

CSR ACCREDITATION

Show that you care

Delivering a **Global Accreditation** for Environmental & Social Responsibility

Independent validation for sustainable business

Doing good is **good business**

CSR Accreditation is an effective way to baseline and benchmark your activity with regard to Environmental and Social Responsibility. The process requires that you collate, measure and report your organisation's activities.

In an era marked by heightened awareness of environmental concerns, escalating legislation, and a generational commitment to ethical conduct, organisations of all sizes are actively seeking innovative approaches to fulfil sustainability requirements and validate their Environmental and Social Responsibility claims and credentials.

The challenge: how does one validate and report activities and outcomes in the absence of an established standard for measurement? CSR-A addresses this question with our Four Pillars framework, providing the measurement required for reporting and independent validation. Further to this, accreditation follows a 'blank canvas' approach allowing organisations to express their unique solutions to Environmental and Social Responsibility challenges without the requirement for answering specific pre-prescribed questions. The accreditation is judged by a panel of experts including individuals from business and industry, sustainability professionals and academia, providing authentic value to those who achieve it.

Attaining CSR-A accreditation enables organisations to showcase their approach to sustainable and responsible operations. Surpassing compliance with legislation and regulation, proactive organisations are now seeking to cultivate a positive culture and actively engage with communities. By doing this, they promote positive change and contribute to the improvement of lives and businesses.

Your CSR-A accreditation can be used to address ESG compliance, prepare for the race to Net Zero, build a culture that empowers employees to do environmental and social good, attract new talent, win tenders, improve brand reputation and address non-financial social impact reporting.

Accreditation illustrates an organisation's commitment to Environmental and Social Responsibility initiatives, activities and policies and serves as a vehicle to effectively communicate this to all audiences, your supply chain and stakeholders.

The **accreditation mark** and our **independent** assessment panel

Accreditation applications are scrutinised and scored by our totally independent assessment panel. Consisting of a diverse group of people from a wide range of professional and social backgrounds including business and industry, public and third sector and education, it is the experience and wisdom of the panel that give integrity and value to the accreditation mark.



Your **unique accreditation mark** is visual testimony of your dedication and commitment to being a responsible business and **should be proudly displayed on your website and other brand touch points.**

The accreditation process **step by step**



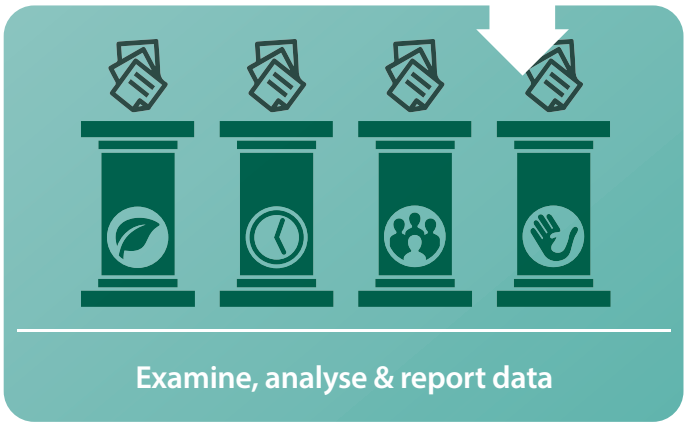
Register & download resources



Talk to colleagues & collate information



Begin our online application process



Examine, analyse & report data



Upload supporting documentation & submit



Our assessment panel will do the rest!

Achieving accreditation **will help you...**



DEMONSTRATE ESG COMPLIANCE



IDENTIFY RELEVANT UN SDG'S



LEVEL UP YOUR TENDERING POWER



RECRUIT & RETAIN TALENT



MANAGE AND MITIGATE RISK



PROTECT & ENHANCE YOUR BRAND

What is CSR accreditation?

