



SAC MEMBERSHIP

JOIN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY





WHO WE ARE

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is an industrywide nonprofit of over 280 leading apparel, footwear, and textile brands, retailers, manufacturers, sourcing agents, service providers, trade associations, not-for-profits, NGOs, and academic institutions.

Together, we are working toward a shared vision of an industry that gives more than it takes — to the planet and its people. Through multi-stakeholder engagement, our mission is to transform business for exponential impact through groundbreaking tools, collaborative partnerships, and trusted leadership for industry sustainability.

To reach this shared vision, we have developed the Higg Index, our core suite of five tools that delivers a common approach for measuring and evaluating the social and environmental impacts of value chains and products. These groundbreaking tools enable organizations to identify hotspots, improve sustainability performance, save time and money, and engage with value chain partners to scale systemic change across the industry.

The SAC is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization in the United States. We launched the first Higg Index tools in 2011. Nine years later, in 2022, we launched all five tools on the Worldly Impact Intelligence platform.

GLOBAL OFFICES

HEADQUARTERS

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OUR VISION

A global consumer goods industry that gives more than it takes — to the planet and its people.



OUR MISSION

To transform business for exponential impact through groundbreaking tools, collaborative partnerships, and trusted leadership for industry sustainability.



The Higg Index has enhanced our ability to execute our sustainability strategy. It's simple — we use the BRM as our roadmap to implement more sustainable practices across the company, and the Higg Product Tools put the power to measure and lower our material impacts into the hands of our Product Team. Both tools are absolute game changers!

LINELL LOTTERING

Responsible Materials Manager
MACPAC

As a SME motivated by the ticking clock of climate change, we cannot spend our time re-inventing the wheel. Thanks to the collective knowledge present in the Higg Index tools and the generosity of the SAC community, we have been able to develop a deeper understanding of our impacts and take corrective action quickly.

DUNCAN COULTER

Chief of Staff
RAPHA

By bringing together stakeholders from across the value chain, we work together to drive tangible action on our shared goals and level up the industry on the most urgent issues we are facing. Only together can we address systemic challenges. No one organization or government can do this alone

AMINA RAZVI

Chief Executive Officer
SUSTAINABLE APPAREL COALITION

When it comes to tackling the biggest problem the world has ever seen — climate change — we must draw on the power of collaboration, ambition and innovation. This new guidance [from the SAC] is proof that the fashion industry is up to the challenge. It also provides a blueprint for other sector trade bodies to follow.

LUIS AMARAL

Chief Executive Officer
SCIENCE BASED TARGETS INITIATIVE (SBTi)


THE HIGG INDEX

The Higg Index is a suite of tools for the standardized measurement of value chain sustainability, and it is central to the SAC’s mission of transforming businesses for exponential impact. It is comprised of a core set of five tools that assess the social and environmental performance of the value chain and the environmental impacts of products, including the Higg Facility Environmental Module, Higg Facility Social & Labor Module, Higg Brand & Retail Module, Higg Materials Sustainability Index, and Higg Product Module.

Across topics such as water use, carbon emissions, and labor conditions, consumer goods brands, retailers, manufacturers, governments, and NGOs can use the Higg Index and its insights to inform their individual sustainability strategies and drive collective industry transformation. We developed the methodologies of the Higg Index over 10 years using the latest scientific research, in partnership with SAC members, LCA consultants, and industry experts.

These tools are developed by the SAC’s multi-stakeholder membership for industry applicability and scalability. The industry stakeholders involved in their development understand the complexities of their companies, supply chains, and the relevant sustainability challenges better than anyone else. They create useful tools that will help them and the industry at large make more sustainable choices. The number and variety of organizations involved in the development of the Higg Index ensures that no single interest is over-represented. Instead, companies of all sizes, from all regions, and representing all types of interests have had an equal say in how tools have been developed.

