



## TLMI L.I.F.E.® Auditing & Certification Program

The Tag and Label Manufacturers Institute (TLMI) is a member-driven industry association representing the narrow web tag, label, and packaging industries. The Label Initiative for the Environment (L.I.F.E) program, introduced in 2009, assists association members in identifying cost effective initiatives and actions to reduce their company's environmental footprint. Perhaps most importantly, the objective is continuous improvement.

### What is L.I.F.E. About?



The L.I.F.E. Program is an audited certification process tailored specifically to the narrow web printing and converting industry. Members pursuing the L.I.F.E.

certification must address emissions, water, wastewater and solid waste reduction in their operations. Members may also institute policies for environmentally preferable cleaning and purchasing for items such as equipment, office supplies and paper.

An element of the L.I.F.E. certification process that member companies address is design-for-recyclability. This includes the recycle-compatibility of adhesives and how narrow web companies are driving recycling programs for these materials, material light-weighting that uses thinner labeling constructions which generate less waste, and

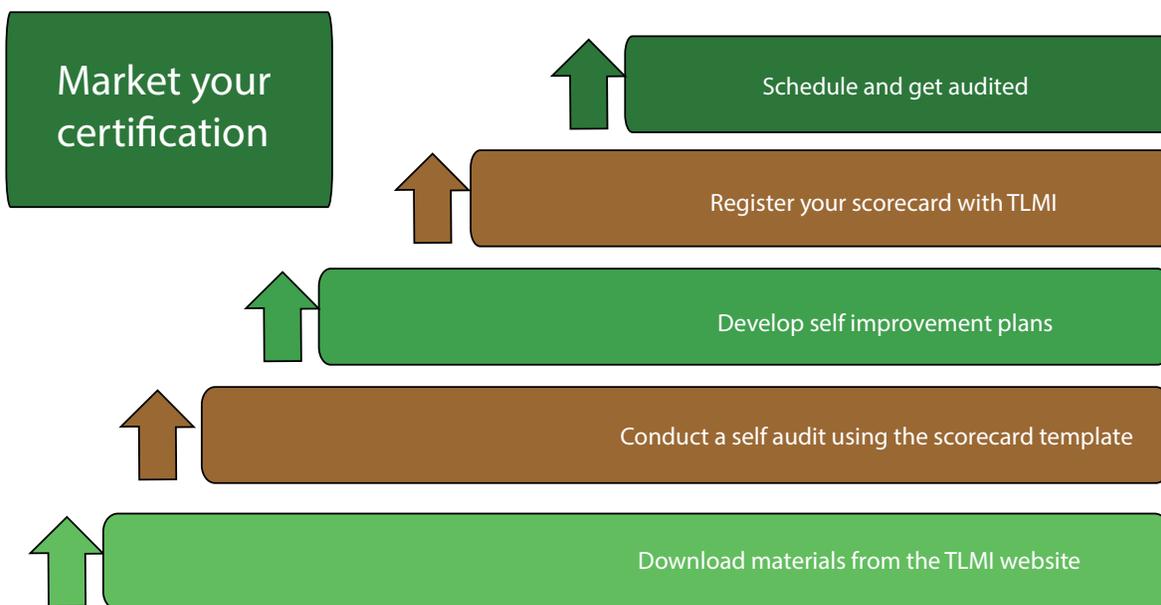
working with end-users in creating disposable solutions for matrix waste. Front office issues are also addressed. Companies are expected to control total energy utilization, report energy sources and detail what they are doing to actively reduce their overall carbon footprint. Companies are also rewarded for reporting innovations not covered by the program that help them meaningfully reduce their environmental footprint.

Certification is for your company/facility and not your product. Certified members can use the logo on their marketing materials, but not on the product package. Guidelines are available for use of claims and the logo.

### Certification Process

Auditing for the L.I.F.E program is handled by an independent third-party organization, NSF Sustainability, a division of NSF International. NSF is well known for certification programs in the food, beverage, water, automotive, aerospace, industrial and consumer products industries and management systems such as ISO 14001. NSF helps to guide you through the document review and on-site audit process to ensure you meet the requirements of L.I.F.E certification.

Once a member organization has decided to participate in the program, the process for certification is straightforward and well defined.



## The Scorecard

The scorecard is organized into 4 categories with 31 total metrics and 3 options for innovation points totaling 34 points.

- 1.0 Clean production techniques
- 2.0 Energy and greenhouse gases
- 3.0 Product design
- 4.0 Management practices

The majority of the scorecard metrics are generic to most businesses and informed by ISO 14001.

