

Join the Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI)

Become A Member

The Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI) works collaboratively with manufacturers, developers, installers and purchasers across the global solar value chain to foster responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of solar photovoltaic modules and materials used in them.

Why Join The SSI?

A unique solution tailored to solar

The SSI is the only global initiative specifically tailored to the solar industry, ensuring participants engage in targeted efforts to improve ESG performance and responsible production.

Comprehensive approach

The SSI takes a comprehensive approach to sustainability, encompassing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects as well as supply chain transparency.

Independent third-party verification

Compared to other schemes, which are mostly based on self-assessments or second-party audits, the SSI is based on independent third-party verification, ensuring credibility with non-industry stakeholders as well as a fairer and more accurate assessment.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration

The SSI involves collaboration among various stakeholders as well as civil society and academia. This multi-stakeholder approach is recognised internationally as a key indicator of the credibility of a scheme and is valued in upcoming legislation.

Supply chain transparency

The SSI places a strong emphasis on creating end-to-end supply chain transparency. As a newer concept, this criteria is yet to be widely adopted in other schemes, but is crucial to ensure ESG standards are upheld throughout the value chain (chain of custody).

Join us to develop the pioneering SSI Supply Chain Transparency Standard in 2023.

Leading industry expertise

The SSI was created by SolarPower Europe and Solar Energy UK, with the technical support of TDi Sustainability. Together, they provide unrivalled and multidimensional expertise in solar, ESG auditing, and product traceability, as well as EU legislation and political affairs, which ensures proactive alignment with EU legislation.

SSI Membership Benefits

Membership Benefits	PV Buyer	Manufacturer
Membership Claim	✓	✓
3 Seats on the SSI Board	✓	✓
Access to SSI tools, guidelines and expert pool	✓	✓
SSI working groups access and influence on future standards	✓	✓
Access to SSI Digital Platform (when available)	✓	✓
Membership Fee discount (if member of founding associations)	✓	✓
Possible developer certification standard (depending on budget raised)	✓	✓
Possible site certification claim		✓
Additional manufacturer fee discount		✓

How To Apply For SSI Membership

SSI Membership Fees

Regular Fee:

- Large (yearly turnover more than €500M): €30,000
- Medium (yearly turnover between €500M and €50M): €20,000
- Small (yearly turnover less than €50M): €10,000

SolarPower Europe/Solar Energy UK Member:

- Large (yearly turnover more than €500M): €20,000
- Medium (yearly turnover between €500M and €50M): €10,000
- Small (yearly turnover less than €50M): €5,000

Discounts:

- Manufacturer Discount*: -€4k
- Future additional discount for manufacturers which have certified a certain number of sites (to be defined in 2024)

**The Manufacturer discount accounts for the fact that these members have to pay for certification fees for each site that is certified (up to -€15k per site)*

SSI Governance

SSI Transitional Governance (2023-2024):

The SSI Board, appointed for two years, is the primary decision-making body. Comprising of associations and industry representatives initially, it will evolve into a multi-stakeholder Board later in 2024. Industry representatives of the first Board appointed in November 2023 will be drawn from the founding members of the SSI.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), an integral part of SSI Governance, will represent diverse perspectives from civil society, academia, independent experts, and other relevant non-industry stakeholders. SAG members will advise the SSI Board on various aspects, ensuring a holistic approach to decision-making.

Various SSI working groups and committees will be established to facilitate targeted discussions and actions in line with our mission. For example, new Standards, such as the SSI Supply Chain Traceability Standard, will be developed in working groups.

The SSI ESG Standard

The SSI is pioneering a more responsible, transparent, and sustainable solar value chain. Amid the rapid growth of the solar sector, the SSI looks to maximise the positive impact of this growth, ensuring that the energy transition respects human rights, and is both just and inclusive.

The SSI ESG Standard uses key criteria to enhance supply chain sustainability, instilling confidence in solar manufacturing practices and setting the bar for ESG performance in the solar sector. The SSI takes a hands-on approach, actively working through independent Assessment Bodies to establish and verify information on current transparency levels and ESG performance at production sites along the solar value chain.

Key Requirements

ESG standards are designed to evaluate a company's performance in three key areas: environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate governance.

SSI members from manufacturing sites must commit to completing an ESG assessment of two sites within 12 months by an SSI-approved AB. The SSI Assurance Process is implemented at a site level. A 'site' comprises several activities in the same geographic area and under the same management control.

Demonstrated commitment to ESG standards is particularly crucial for industries like solar PV, which is the fastest-growing energy technology in the world, and offers a rapid solution to decarbonise and protect citizens and businesses from volatile energy prices.

