

# Corporate Sustainability - the First Mile (CS-tFM)

## FAQ

### Who is GI?

GI is a Singaporean company specialising in Sustainability and Data Science. Established in 2006, it has a long history of working with multilateral agencies like the UN affiliates, regulators, corporates and academics. It has a global footprint, but Asia is its geographical focus.

### What are GI's solutions?

GI offers First Mile sustainability solutions i.e. it helps companies start and accelerate their sustainability journey. It does not expect its clients to have prior knowledge of sustainability, in fact it helps them develop the same.

### Who are GI's shareholders?

Almost all (nearly 99%) of GI's shareholding is held by Singaporeans/Singapore PRs.

### What is CS-tFM?

Corporate Sustainability - The First Mile (CS-tFM) is a digital platform where Small and Medium sized companies can share data which is used to establish a standard measure of sustainability across respondents and which can be used by corporates to identify and monitor green suppliers in a cost effective manner.

### How does CS-tFM work?

The assessment programme is covered in 4 steps to give a comprehensive result to the participants:

1. Data Collection: Comprehensive framework especially designed for SMEs based on extensive research
2. Data Verification: Document verification and sampling process to assess the collected data
3. Data Processing: Assigning scores and processing data to develop industry benchmarks and trends
4. Data Visualisation: Report to indicate peer comparison, competitive advantages and disadvantages etc.

### Who should participate in CS-tFM?

SMEs looking to measure their sustainability footprint should participate in the programme. The programme is designed to assess corporate supply chains and help companies improve their sustainability performance.

### **Is participation in CS-tFM difficult, intrusive, and does it require a sustainability team to be in place?**

Participation is designed to be easy and non intrusive. Data is collected online via multiple choice questions. Descriptors are embedded to ensure that respondents have a clear understanding of the topic. Supporting documents need to be provided as per the participation package requirements which shall be used to verify the responses. Overall the process is designed to take 60-90 minutes. No prior knowledge of sustainability is required, nor do we need a sustainability professional to complete the data submission.

### **How do I answer the questions as per the measurement scale of the assessment?**

CS-tFM questions are provided with drop down menus, descriptors, and objective answers. In questions which measure scale of implementation, the options are explained with descriptors which appear as hover text. Participants can refer to these to choose the option which closely resembles their company's policy framework.

### **Data submission can be followed by a company interview. Does this require an expert to represent us?**

An interview may be conducted if needed as part of the data verification process. The interview is conducted selectively and focuses on clarifying the supporting evidence submitted by the respondents i.e. it is not an audit. It is not necessary for a sustainability professional to be present.

### **Are my scores/relative ranking publicly disclosed?**

Information received during the CS-tFM process is subject to data protection regulations which are strictly observed at all times. Company specific information or rankings are not shared externally.

### **Why is there a participation fee?**

GI has invested in the technology/knowhow and also spends a significant amount of effort in reviewing entries. The fee ensures that participants reciprocate this effort and don't leave the process midway or delay it.

*Please refer to the specific Terms and Conditions for more information on the fees.*

### **What is the brand license fee?**

The participants are provided with a report as per their chosen participation plan at the end of the programme. This is to help them understand their performance and take measures to improve their operations. If the participants require the report to be shared externally, a nominal brand license fee would be charged.

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### **How is CS-tFM different from other programmes?**

The CS-tFM is especially designed for SMEs and corporate supply chains. It covers various aspects of sustainability and takes into account some of the first mile issues that SMEs face on this journey. The programme provides benchmark comparison with peers in the industry sector along with suggestions to improve performance.

### **How robust is the assessment process?**

GI has extensive experience in conducting scientific and independent assessments in collaboration with leading accounting firms. The programme uses scoring and data regression techniques to assess the performance of the participant. These scores are further evaluated through a data verification/sampling process which covers the supporting documents provided by the respondent.

### **What is the downloadable report?**

The participants are provided with a PDF report as per their participation plan. These convey the participant's performance in terms of Singapore Sustainability Index (powered by Global Initiatives), year on year growth, sectoral comparison, best in class comparison, comparison with global standards, and strengths & weaknesses

### **How is it useful for me? How can I use it?**

The report helps you get a sense of your competitive positioning in your sector, it also highlights the sustainability aspects you can improve. Such insights on industry performance helps to identify areas for innovation to meet and compete with the industry's top performers. The ability to easily recognize areas for improvement aids in the development of the overall business and sustainability strategy.

Finally, it can help you get an idea of how well your company aligns with the standards such as GRI and UN SDGs.

### **How do I benefit from participating in CS-tFM?**

- a. A better understanding of your sustainability preparedness: The programme helps a company understand how it's sustainability initiatives compare with its peers and other sustainability related frameworks. This in turn can provide direction towards areas that might need attention.
- b. Ease of access to green finance: We propose to work with financing platforms which will allow access to finance at attractive terms for SMEs who display sustainability preparedness.
- c. Ease of Participation: Information sought is based on principles of data science which allows us to draw conclusions without intrusive questioning.
- d. Pricing: Our proposition is priced to attract wide participation. This is cheaper than most solutions we have been able to identify.