements and provides guidelines for the LCA and LCI (Life cycle inventory analysis.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/38498.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14047:2012 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment –Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14044 to impact assessment situations

Provide examples to illustrate current practice of life cycle impact assessment.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/38498.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14048:2002 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Data Documentation format

Structure for data document format to be used for Life cycle assessment and Life Cycle Inventory data.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/29872.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14049:2012 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Illustrative examples on how to apply ISO 14044 to goal and scope definition and inventory analysis

Provides examples abut practices in carrying out life cycle inventory analysis (LCI) as a means of satisfying certain provisions of ISO 14044:2006.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/57110.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14071:2014 – Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Critical review process and reviewer competencies: additional requirements and guidelines to ISO 14044:2006

Provides additional specifications for 14044:2006 and 14044:2006.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/61103.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14051:2011 - Environmental Management - Material flow cost accounting - General Framework

Provides a general framework for material flow cost accounting (MFCA) flow of materials, quantified physical units and the associated cost evaluation.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/50986.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 20400:2017 - Sustainable Procurement - Guidance

Guidance to organizations on integrating sustainability into procurement decisions and processes.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/63026.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14064: Parts 1, 2, 3 – Greenhouse Gases Parts 1,2 & 3

Quantification, Reporting, Monitoring and validation of greenhouse gases and organization and project level.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/66453.html https://www.iso.org/standard/66454.html https://www.iso.org/standard/66455.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 14067:2018 – Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of Products – requirements and guidelines for qualification

Reference Standard for conduction PCF (Product Carbon Footprint), Means for measuring GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions. Carbon footprint is based on LCA (life Cycle Assessment).

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/71206.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO 50001:2018 – Energy Management System

Requirements to establish, implement and maintain an energy management system.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/69426.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO 50002:2014 – Energy Audits – Requirements with guidance

Specifications for carrying out an energy audit in relation to energy performance.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/60088.html	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

ISO 50004:2020 – Energy Management Systems – Guidance for the implementation, maintenance and improvement of an ISO 50001 energy management system

Practical guidance and examples for establishing, implementing and maintaining energy management systems.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/74863.html	**Region / Country**	**Global**
Environmental / Sustainability	**Yes**	**Social and ethical responsibility**	**No**
Is there a label to put on the product	**No**	**Who can hold accreditation**	**Organisation**
Who / what has accreditation	**Organisation**	**Independent verification / audit**	**Yes**

ISO Standards

ISO 26000:2010 – Guidance on Social Responsibility

Guidance on, concepts, terms and definitions related to social responsibility, principles and practices relating to social responsibility.

Website	https://www.iso.org/standard/42546.html	**Region / Country**	**Global**
Environmental / Sustainability	**No**	**Social and ethical responsibility**	**Yes**
Is there a label to put on the product	**No**	**Who can hold accreditation**	**Organisation**
Who / what has accreditation	**Organisation**	**Independent verification / audit**	**Yes**

ISO Standards

ISO 30134-2:2016 - Information technology — Data centres — Key performance indicators — Part 2: Power usage effectiveness (PUE)

Relevant to publishers, determining the cloud services provider and the efficiencies of the associated data centres.

Website	ISO/IEC 30134-2:2016(en), Information technology — Data centres — Key performance indicators — Part 2: Power usage effectiveness (PUE)	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

BSI PAS 2050:2011 - Specification for the assessment of the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services

Assessment of the life cycle GHG emissions of goods and services.

Website	https://shop.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-the-assessment-of-the-life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-goods-and-services/standard	Region / Country	UK
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	Independent verification / audit	Yes

ISO Standards

BSI PAS 2060:2014 – Specification for the demonstration of carbon neutrality

Demonstrate the carbon neutrality of a specific product, business.

Website	https://shop.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-the-demonstration-of-carbon-neutrality-1/standard	**Region / Country**	UK
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	**Social and ethical responsibility**	No
Is there a label to put on the product	No	**Who can hold accreditation**	Organisation
Who / what has accreditation	Organisation	**Independent verification / audit**	Yes

Packaging

The packaging accreditations consider a wide scope of environmental and social impacts covering how packaging should degrade, life cycle assessment and the re-use of packaging. All of these principles are applicable and useful to the book industry across the supply chain.

Ecologo

ECOLOGO Certifications are voluntary, multi-attribute, life cycle-based environmental certifications that indicate a product has undergone rigorous scientific testing and exhaustive auditing to prove its compliance with stringent, third-party environmental standards.

