



ecovadis



B Lab and **EcoVadis** Complementary Approaches to Driving Impact at Scale

Mock-up 22 March 2022

Introduction

B Lab and EcoVadis share the conviction that business should be a force for good. Both are dedicated to enabling companies to make a sustainable transition - and recognize and support those who are taking a leading role in that transition.

B Lab and EcoVadis share a common vision of an economic system and marketplace where companies operate sustainably and have a positive impact on all people, communities, and the planet. Both organizations are committed to empowering businesses to improve their practices, through sustainability ratings, certification, and, in the case of B Lab, additional programs and tools necessary to understand their environmental and social impact.

Overlap across our respective networks is increasing, as action by companies wishing to participate in both is accelerating: Organizations are seeking to engage in B Lab's programs like B Corp Certification, B Movement Builders, and other Impact Management initiatives; as well as utilizing EcoVadis ratings and insights to drive impact at scale inside their organizations and across their supply chains. This statement of intent summarizes our view of the complementarities and synergies between our two organizations and, importantly, two of our leading products, as we aspire to foster greater alignment and synergies towards a shared vision of impact at scale.

About B Lab

The B Lab Global Network is transforming the global economy to benefit all people, communities, and the planet. Its collective global vision is of an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economic system for all people and the planet. As a leader in economic systems change, its global network creates standards, policies, and tools for business, and certifies companies—known as B Corps—who are leading the way. To date, its community includes 380,000 workers, 10,000 Benefit Corporations and over 4,500 B Corps in 78 countries and 153 industries. Over 150,000 companies manage their impact with the B Impact Assessment and 20,000 companies benchmark their contribution to the SDGs with our SDG Action Manager.

About EcoVadis

EcoVadis' mission is to provide trusted sustainability ratings, enabling all businesses to reduce risk, boost performance and, ultimately, move toward our vision of a global marketplace in which sustainability intelligence influences every business decision, helping to improve economies, people's lives, and the planet we depend on.

EcoVadis ratings are evidence-based, validated by a global team of experts, and backed by a powerful technology platform. Our scorecards and platform are designed to "meet companies where they are" across 200 industry categories, 160 countries, and businesses of all sizes. We provide benchmarks, insights, and a guided improvement journey for environmental, social and ethical practices.

Since its founding in 2007, EcoVadis has worked with over 750 global leaders to collaborate with a network of over 90,000 rated companies - representing over \$2Tn in procurement spend - to drive resilience, sustainable growth and positive impact worldwide.



EcoVadis and B Lab’s Leading Products

The B Impact Assessment and B Corp Certification

Used by more than 150,000 businesses, the B Impact Assessment is a digital tool that can help measure, manage, and improve positive impact performance for environment, communities, customers, suppliers, employees, and shareholders; receiving a minimum verified score of 80 points on the assessment is also the first step towards B Corp Certification. B Corp Certification is a designation that a business is meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency across social, environmental, and governance factors.

EcoVadis Sustainability Ratings

EcoVadis Sustainability Ratings and benchmarks are used by more than 90,000 businesses, are delivered on a SaaS platform in 12 languages, and are based on a reliable methodology covering 21 environmental, social and ethical criteria. Scorecards are the basis of an improvement journey, starting with the detailed strengths and improvement areas, complemented with learning resources such as EV Academy, How-To guides and documentation, and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) module where buyers and suppliers can collaborate on deciding priorities, timelines and action plans. EcoVadis Enterprise offering supports deployment of a sustainable procurement program at global scale. Coupled with program management and supplier onboarding services, it also has a powerful API to integrate ratings directly into procurement decisions.

EcoVadis and B Impact Assessment (BIA) Key Features

	B Impact Assessment (BIA)	EcoVadis
Coverage	Comprehensive (38 impact topics covered across core business stakeholders: Governance, Workers, Community, Environment, Customers)	Comprehensive (21 sustainability criteria covered across Environment, Labor & Human Rights, Ethics, Sustainable Procurement)
Purpose	Evaluation, Benchmarking, and Management of Issues Material to Stakeholders	Business sustainability ratings to manage upstream and downstream networks, benchmark practices and enable improvement
Customisation	Prescribed, by relevance and materiality by size, sector, and geographic market	Assessments adapted by industry, country and size
Use cases	All types and sizes of for-profit businesses globally, private or public, regardless of sector, location, and sustainability management experience	Procurement, private equity, finance, banking organizations, and all their trading partners, no matter where they are on their sustainability journey

How We Differ

Target Audience

B Lab creates programs and tools to engage all types of companies, from small to multinationals either as recognized leaders for their best in class sustainability business practices (B Corps) or as part of a broader movement of people using business as a force for good, regardless of their certification intent. EcoVadis engages all companies, irrespective of where they are on their sustainability journey, by linking their sustainability performance to B2B commercial relationships, such as procurement or finance.

Output

B Corp is a third-party certification, verified by B Lab, valid for three years. B Corp certification demonstrates that a company has met specific performance requirements including a score above 80 points on the B Impact Assessment, clearing a risk assessment, and making a legal commitment by changing their corporate governance structure to be accountable to all stakeholders. B Corps exhibit transparency by making their performance publicly available on their B Corp profile on B Lab's website.

EcoVadis delivers ratings assessing four sustainability themes (Environment, Labor and Human Rights, Business Ethics and Sustainable Procurement) as well as overall performance presented on an easy-to-use actionable scorecard detailing benchmarks, strengths and improvement areas. Ratings assess companies sustainability maturity at a given point and guide its improvement journey. They are valid for one year..

How We Complement Each Other

Organizations relying both on B Lab's and EcoVadis' leading products have a unique opportunity to scale good corporate sustainability practices in their value chains. Together, B Lab and EcoVadis enable companies to engage their ecosystem of suppliers on sustainability and drive continuous improvement towards better, more virtuous practices - inside and outside their companies.

1. Through B Lab's B Impact Assessment, business leaders can assess, manage, compare, and improve their company's positive impact performance across core stakeholder groups and take a step towards achieving B Corp Certification.
2. Through EcoVadis' engagement platform, companies collaborate with their value chain partners to continuously improve their sustainability practices.
3. Companies with advanced experience in engaging their value chain on sustainability seek to expand their business model transformation, using the B Corp Certification as a high-level framework to structure their ambition. Reciprocally, companies using the B Impact Assessment can collaborate further with their supply chain using EcoVadis ratings.

For additional information, contact your B Lab or EcoVadis representative.

