

2 December 2026

The Solar Stewardship Initiative **Building a Just Energy Transition**



Introducing the SSI



SOLAR
STEWARDSHIP
INITIATIVE

SSI | BACKGROUND

WHAT IS THE SSI?

The **SSI** is a **solar-specific** value chain **assurance programme** co-founded by a broad coalition of industry stakeholders, to build a more sustainable, responsible solar future.

WHY THE SSI?

As solar energy becomes central to the global clean energy transition, the sector faces growing scrutiny over issues like labour and human rights, traceability in sourcing materials and environmental impacts in manufacturing and raw material extraction.



Compliance

- Retain **market access** and meet global and local **legislative requirements** (e.g., EU CSDDD, CSRD, US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act).
- Access SSI **standards and tools** to align with ESG and traceability expectations.

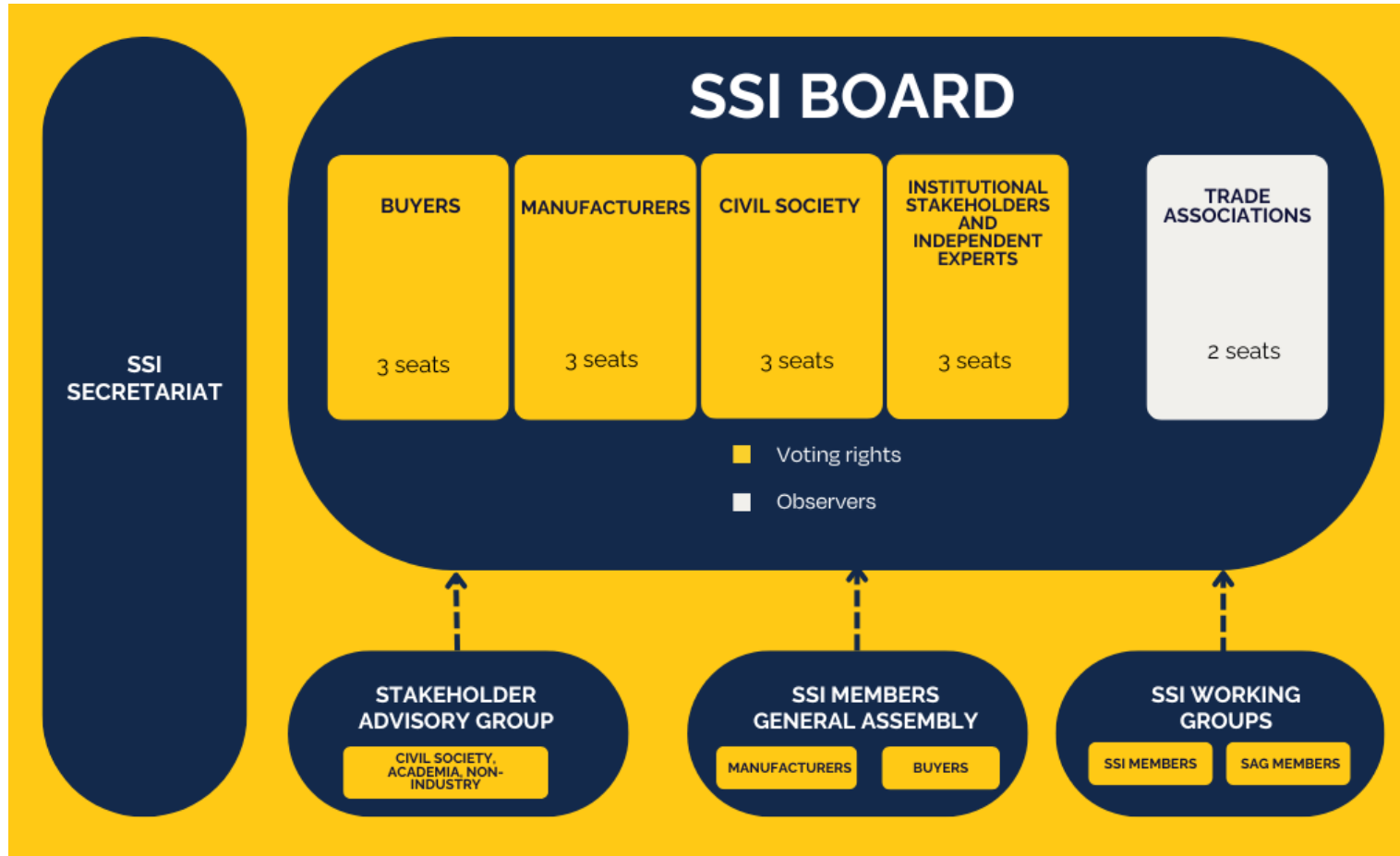
Reputation

- Meet growing demand for **verified sustainable products**
- Drive **innovation** in sustainable practices and stay ahead of competitors.
- Membership of the SSI demonstrates **commitment to sustainability and transparency** in the solar value chain.

Collaboration

- **Engage** with key industry stakeholders
- **Participate** in shaping industry standards and sustainability goals.

SSI | A multi-stakeholder initiative



The SSI is strongly supported by a broad range of stakeholders and brings together **manufacturers, developers, installers, purchasers, human rights experts, civil society organisations and financial institutions** to foster responsible production, sourcing and stewardship of materials throughout the solar value chain.