Website	https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Printers, Ink Manufacturers
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Standards for Composability EN 13432 – Industrial Composting: BS EN 13432

Standard for compostable and biodegradable packaging.

Website	https://www.bpf.co.uk/topics/Standards_for_compostability.aspx	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	No	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	No	Who can hold accreditation	Printers, Warehouse, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Packaging	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Packaging

Green Dot

Green Dot has set up and organised the world's first dual system for the end-user and high-quality recycling of sales packaging.			
Website	https://www.gruener-punkt.de/de/	**Region / Country**	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	**Social and ethical responsibility**	No
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	**Who can hold accreditation**	Printers, Warehouse, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Product	**Independent verification / audit**	No

Paper

Paper is a major component of books and has a large focus on it due to its carbon footprint, and manufacturing techniques. This section covers the major international accreditations that cover paper for the book industry.

Paper

PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

PEFC is an umbrella organisation, they endorse national forest certification systems that have been developed through multi-stakeholder processes and tailored to local priorities and conditions. But they also do so much more...

PEFC
Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
PEFC/16-01-01   www.pefc.co.uk

Website	PEFC https://www.pefc.org/	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Mills, Printers, Finishers, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Paper

CFPA (Chlorine Free Product Association)

The Chlorine Free Products Association (CFPA) is an independent not-for-profit accreditation & standard setting organisation.

Website	http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org/How_to_get_Certified.php	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	No
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Mills, Printers, Finishers, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	No

FSC – Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. Since its foundation in 1994, FSC has grown to become the world's most respected and widespread forest certification system.

Website	https://fsc.org/en	Region / Country	Global
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Mills, Printers, Finishers, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a sustainability organisation operating in the U.S. and Canada that works across four pillars: standards, conservation, community, and education.

Website	https://forests.org	Region / Country	US & Canada
Environmental / Sustainability	Yes	Social and ethical responsibility	Yes
Is there a label to put on the product	Yes	Who can hold accreditation	Publisher, Mills, Printers, Finishers, Distributor
Who / what has accreditation	Product	Independent verification / audit	Yes

Information

Kyoto Protocol
The Kyoto Protocol also established a rigorous monitoring, review and verification system, as well as a compliance system to ensure transparency and hold Parties to account.

https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

Consumable

Green Guard
Products that have achieved Green Guard Certification are scientifically proven to meet some of the world's most rigorous third-party chemical emissions. Covers building materials, furniture & furnishings; Electronic equipment; cleaning & maintenance products; Medical devices for breathing gas pathways standards, helping to reduce indoor air pollution and the risk of chemical exposure

https://www.ul.com/resources/ul-greenguard-certification-program

American Soybean Association
Represents US soybean farmers on domestic & international policy issues important to the soybean industry.

https://soygrowers.com

Carbon offsetting

Carbon Neutral
This badge demonstrates the climate action of successful companies around the world. Carried by businesses, product & events that have achieved carbon neutrality in line with the Carbon Neutral Protocol.

https://www.carbonneutral.com/

Carbon Trust
Carbon offsets must be within one of the schemes approved by PAS 2060 - some of which in principle include additional social criteria e.g. social carbon (https://www.socialcarbon.org/) which claims to benefit and improve living conditions for stakeholders through welfare. The Carbon Trust only certifies the Gold Standard, the Verified Carbon Standard and the UK Woodland Carbon Code credits for offsetting.

https://www.carbontrust.com

Carbon Fund
Carbonfund.org is leading the fight against climate change, making it easy and affordable for any individual, business or organisation to reduce & offset their climate impact and hasten the transition to a clean energy future.

https://carbonfund.org

Cool Effect

Combining science, expertise, and transparency, they are creating a community built around one simple vision: give people the power and confidence to band together and reduce the carbon pollution that causes climate change.

https://www.cooleffect.org

ISCC

International Sustainability & Carbon Certification document on how to gain certification.

https://www.iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ISCC-PLUS-System-Document.pdf

Verra

The VCS (Verified Carbon Standard) Program is the world's most widely used voluntary GHG (Green House Gas) program. Over 1,840 certified VCS projects have collectively reduced or removed more than 984 million Tonnes of carbon and other GHG emissions from the atmosphere.

https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard/

The Gold Standard

Gold Standard for the Global Goals sets the standard for climate and development interventions to quantify, certify and maximize their impact - create value for the people around the world and the planet we share.

https://www.goldstandard.org

Climate Partner

Climate Partner's vision is symbolic: "a carbon neutral product in every shopping cart."