Key principles of the SSI ESG Standard:

Governance and Business Ethics:

1. Business Integrity
2. Policy and Management
3. Stakeholders and Communities
4. Transparency
5. Responsible Sourcing

Environment:

6. Greenhouse Gas Emission Management
7. Water Management
8. Waste Management
9. Pollution Management
10. Biodiversity Management
11. Circularity

Human and Labour Rights:

12. Human Rights
13. Labour Rights
14. Occupational Health and Safety

SSI Assurance

Members within the Solar Stewardship Initiative (SSI) commit to meeting the comprehensive requirements of the SSI Standards. Each site undergoes a rigorous site-level assessment process to ensure the site meets all requirements of the Standards.

The assessment is completed by an independent Assessment Body (AB) which is approved by the SSI. Qualified independent assessors associated with approved ABs will verify a site's compliance. After the assessment completion, a summary of the assessment activities, methodology, and results are published.

Each site is re-assessed every three years. Detailed expectations and timelines are defined in the SSI Assurance Process.

The 8 Steps of the Assurance Process Cycle:

1. Your company meets SSI membership due diligence
2. Your company signs the SSI Principles, commits to assessment, and becomes a member
3. Your company completes a self-assessment against the SSI Standards within 6 months
4. The SSI or your company selects an Assessment Body (AB); the assessment plan and dates are agreed; and the SSI-approved AB conducts an onsite assessment
5. The SSI delivers a certification decision based on the performance & as recommended by AB
6. The SSI website publishes a summary report of your company's assessment
7. Your company undergoes continuous improvement and follow up surveillance
8. Re-assessment takes place every three years

Apply For SSI Membership

Section 1: Member Contact Information

1. Name of applicant for SSI membership (enter the name of the organisation or name of each entity in a group of legal entities). The name written here will be the name that appears on the SSI website.

2. If different from above, add the full name of the legal entity and country of incorporation. In the case of a group of entities that fall within the scope of the above applicant, but that are not all subsidiaries of the one entity, list all the relevant legal entities and their country of incorporation.

3. Full address of applicant's head office, including country:

4. Telephone number of head office, including country code:

5. Applicant's website address:

6. VAT number for all EU and VAT-registered companies:

7. Primary contact to receive official SSI correspondence:

8. Privacy: by signing here you consent to provide your personal information to SSI for the purpose of receiving essential communication on SSI matters. Please see the SSI Privacy Policy (www.solarstewardshipinitiative.org/privacy-policy/) for more information.

9. Details of main company representative

Name:
Position:
Address:
Work
Telephone:
Mobile/Cell:
Email:

10. Finance contact to receive SSI invoices. Primary contact will also receive a copy of all SSI invoices.

Name:
Position:
Address:
Work
Telephone:
Mobile/Cell:
Email:

11. Different company name and/or address for invoices.

If you wish SSI to use a different company name and/or address for SSI invoices instead of the details provided above, please add the alternative details here.

Different company name:
Different address for invoices:

12. Additional contact to receive general SSI correspondence Note: Please add here or attach a list.

Name:
Position:
Address:
Work
Telephone:
Mobile/Cell:
Email:

Section 2: Membership Type

1. Select the membership type best suited for your organisation:

- Buyer
- Manufacturer

2. Number of employees in applicant organisation.

3. List *all* countries of operation for the applicant organisation.

4. Please describe your organisation, outlining how your organisation partakes in the solar value chain and your interest in joining the SSI. This description will be used in association with your organisation's logo on the SSI website. [Max 300 words; SSI may edit any text provided.]

5. Please provide a statement from your organisation to describe why you have joined the SSI which can be used in press and newsletter correspondence by the SSI. Please include the name and title of the spokesperson that the statement should be attributed to.

6. How did you find out about SSI? Note: place an X in all relevant boxes:

- Conference or industry event
- Industry or consumer press
- Social media
- Online search
- Word of mouth
- Other – please provide details

Section 3: Membership Commitment

BY SIGNING HERE YOU AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE SSI PRINCIPLES AND PAY THE SSI MEMBERSHIP FEE:

(Membership will be confirmed once the SSI has done a due diligence evaluation and the Member has signed the SSI Principles, which will be sent via email once this initial form has been reviewed and accepted.)

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT ORGANISATION BY:

Name:
Position/ Title:
Organisation:

Signature:

Date:

Please submit to contact@solarstewardshipinitiative.org along with a high res .png file of your organisation's logo and latest financial statements.