Cascale Membership

Join the movement



Who we are

Cascale is an industry-wide nonprofit of over 300 leading apparel, footwear, and textile brands, retailers, manufacturers, sourcing agents, service providers, trade associations, non-profits, NGOs, and academic institutions.





Together, we are working toward a shared vision of an industry that gives back 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 in collaboration with our members to create a global approach for effectively measuring and evaluating the social and environmental impacts of value chains and products.

Our 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.

Cascale 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 the tools on the Worldly Impact Intelligence platform.



A global consumer goods industry that gives more than it takes.

Mission

To catalyze collective action toward an equitable and restorative consumer goods industry, by aligning our global community around shared goals, developing and executing joint solutions, and leading the acceleration of impact at scale with our strategic partners.







"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 reinventing the wheel. Thanks to the collective knowledge present in the Higg Index tools and the generosity of the Cascale community, we have been able to develop a deeper understanding of our impacts and take corrective action quickly"

Duncan Coulter Chief of Staff Rapha

"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 Cascale] 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 Target Initiative (SBTi)

Foundational pillars



Our Pillars

"Evolution for Impact" is our north star for transformation. It directs us to three foundational pillars. These pillars are not isolated; they are interwoven strands of a complex tapestry that form our unified strategy for industry transformation.

Combat Climate Change

Acknowledging the alarm bells—the textile industry alone accounts for up to 10% of global carbon emissions we are committed to a minimum 45% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030.

Decent Work For All

We are motivated by the conviction that every worker deserves respect and safe working conditions. Our mandate ensures that people, and planet, are at the center of our work.

Nature-Positive Future

We aim to move beyond reducing negative impacts to contributing positively to biodiversity, natural ecosystems, and the communities in which we operate.

The Higg Index

The Higg Index is a suite of five tools that assess and measure the social and environmental performance of the value chain and the environmental impacts of products.

We developed these tools to help organizations make systematic change by identifying, understanding, and measuring areas of improvement. These tools include the Higg Facility Environmental Module (FEM), Higg Facility Social & Labor Module (FSLM), Higg Brand & Retail Module (BRM), Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI), and Higg Product Module (PM).

Developed by our coalition of brands, retailers, and manufacturers and launched in 2011, the Higg Index is the most widely used standardized measurement framework within the apparel and footwear industry. Today, more than 24,000 organizations around the world use the Higg Index tools.

Covering water use, carbon emissions, labor conditions, and more, the Higg Index tools provide a deep well of data that can be used by brands, retailers, manufacturers, NGOs, and others to identify pain points and develop sustainability strategies that are transforming the industry.

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 provide insights into the environmental impacts of producing materials and products

Tools included

Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI); Higg Product Module (PM)

Purpose

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



Facility Tools

Assessments that provide 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



Brand & Retail Tool

Assessments that provide insights into social and environmental performance of facilities

Tool included

Higg Brand & Retail Module (BRM)

Purpose

To identify opportunities for continuous sustainability improvement in facilities



Values of membership



Elevate your sustainability initiatives.

Join forces with industry peers, competitors, and stakeholders as members of Cascale on a precompetitive basis, creating a united front to drive the change needed for industry transformation. Demonstrate sustainability leadership through a commitment to collective action, equal partnership, and transparency.

Cascale Membership Brochure 2024

Enhance Your Company's Reputation

Position your organization as one dedicated to continuous sustainability improvement.

Collaborate for Impact

Work with a network of industry leaders to make positive, impactful changes for the planet and its people—a goal that no single company can achieve alone.

Shape the Evolution of Higg Index*



Play an active and essential role in advancing the Higg Index tools and transparency measures, contributing to the acceleration of the industry's transition to sustainability.

Pioneer Industry Adoption

Lead the industry in adopting Higg Index tools, transparency measures, and gain early access to benchmarking data and trend analyses.

Learn About Sustainability Trends



Gain insights into key sustainability trends to keep your organization's leadership and stakeholders informed about critical issues.

Tailored Support*

Receive personalized support from a dedicated member manager, global Cascale staff, and other members to drive the adoption of the Higg Index across your value chain.

Expand Your Network



Exchange ideas, gain valuable insights, and broaden your organization's network through exclusive member-only events, training, and collaborations focused on sustainability performance improvements.

Amplify Your Efforts*

Leverage Cascale memberfocused communications, including member spotlights, success stories, articles, social media features, and inclusion in industry reports to boost your sustainability initiatives.

* Candidate members may not receive benefits to the fullest extent.



Types of membership

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



Affiliate Membership

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

Companies and organizations that 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.



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 Cascale 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 Cascale member.

Find a full list of Cascale members <u>here</u>.



		Corporate		
		Candidate	Full	Affiliate
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 Cascale governance, guidance, and feedback.		~	~
	Voting rights on critical Cascale decisions.		~	~
	Eligibility to sit on Cascale Board of Directors.		~	~
Cascale 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 Cascale Connect and LinkedIn Groups.	~	~	~
	Benefits from the shared relationships of Cascale 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 Cascale Annual Meeting.		\checkmark	~
	Public-facing feature opportunities through Cascale 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 Cascale Stakeholder Engagement Team for more details.