https://www.climatepartner.com/en

World Land Trust

Through the World Land Trust's (WLT) Carbon Balanced programme, carbon emissions generated by a particular product or activity are offset or 'balanced' by the carbon stocks saved when WLT conserves ecologically important forestry under imminent threat of clearance. These standing forests 'lock in' carbon that would otherwise be released – and continue to absorb carbon dioxide through their lifetime.

https://www.worldlandtrust.org/carbon-balanced-paper-print/

Non-ISO Standards

Workplace conditions assessment

A leading global ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) assessment methodology and business certification standard. It measures where companies stand in terms of environmental, social and governance and gives an opportunity to create an action plan and track the progress.

https://www.generationfemale.net/g-i-2030

Generation Impact 2030

A leading global ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) assessment methodology and business certification standard. It measures where companies stand in terms of environmental, social and governance and gives an opportunity to create an action plan and track the progress.

https://gi2030.com/generation-impact-2030-certification

Social Accountability International

Social Accountability International (SAI) is a global non-governmental organisation advancing human rights at work. SAI's vision is of decent work everywhere — sustained by an understanding that socially responsible workplaces benefit business while securing fundamental human rights.

https://sa-intl.org

Sedex

Sedex is a membership organisation that provides one of the world's leading online platforms for companies to manage and improve working conditions in global supply chains. They provide practical tools, services and a community network to help companies improve their responsible and sustainable business practices, and source responsibly.

https://www.sedex.com

Global Ecolabelling Network

Internationally recognized network of ecolabelling organisations. Has lists of accreditation by product e.g. paper includes.

https://www.globalecolabelling.net/what-is-eco-labelling

ISO Standards

ISO 14004:2016

Environmental Management Systems - General Guidance on implementation

https://www.iso.org/standard/60856.html

ISO 14005:2019

Environmental Management Systems - Guidelines for a flexible approach to phased implementation

https://www.iso.org/standard/72333.html

ISO 14020:2000

Environmental Labels and declarations - general principles

https://www.iso.org/standard/79479.html

ISO 14063:2020

Environmental Management - Quantitative environmental information - guidelines and examples.

https://www.iso.org/standard/72888.html

ISO 14033:2019

Environmental Management - Environmental communication - guidelines and examples.

https://www.iso.org/standard/71237.html

Packaging

On-pack recycling label (OPRL)

Not for profit membership scheme providing a label for end-consumers on whether the product is commonly recycled by UK local authorities, used by nearly 730+ member companies and charities.

https://www.oprl.org.uk

OK Compost

Not directly targeted towards the book industry - most applicable for end-users of packaging products.

https://www.tuv-at.be/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/download-documents/GEN/RegCert_TABE_EN.pdf

Paper

Paper Profile

A voluntary environmental Product Declaration which aims to help the pulp, paper & paperboard buyer to make responsible choices.

https://paperprofile.com

Rainforest Alliance

The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-profit organisation working at the intersection of business, agriculture, and forests to make responsible business the new normal. We are building an alliance to protect forests, improve the livelihoods of farmers and forest communities, promote their human rights, and help them mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

https://www.rainforest-alliance.org

Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)

Carbon Footprint Framework for paper & board products.

https://www.cepi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ENV-17-035.pdf

Environmental Paper Assessment Tool

Tool operated by Sustainable Paper Group, an environmental consultancy specialising in sustainable solutions for paper & paper based packaging.

https://epat.org

Evergreen Printing

Paper company

https://evergreen-printing.com/home/environmental-responsibility/paper

Environmental Paper Network

Worldwide network of civil society organisations working towards the Global Paper vision.

https://environmentalpaper.org/about/about-epn

Shipping

DHL Green Carrier Certification

Logistics company. They've set up certification for subcontractors.

https://dhl-freight-connections.com/en/sustainability/green-certificate-for-sustainable-logistics-the-new-dhl-green-carrier-certification

Certification for sustainable transportation

Certification, education & labelling for the passenger transportation sector.

https://erating.org

Sustainable Shipping Initiative

Non-profit charity. They do host the Ship Recycling Transparency Initiative which uses transparency to drive progress on responsible ship recycling.

https://www.sustainableshipping.org

Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping

Not for profit research centre that supports safe & sustainable marine shipping in Canada.

https://clearseas.org/en

Waste

Zero Waste to Landfill

Audits companies and provides a certification of waste disposal

https://www.valpak.co.uk

Data Centres

European Code of Conduct in Data Centres

Voluntary initiative primarily addressing data centre owners and operators, as well as the supply chain and service providers, looking at both IT and facilities load. Signatories commit to an initial energy measurement (involving an audit to identify the major energy saving opportunities) and the preparation, submission and implementation of an action plan against an agreed time table.