The Higg Index is comprised of three sets of measurement tools that together, span the entire value chain:



Product Tools


Life cycle assessment tools that give insights into environmental impacts of **producing materials and products**

Tools included: Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI); Higg Product Module (PM)

Purpose: To understand environmental impacts of different production choices when designing a product

Who uses them: Sustainability analysts and material and product developers

What they measure: 5 environmental impacts



Facility Tools

Assessments that give insights into social and environmental performance of **facilities**

Tools included: Higg Facility Environmental Module (FEM); Higg Facility Social & Labor Module (FSLM)

Purpose: To identify opportunities for continuous sustainability improvement in facilities

Who uses them: Manufacturers

What they measure: 7 environmental impacts and 9 social impacts



Brand & Retail Tool

An assessment that gives insights into social and environmental performance of **brands and retailers**

Tools included: Higg Brand and Retail Module (BRM)

Purpose: To identify opportunities for continuous sustainability improvement in company operations

Who uses it: Brands and retailers

What it measures: 11 environmental impacts and 16 social impacts

MEMBERSHIP

As of 2021, all SAC members* are working toward meeting new and ambitious membership requirements designed to achieve the goals in our strategic plan and drive exponential impact.

The SAC membership requirements provide a roadmap for members to advance through four levels: foundational, progressive, strategic, and leader. In order to achieve the next level, members adhere to best practices in adoption, verification, transparency, and impact using the Higg Index. Through these bold applications of the Higg Index, SAC members set the standard for sustainability leadership while activating the industry to combat climate change and protect human rights.

Due to the ever-evolving nature of the industry, membership requirements are updated every few years to align with the SAC's most current strategic plan.



* Those eligible for Candidate Membership are not required to meet the membership requirements

VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

To ignite the change required to transform the industry, peers, competitors, and relevant stakeholders come together, on a pre-competitive basis, as members of the SAC to create a united front, demonstrating sustainability leadership through a commitment to collective action, equal partnership, and transparency.

Benefits of SAC Membership

Enhance your company's reputation

as an organization that is dedicated to continuous sustainability improvement.



Collaborate with a network

of industry leaders to make positive impactful change for the planet and its people – a goal that one company alone simply cannot achieve.



Shape the evolution of Higg Index

tools and transparency measures, playing an active and essential role in accelerating the transition to a more sustainable industry.*



Pioneer industry adoption

of Higg Index tools, transparency measures, early access to industry benchmarking data, and trend analyses.



Learn about key sustainability trends

to notify your organization's leadership and stakeholders of critical issues.



Grow with tailored support

from a dedicated member manager, global SAC staff, and other members to help drive adoption of the Higg Index across your value chain.*



Exchange ideas, gain valuable insights,

and broaden your organization's network through exclusive members-only events, training, and collaborations that focus on sustainability performance improvements.



Boost your sustainability initiatives

through the SAC member-focused communications, including member spotlights, articles, social media features, and inclusion in industry reports.*



* Candidate members do not receive the following benefits listed above: (1) Shape the evolution of Higg Index, (2) Grow with tailored support, and (3) Boost your sustainability initiative.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

The SAC is a diverse multi-stakeholder coalition and consists of two major membership types: SAC Corporate Members and SAC Affiliate Members.

Affiliate Member

Academia, Government Organizations, Grantors/Investors, Not For Profit Organizations, Non-Government Organizations, Service Providers, Trade/Industry Associations

Companies and organizations that have direct influence and participation in the global consumer goods value chain through policymaking, formal education, and/or providing capacity-building services around environmental and social global issues.

Corporate Member

Holding Groups, Brands & Retailers, Third-Party Retailers, Manufacturers, Trading Agents/Importers/Licensees

Companies that are directly involved in the manufacturing or sale of global consumer goods. Corporate members may select either Full Membership or Candidate Membership.

Full Membership involves companies that are ready to commit to industrywide progress in sustainability and meeting SAC membership requirements. Candidate Membership provides a pathway to full membership, giving you the experience of the community and a preview of what it means to be a full corporate SAC member.