Accreditation is a visible testament to your achievements in the area of Environmental and Social Responsibility. It provides independent validation for claims and a benchmark for future measurement and reporting. Essentially accreditation shows that you are facilitating the integration of social, environmental, ethical, human rights, and consumer concerns into your business operations and strategy, creating a genuinely sustainable framework on which to build.

The accreditation caters to organisations from all sectors and sizes, from sole traders to large corporations. Our 'blank canvas' approach emphasises and celebrates each applicant organisation's distinctive nature and unique approach.

The accreditation is available to all organisations globally and is valid for 2 years. Application submission dates are the 30th of every month. All accredited organisations are entered into the International CSR Awards in the first year of their accreditation and on subsequent re-accreditations.

What does the application involve?

The application process allows you to record activities against our Four Pillars of environment, workplace, community, and philanthropy. Each pillar is designed to prompt impact reporting on crucial areas such as energy performance, recycling, staff engagement, health and well-being, community involvement, and support for local and national charities. Composing an application requires a self audit of all relevant environmental and socially responsible activity and policy currently undertaken in each pillar, by the applicant organisation.

Successful accreditation is contingent upon the submission of a comprehensive evaluation of an organisation's entire spectrum of activities. Applications must be supported by evidence such as report documentation, certification, social media activity, photographs and analysis wherever possible.

CSR-A can provide a dedicated Accreditation Application Workshop for any organisations requiring guidance.

The accreditation process encompasses the following conditions:

Self Audit of Policies and Structures: A self auditing of the applicant's policies and structures related to responsible business practices. It's important to note that while reporting all of your relevant activities is vital, it is not mandatory to provide activity in every pillar for successful application.

Online Application Submission: The dedicated CSR-A online application form must be completed, submitted and supported by uploaded evidence where possible.

Accreditation Application Fee: Applicants are required to pay the accreditation application fee at the application submission stage. The fee is based on organisation size. Failure to pay the application fee will result in the withholding of the accreditation results, mark and associated supporting materials.

Achievement: Assessment of applications is carried out by our independent assessment panel. Successful applicants will be awarded Gold, Silver, or Bronze accreditation. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a gap analysis report which provides an opportunity to re-submit an updated application within 3 months for a small administration fee.

The accreditation mark and promotional pack

Achieving CSR accreditation is a visible testimony of your excellence in environmental & social responsibility. The accreditation shows you have integrated initiatives throughout your business operations and if publicised will provide you with real competitive advantage.

To support this, all successfully accredited members receive an accreditation pack containing their unique accreditation mark, certificate, a digital tool-kit and other supporting materials. The pack is designed to help you communicate your accreditation to all your audiences and display your mark across all your brand touch-points such as your website, social media and print media.

The **benefits** of accreditation are many and varied and have a **positive cumulative impact** on your bottom line...



Encouraging a culture of **sustainable and social purpose with profit** has many advantages for all businesses, regardless of size or sector. Environmental and social responsibility engagement improves a company's **public image and relationships** with all internal stakeholders and customers.

Become a CSR-A Supporter or an Associate Member

You can register your interest for free using the 'Join Now' button at the top of this page. Free registration will automatically sign you up to become a CSR-A Supporter Member and receive our newsletter, promotional emails and provide you with a link to our Get Started! Tool-kit.

Alternatively you can request CSR-A Associate Membership which provides you with our enhanced pre-accreditation support package. Associate membership declares your commitment to becoming an accredited organisation. It provides you with the opportunity to publicly announce your commitment to environmental and social responsibility. By making a small financial commitment upfront (just 10% of your overall accreditation application fee) you can begin enjoying benefits which include engaging and enriching employees, shareholders and stakeholders, benchmarking for ongoing environmental and social responsibility policy and strategy and proudly display our associate members badge.

CSR-A associate membership is time limited to 6 months, within which time you must submit your CSR accreditation application or forfeit your initial payment. As a CSR-A Associate member, you'll enjoy the following benefits:

- A CSR associate logo pack.
- An optional one-hour consultation call to assist with your application.
- Comprehensive guidance on the CSR accreditation application process.
- A press release to announce your commitment.
- 50% discount vouchers for the CSR-A environmental and social responsibility online training course.