https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/energy-efficiency/energy-efficiency-products/code-conduct-ict/code-conduct-energy-efficiency-data-centres_en

Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact

Available for data centre operators and trade associations to take actions to make data centres climate neutral by 2030 with incremental targets. Covers both energy source (renewable energy), efficiency and water usages.

https://www.climateneutraldatacentre.net

The Green Grid

Develops tools and guidance for the optimization of energy and resource use efficiency of data centres. Membership scheme with public recognition on the website and awards for exceptional performance.

https://www.thegreengrid.org

Green Mark

"Green Mark accreditation has become a cornerstone of business operations across the UK, as they move towards being environmentally sustainable for the long-term.

With their forward thinking approach and use of their expertise to help our community create the foundations for a more sustainable future by implementing sustainable practices across their operations and supply chains."

https://greenmark.co.uk

Certified Sustainable

A technology-led independent organisation, helping businesses become more sustainable.

https://certified-sustainable.co.uk

Helpful Organisations

IEMA

IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment) is the professional body for everyone working, studying or interested in environment and sustainability. They provide resources, tools, knowledge and research sharing to meet the real world needs of their members. They believe that together we're positively changing attitudes to sustainability as a progressive force for good.

https://www.iema.net

Green Business Bureau

The Green Business Bureau is the trusted authority in green business. Our EcoAssessment™ and EcoPlanner™ tools enable businesses to understand, prioritize, implement and certify green initiatives and sustainable business practices. As a trusted 3rd party, they provide businesses with an official seal to validate and promote their green commitment and accomplishments.

https://greenbusinessbureau.com

Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi)

A partnership between the Carbon Disclosure Project, the UN Global Compact, the World Resources Institute and the WWF for nature to promote best practice in emissions target setting for businesses. The SBTi allocates the global remaining carbon budget to remain within the goals of the Paris Agreement to calculate the rate companies need to decarbonize.

https://sciencebasedtargets.org

EcoVadis

EcoVadis helps you manage your sustainability network both upstream and downstream, either by sharing your performance with your stakeholders or monitoring the performance of your own value chain.

https://ecovadis.com

Global Good Awards

Recognises businesses, NGOs, charities and social enterprises successfully delivering environmental and social change.

https://globalgoodawards.co.uk

EDIE

UK's largest sustainability awards recognises excellence across the spectrum of green business.

https://event.edie.net/awards

SDIA

SDIA is the European platform for the creation of a sustainable digital economy. It is an independent alliance of all stakeholders working across the digital sector. They are committed to executing the Roadmap to Sustainable Digital Infrastructure by 2030 covering environmental targets surrounding pollution, digital waste, energy efficiency and renewable procurement. An organisation can join as a member with access to alliance sessions with regular sustainability events, interviews and panel discussions.

https://sdialliance.org

Regulations
REACH – Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

Applicable to:

Products

Description:

Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals.

Reference links:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_en.htm

Further notes:

EU legislation that aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through identification of chemical substances. Manufacturers and importers are required to gather information on the properties of their chemical substances and in term then product manufacturers provide

WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

Applicable to:

Products

Description:

Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment became law in the UK as of 1st of January 2014.

Reference links:

https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/waste-electrical.htm

Further notes:

Producers of WEEE i.e., electronic companies are required to provide evidence of disposal for consumers, manufacturing facilities and non-domestic premises are required to use a WEEE certified recycling company for electronic waste (laptops, screens etc.) to ensure disposal is responsible.

Plastic Packaging Tax

Applicable to:

Products

Description:

A tax levy on all producers and importers/exporters on plastic packaging components containing less than 30% post-or pre-consumer recycled content over 10 Tonnes in an annual year

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-plastic-packaging-tax-from-april-2022/introduction-of-plastic-packaging-tax-2021

Further notes:

Only certain types of pre-consumer waste are permitted as exempt under the tax (sent for re-processing and returned) however often conflated under one label as 'PCR' or 'recycled content' when the relevant differences between the two sources should be considered. Paid by for manufactures/exporters/importers with costs transferred downstream.

ESOS – Energy Savings and Opportunities Scheme

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

ESOS is a mandatory energy assessment scheme for organisations in the UK - mandatory for business that employ 250 people or more or have an annual turnover in excess of £44,000,000.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-savings-opportunity-scheme-esos

Further notes:

The scheme has been run since December 2015 with the first reporting taking place by 5th December 2015, second reports were completed for phase 2 December 2019 and the 3rd period is proposed for December 2023. A lead assessor comes to each site and advises on changes that business can make to save energy consumption.