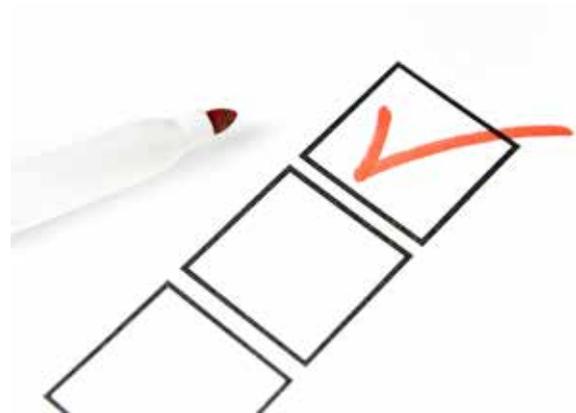
Members complete the scorecard along with supporting documentation. When submitting a scorecard for application to the Certification program, members must compile an electronic or paper submission including supporting documents for each metric score. Based on the score for each metric, the table below identifies the documents required.

Companies that do not have a formal Environmental Management System in place may find it necessary to create an environmental policy and to appoint a leader and team to implement the project and prepare for the certification audit.

## L.I.F.E.® Certification Process

Certification typically takes 7-8 weeks to complete

- Member sends completed scorecard to TLMI Headquarters
- NSF receives the member scorecard from TLMI
- NSF emails the client the application /contract; client completes and returns it to NSF
- NSF contacts the client to discuss the certification process
- NSF auditor performs the document review
- NSF provide document review report to client and schedules the on-site audit
- NSF auditor performs the audit, if there are no deficiencies, the auditor sends the updated scorecard and report to NSF. If there are deficiencies, the client has a specific time frame to close all deficiencies before certification is recommended to TLMI



Score	Requires
<b>Not Applicable</b>	A brief explanation of the reason
<b>No Activity</b>	No supporting documents
<b>Investigating</b>	A short explanation explaining investigative activities and expected results
<b>Engaged</b>	A short explanation of the project or program in place. This must include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A measurable goal and timeframe for achieving it (e.g., 10% reduction by 2015)</li> <li>2. A description of the control and monitoring mechanism (e.g., how you will collect and evaluate data)</li> <li>3. A list of opportunities</li> <li>4. A description of the activities that are being undertaken to achieve that goal</li> </ol>
<b>Public Reporting</b>	Demonstration of public reporting of programs, performance, and goals (copy of printed materials or print out of website)
<b>Improvement from Previous Year</b>	Demonstration of actual improvement against the metric over time



## Costs

Participants pay for a document review and onsite audit every other year and a surveillance audit in the in between years, their internal costs for improvements to meet the criteria, the cost of an audit every other year and the cost of marketing your individual certification.

Onsite audit costs are determined by the number of employees at a facility. On average the onsite audit will take 1-2 days. There are no costs to apply other than the cost of the audit and appropriate travel expenses.

## What are the Benefits of L.I.F.E Certification?

### The Program is Tailored To Your Industry

But also general enough to cover your entire business operation and diverse technologies

### Easy

It is a simple process to follow and grow into and you can proceed at a pace that makes sense for your business

### Affordable

You pay only for direct audit costs and investments in your business

### Other Benefits:

- Identify innovation opportunities for reducing your environmental footprint and cost savings from waste and energy reductions
- Drives recycling programs for products and materials
- Spurs integration of environmentally preferable product design into company practices
- You manage what you measure; certification improves management practices
- Meets supplier and market demands for more environmentally friendly practices

- L.I.F.E certification provides members a credible basis for claiming and promoting to stakeholders that they operate in an environmentally responsible manner
- Empowers employees; studies show that environmentally based improvement programs increase enthusiasm among employees
- Improves the bottom line



## Don't Just Take our Word

Hear what other members are saying about the LIFE Program

*Craig Moreland, President  
Coast Label Company*

*"TLMI is built around members helping each other to advance the industry as well as to be more successful individually. When Coast Label Company decided to prepare for our L.I.F.E. Certification we found other TLMI members ready, willing and able to assist us, and this made the process very straightforward for our L.I.F.E. Team. Because of our good experience, we have decided to "pay it forward" by participating in the L.I.F.E. Mentor Program to advise other companies pursuing L.I.F.E. Certifications for their plants."*

*Daryl Hanzal, President Ritrama, Inc.*

*"Ritrama is proud to have earned the TLMI L.I.F.E. certification. We have realized environmental, operational, and financial benefits by working through the certification process. As we move forward with this continuous environmental improvement program, we continue to find new ways to improve both our business and the environment."*

Cindy Nielsen, Human Resource Manager  
Channeled Resources Group/MaraTec

*"Channeled Resources was L.I.F.E. certified in 2009. We have now completed two outside audits and two self-audits. The process for both has brought continuous focus on reduction of waste, water, and energy. This has not only brought cost savings but created an awareness by team members as to the importance of environmental change, not only to our company but to the community at large. The L.I.F.E. environmental management system has truly impacted our culture at Channeled Resources."*



TLMI maintains a list of certified members on their website.

For more information on L.I.F.E.® Certification visit [www.tlmi.org](http://www.tlmi.org) and for information on NSF Sustainability visit [www.nfsustainability.org](http://www.nfsustainability.org).

