

SFI Inc. Transparency Policy

As an advocate for sustainable forestry, a public charity and the custodian of the most widely-used forest certification system in North America, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Inc. is committed to be open and transparent about the development and administration of the SFI® Standard, our operations as a public charity, our policy goals and priorities, and our handling of complaints. To implement this commitment, the Board of Directors of SFI Inc. has adopted the following transparency policy:

1. Transparency in the Development of the SFI Standard: The SFI Standard shall be developed through a transparent process including public notice of proposed changes, regional workshops to present and discuss proposed revisions with stakeholders, and opportunities for public comment on drafts of the Standard.
2. Disclosures regarding Tax-Exempt Status and Charitable Operations: SFI Inc. shall disclose to the public all information required by the Internal Revenue Code. SFI Inc.'s Form 990 tax returns for the past three years, its Form 1023 Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the responding IRS Determination Letter are available upon request. SFI Inc. is primarily supported financially by SFI Program Participants who use our forest management and fiber sourcing standards. These SFI Program Participants, listed in our annual progress report posted on the SFI website, include forest product and paper companies, conservation organizations, state and local public agencies, foundations, and universities.
3. Transparency in Policy Goals and Initiatives: SFI Inc. shall disclose to the public information about its policy goals, priorities and activities, through events such as the annual SFI Conference, regional workshops, publication of an Annual Progress Report and a monthly newsletter, and periodic updates on the SFI website.
4. Handling of complaints: SFI has a process for handling complaints related to governance (SFI Inc. Board of Directors) and executive functions (SFI Inc. President and CEO). Complaints will be brought to the full SFI Board and a response will be provided following the next scheduled quarterly Board meeting. If the response is not to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant can appeal the decision and it will be brought to the SFI External Review Panel, an independent body of experts that provides advice to the SFI Board.