CCAs – Climate Change Agreements

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

Climate Change Agreements are voluntary agreements in the UK between industry and the Environment agency.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-agreements--2

Further notes:

Governed by the environmental agency and reductions negotiated by a nominated industry body - the BPIF (British Printing Industries Federation) for the printing sector. By achieving certain reductions in consumption then small discounts are available, if there is an increase then there is an invoice for that overconsumption.

SECR – Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

SECR was introduced in 2019 it requires obligated companies to report on their energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions within their financial reporting for companies house.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-trust-financial-management-good-practice-guides/streamlined-energy-and-carbon-reporting

Further notes:

It is likely that Scope 3 reporting under SECR will likely become mandatory in the near future.

Waste packaging producer responsibility/extended responsibility

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

Obligated packaging producers must register and meet their packaging recycling responsibilities.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/packaging-producer-responsibilities

Further notes:

If you produce or use packaging or sell packaged goods then you have an obligation to reduce, each year reporting is completed and with the tonnage of packaging that is produced or sold to organisations then waste recovery notes are purchased to contribute to the cost of recycling. Scheme is changing in 2023 to extended responsibility which increases costs to producers to encourage reductions in waste at households from manufacturing.

ROHS – Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

Applicable to:

Organisation and suppliers

Description:

Restriction of hazardous substances in electrical equipment, 10 substances that cause major environmental and health problems.

Reference links:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/rohs-directive_en

Further notes:

10 substances restricted are: lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE), di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), butyl benzyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP).

Minimum energy efficiency standards

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

By April 2030 all non-domestic rented buildings must have an EPC rating of A or B.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-domestic-private-rented-property-minimum-energy-efficiency-standard-landlord-guidance

Further notes:

It is a legal requirement for landlords to ensure their buildings have an EPC rating and that they comply with the reductions for 2030.

Minimum energy efficiency standards

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

By April 2030 all non-domestic rented buildings must have an EPC rating of A or B.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-domestic-private-rented-property-minimum-energy-efficiency-standard-landlord-guidance

Further notes:

It is a legal requirement for landlords to ensure their buildings have an EPC rating and that they comply with the reductions for 2030.

Pollution Prevention and Control Act – Environmental Permitting Regulations

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

Industry, local government, agriculture and small businesses are covered by this law, ensuring releasing of anything into the environment is non polluting.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses

Further notes:

This covers discharging into drains/water systems to ensure that chemicals unless with a permit are put into the draining systems. It also covers air pollution to ensure that any discharge into the air is within limits of either a permit of within safe limits set by Environmental Agency.

Modern Slavery Act

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

This act requires businesses over a certain size to disclose what action they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their business or supply chains.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill

Further notes:

For businesses over a certain size a modern slavery statement is required and should be published on websites as well as being able to show due diligence of the supply chains. The statement has to be updated every year.

Gender Pay Gap Report

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

Employers of more than 250 employees must supply a gender pay gap report - this shows the average earnings of men and women across a workforce.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/gender-pay-gap-reporting

Further notes:

A narrative is also to be supplied on gender pay gap reporting to show what a company is doing to close the gap.

UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

This currently applies to energy intensive businesses where 20% of their site costs are energy such as aviation, steel, chemicals and engineering. ETS sets a total amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted in a sector which will then decrease of time to contribute to achieving Net Zero in the UK.

Reference links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participating-in-the-uk-ets/participating-in-the-uk-ets

Health and Safety Regulations

Applicable to:

Organisation

Description:

The Workplace regulations apply to places of work to ensure employers provide a working environment that is safe, as free from risk as is reasonably possible and that appropriate equipment is provided where necessary.

Reference links:

https://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm

Further notes:

The act sets out duties that employers have to their employees and the general public, employees have to themselves and others and also covers certain self-employed personnel.

Acknowledgements

This project would not have been possible without all the hard work put in the BIC Environmental Accreditation Badges Task and Finishing Working Group:

Sarah Bannister, Newgen Publishing

Richard Casserley, Ingram

Lisa Faratro, CPI Group (UK) Ltd

Ashley Gordon, HP

Helen Graham, Hachette

Emilie Hames, PRH

John Lloyd, Taylor & Francis Group

Charlotte McSharry, Emerald Publishing

Michele Petty, Ulverscroft

Tom Scatchard, Clays

Jonathan Tame TwoSides (Observer)

Anna Theophilus, Taylor & Francis Group

Courtney Ward-Hunter, PRH

Thank you for all your advice, input, and work on this project.