To request associate membership please make contact.

Accreditation expiry and re-application

All accredited members are automatically added to our 2 year cycle database. Six months prior to your re-accreditation date, members are contacted by email to notify them of the upcoming deadline. Members should be aware that failure to apply for and achieve re-accreditation will forfeit rights to display the accreditation mark. CSR-A offer a re-accreditation consultation call 6 months prior to your renewal due date as part of our membership benefits package.

As a minimum, the accreditation assessment panel will expect to see a maintaining of standards of engagement and activity in the depth and scope of E&SR initiatives for a re-accrediting member organisation.

What specific business issues does accreditation address?

- Benchmarking for ongoing E&SR policy and strategy.
- Independent validation of sustainability and responsibility claims.
- Tendering support documentation.
- Providing essential information for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting.
- Highlighting relevant areas supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Crafting a comprehensive Social Value policy.
- Proof of adherence to national and global initiatives such as the Race to Net Zero and the circular economy.
- Engaging and enriching the lives of employees, shareholders, and stakeholders.
- Content for comprehensive, ongoing impact reporting.
- Increased business resilience and risk management.
- Provides the information required for Net Zero strategy and planning.
- Generates content for social impact reporting.

Accredited membership **benefits** include...

- Two years accreditation membership.
- An accreditation pack including certification, your unique mark and advice on what to do next.
- Publicity through our social media channels.
- Automatic entry to the International CSR Excellence Awards.
- Inclusion in our accredited members directory.
- An optional annual CSR health check (1 hour free consultation meeting).
- An optional re-accreditation consultation call 6 months prior to accreditation renewal (1 hour free consultation meeting).
- Bi-annual members newsletter.
- Exclusive members discounts for training, webinars and events.
- A tree planted in your name.

CSR-A **also provide** the following services



EDUCATION

Enabling Your People

CSR-A provides an introductory training course designed to explore the fundamental concepts of environmental and social responsibility. Learn the origins and foundations of a sustainable and responsible business ethos to discover how your organisation can thrive through the effective implementation of policy. Integrating concepts and best practice into strategy provides tangible benefits.



CONSULTATION

The Future Shape of Business

CSR-A provide consultation to support an organisation embedding sustainability into culture, policies and business process to improve resilience, productivity and profitability. Responsiveness to ethical and societal demands is now crucial for the success of all organisations. Our tailored solutions address these concerns, ensuring a comprehensive approach to meeting client expectations.



COMMUNICATION

Showing Purpose With Profits

CSR-A provides an environmental and social impact report writing service. The content can be drawn from your application or developed using our unique Four Pillars framework. Content can be completed with minimal additional input from the client. Impact reports are public facing documents designed to showcase your achievements. They are a valuable tool to help you measure and communicate a return on social investment.

Download our vital '**Get Started Tool-kit**' for free



This tool-kit is designed to provide the inspiration and information required to prepare you for accreditation application. Tool set 1 is a thought prompting breakdown of activities in our Four Pillars framework. Tool set 2 and 3 are matrix tables and impact audit sheets to identify and measure your activity and achievements to date. Tool set 4 is an application crib section to familiarise you with our application form prior to applying online. It is provided as an interactive PDF in which you can record and save your information.

Online Roadmap

Complete our interactive survey which is designed to give you an indicator of your current level of engagement in sustainability policy and initiatives.

Register Free Now

Registration is free and provides you with our essential Guidance for Accreditation document and automatically subscribes you to our newsletter.

Associate Membership

By making a small financial commitment upfront (just 10% of your overall accreditation application fee) you can immediately begin enjoying benefits.

Demonstrate your commitment now and become a **sustainability leader**

THAMES VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP •MEMBER•

iam Inspiring professionals since 1915

IUSR INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEW UNIVERSITY

Proud to recognise and endorse the **CSR-Accreditation** scheme delivered by CSR-A

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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