Find a full list of SAC members here: www.apparelcoalition.org/members

MEMBER BENEFITS

		CORPORATE		AFFILIATE
		CANDIDATE	FULL	
HIGG INDEX TOOLS	Access to the Higg Index tools is included through our exclusive Higg Index technology partner Worldly.	Essential	Essential	Basic*
	Opportunity to subscribe to additional Worldly solutions	✓	✓	✓
EQUAL PARTNERSHIP	Piloting and early adoption of Higg Index tools	✓	✓	✓
	Engaging in SAC governance, guidance, and feedback		✓	✓
	Voting rights on critical SAC decisions		✓	✓
	Eligibility to sit on SAC Board of Directors		✓	✓
SAC COMMUNITY & SUPPORT	Support from member engagement team and member network	Basic	Premium	Premium
	Focused training and guidance on using Higg Index tools	✓	✓	✓
	Access to member-only platforms, including SAC Connect and LinkedIn Groups	✓	✓	✓
	Benefits from the shared relationships of the SAC's ecosystem and partnerships, including Apparel Impact Institute (Aii), Policy Hub, and Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP)	✓	✓	✓
STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAIN RELATIONSHIPS	Exclusive invitation to events (e.g. Global Member Meeting, Summits for Higg Index Tools, etc.) to gain best practices, build your network, and take advantage of collaboration opportunities	✓	✓	✓
	Complimentary ticket(s) for SAC Annual Meeting		✓	✓
	Public-facing feature opportunities through SAC communication channels (e.g. case studies, quotes in communication materials)		✓	✓
	Promote as sustainability leader through outreach materials (logo and press release)		✓	✓

* Among affiliate members, upgraded Worldly solutions may be made available in certain circumstances. Please contact the SAC Stakeholder Engagement Team for more details.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2022

ANNUAL REVENUE (USD)	ANNUAL CORPORATE FULL & CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP DUES (USD)	
Less than \$20 million**	BRAND / RETAILER*, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$6,500
	MANUFACTURER	\$5,500
\$20 million to \$100 million**	BRAND / RETAILER*, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$12,500
	MANUFACTURER	\$11,000
\$100 million to \$500 million	BRAND / RETAILER, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$24,500
	MANUFACTURER	\$22,000
\$500 million to \$1 billion	BRAND / RETAILER, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$37,000
	MANUFACTURER	\$33,000
\$1 billion to \$10 billion	BRAND / RETAILER, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$54,000
	MANUFACTURER	\$48,000
\$10 billion to \$25 billion	BRAND / RETAILER, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$75,000
	MANUFACTURER	\$60,000
More than \$25 billion	BRAND / RETAILER, HOLDING GROUP, THIRD-PARTY RETAILER	\$90,000
	MANUFACTURER	\$70,000

* Brands/Retailers with annual revenue less than \$100 million may access the Higg Index suite of tools without becoming SAC members. Visit [Worldly.io](https://worldly.io) to learn more and request a demo.

** Organizations with annual revenue less than \$100 million are not eligible for Candidate membership.

MEMBERSHIP DUES, CONT.

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2022

ANNUAL REVENUE (USD)	ANNUAL AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP DUES (USD)	
Revenues less than \$100 million	AFFILIATES*	\$11,000
Revenues \$100 million to \$500 million	AFFILIATES*	\$22,000
Revenues \$500 million to \$1 billion	AFFILIATES*	\$33,000
Revenues \$1 billion to \$10 billion	AFFILIATES*	\$45,000
Revenues exceeding \$10 billion	AFFILIATES*	\$60,000
N/A	NGOS AND ACADEMIA	\$1,000
N/A	GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION	SAC CEO Discretion

* Inclusive of Service Providers, Trade/Industry Associations, Not For Profit Organizations, Grantors and Investors

FOLLOW OUR STORY ON



apparelcoalition.org

ABOUT THE SAC

The Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is an independent and impact-creating organization that aims to lead the industry toward a shared vision of sustainability based upon a joint approach for measuring, evaluating, and improving performance.

As a non-profit organization, it has members from across the apparel, footwear and textile sector, but exists independently outside any one company so that it can drive progress. The SAC's collective action efforts bring more than 280 global brands, retailers, manufacturers, NGOs, academics and industry associations together. They represent about half of the apparel and footwear industry along the whole supply chain – from sustainability pioneers to organizations just getting started.

Before the SAC existed, companies worked in a siloed way, using their own programs and measurements that lacked standardization and an ability to drive collective action. In 2009, Walmart and Patagonia identified this as a serious problem. Joining forces, they brought together peers, competitors, and relevant stakeholders from across the sector to, on a pre-competitive basis, develop a universal approach to measuring sustainability performance and founded the Sustainable Apparel Coalition.