SSI | Membership

19

Manufacturer category



36

PV Buyer category



GOVERNANCE | The SSI Board



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The SSI | The Standards

1 ESG STANDARD

- Designed to evaluate a manufacturing site's performance in three key areas:
 - **Governance and Business Ethics**
 - **Environment**
 - **Human and labour rights**
- This Standard can certify a 'link' – i.e. a production site – in the solar supply chain

GOLD: No major or minor non-conformances (NCs)

SILVER: No major NCs, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan

BRONZE: No major NCs, 10 or less minors. Improvement plan

2 SUPPLY CHAIN TRACEABILITY STANDARD

- Published December 2024
- First certifications – late 2025
- This Standard is the first step to show precisely where the materials used at each link in the supply chain come from and how they can be traced.
- Covers the entire silicon value chain, from quartzite mining to photovoltaic module production.

GOLD: No major or minor non-conformances (NCs). Traceability to quartzite.

SILVER: No major NCs, 5 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to MGS.

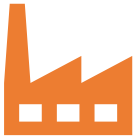
BRONZE: No major NCs, 10 or less minors. Improvement plan. Traceability to polysilicon.

The SSI Standards

SSI Standard	ESG	Supply Chain Traceability
Publication	October 2023	December 2024
Objective	Evaluate a site's performance in three key areas: Governance and Business Ethics, Environment and Human and Labour Rights	Evaluate a site's requirements for maintaining a traceability system with a future goal of enabling an 'unbroken' Chain of Custody (CoC) through the solar value chain.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 requirements • Following the terminology and models of ISO 19011 Guidelines for auditing management systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 requirements • Following the terminology and models of ISO 22095:2020 Chain of custody — General terminology and models
Adherence	Mandatory	Mandatory
Conditions	Each member must assess at least 2 production sites against the ESG Standard within 12 months of signing the SSI Principles	Each member must assess at least 2 production sites against the ESG Standard within 12 months of its publication (for existing members) or within 12 months of signing the SSI Principles (for new members)
Scope and Applicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global geographical scope • Site-level • Applies for the full silicon value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global geographical scope • Site-level • Applies for the full silicon value chain



LATEST NEWS | 2025 Milestones



14 certified sites, covering **+114 GW** of module capacity.



Traceability assessments launched with results soon to be published.



Manufacturers targets adopted, creating alignment across the supply chain.



Partnerships with the Global Wind Energy Council and the Copper Mark

Scan & access SSI
certified sites



NEXT STEPS | Guides, Targets and Standard Review



Buyers' Guide

Practical tool for Buyer members



Review of ESG Standard



Member Portal

Providing real-time visibility of assessments and progress.

Responsible Sourcing & the SSI



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RESPONSIBLE SOURCING| Context

EU Forced Labour Regulation (FLR)

Companies must be ready to **show evidence** of “adequate and effective due diligence” when challenged. The **omnibus implementing act is still under discussion**, but all negotiations point to a need for:

- documented traceability back to raw materials
- risk-based supply-chain due diligence
- evidence of mitigation and verification

The FLR is outcome-based, not process-based — it sets expectations but does not specify how to build the system.

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)

Requires companies to **map their supply chains**, identify and mitigate human rights and environmental risks, and monitor suppliers. Includes expectations for **upstream risk assessment**, supplier engagement, and corrective actions.

Forces companies to move from voluntary responsibility to **legally enforceable due diligence**.

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

Requires companies to **report publicly** on due-diligence processes, traceability systems, and supplier risk management.

Solar buyers must demonstrate how procurement decisions are aligned with ESG risks, including forced labour and environmental impacts.

Across all three frameworks, buyers must be able to demonstrate full visibility, credible due diligence, and traceability — even though regulations provide limited operational guidance.

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING| The SSI as a tool



Member Portal

Assessments updates



Buyers' Guide

Practical tool for Buyer members



The SSI turns vague legal expectations into **clear, auditable, solar-specific requirements**:

Traceability systems

- End-to end traceability of all silicon materials
- Segregated material flows, material accounting, and documentation that support an unbroken Chain of Custody
- 10-year record retention and 5 years of detailed traceability evidence

Due diligence

- Supplier due diligence aligned with OECD Guidance
- CAHRA checks, KYC, red-flag escalation, and risk mitigation

Verification

- Third-party assessment of both ESG and Traceability systems
- **Comparable, standardised evidence** that allows buyers to benchmark manufacturers
- .

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING| What's next?



SUPPORTING EUROPE'S SUPPLY NEEDS

With EU manufacturing ambitions, most silicon and modules will still be imported. The SSI gives buyers a **practical, credible system** to manage upstream risks and meet EU due-diligence rules.



CLEAR & ENFORCEABLE MANUFACTURER TARGETS

Certification within 12 months: at least two module sites (or one if only one site exists).

80% certified shipments by 2027, 100% by 2028 to the EEA/CH/UK.

Annual reporting on all module plants and volumes.



REAL TOOLS FOR BUYERS

Buyer's Guide for procurement steps, red flags, and contract language.

Verified, comparable evidence from audited ESG + traceability systems.

Member platform giving real-time visibility of certified sites and supply-chain data.

THANK YOU! | The SSI Secretariat



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