



Certification to SFI's Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard - CB perspective

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1 MANAGEMENT
STANDARD
FOR URBAN FORESTS

800+
PUBLIC COMMENTS
HEARD AND CONSIDERED

5 GUIDING
PRINCIPLES

22 DEVELOPMENT
TASK GROUP
LEADERS

16
OBJECTIVES

COUNTLESS
CONNECTIONS
LASTING BENEFITS

NSF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



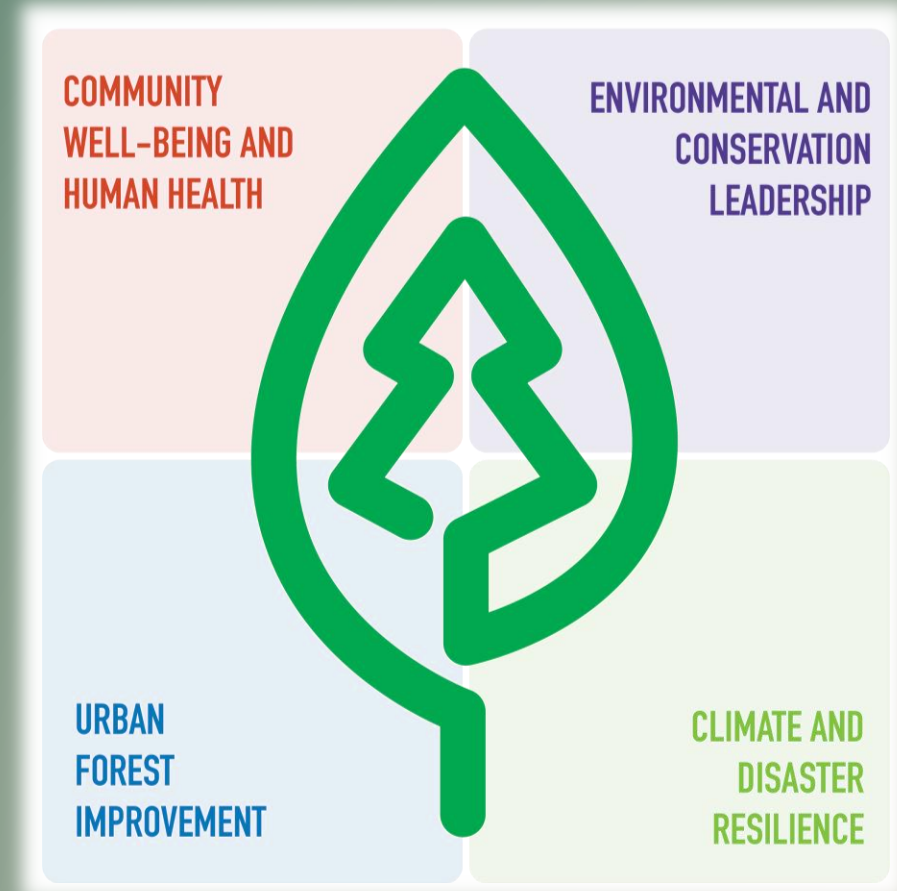
SFI CERTIFICATION OPTIONS



Full Standard Certification

Thematic Certification

- Community Well-Being and Human Health
- Environmental and Conservation Leadership
- Climate and Disaster Resilience
- Urban Forest Improvement.



Who Can Be Certified?

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(municipalities, counties, states, provinces)



HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



CORPORATE ORGANIZATIONS



Process:

- Complete and submit the SFI Participation Application Form
- Prepare your program
- Contact a Certification Body (CB)
- Complete an application, sign a quote/contract
- Schedule audit
- Complete a successful audit
- CB awards certificate.

First SFI U&CFSS Certificate Issued

Clemson University

- Full certification option chosen, covering all 16 Objectives
- Audit completed early 2025
- Certificate issued in April 2025.



Challenges with Initial Certification

Data, Planning, & Implementation

- Managing data - Data may not be readily accessible to those who are involved in the certification process
- Information contained in silos
- In-house workers vs contracted workers may use different standards and metrics (i.e.: ISA BMPs vs. State DOT)
- Requires multiple entities to provide feedback at the initial planning stages of a project.



Positive Takeaways

Certification Benefits

- Provides framework for long-term management, despite staffing/personnel changes, codifying individuals' institutional knowledge
- Promotes communication between programs, helping eliminate silos
- Demonstrates to outside parties the process used to maintain the urban and community forest, providing longevity to the program
- Celebrates the contributions of campus teams while enhancing quality of life for the entire community



Thank you!

NSF

