

Core Principles of Benefit Corporations

The Benefit Corporation Standards Institute, Inc., (BCSI) will base its standards for Benefit Corporations on these core social, economic and environmental principles.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BCSI accredited corporations shall:

- Demonstrate overall positive social impact (PSI) through their activities.
- Create and nurture a workplace at which all employees are treated with dignity and respect, provided a living wage and given the opportunity, wherever appropriate and feasible, for promotion, involvement in decision-making processes, upward mobility and participation in shareholding or profit-sharing.
- Develop a sustainable corporate governance system that ensures a workplace free from discrimination against any person based on gender, race, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, religion, political beliefs, national extraction or social origin.
- Cultivate and maintain a workplace that promotes the good health and well-being of individual employees.

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY

BCSI accredited corporations shall:

- Conduct all business and financial affairs with transparency, integrity and accountability, avoiding doing business with individuals and entities with dubious business practices .
- Improve, wherever feasible, the economic health of local and global communities, especially those in which the company directly operates, and others that are economically underdeveloped or disadvantaged.
- Avoid outsourcing to organizations that undermine the goals of the benefit corporation or operating in countries with minimal or non-existent regulatory oversight.
- Use business resources wisely and efficiently, preventing deliberate or negligent misuse.
- Establish and support through yearly activities an ongoing business strategy that includes a commitment to a long-term sustainability balanced with the appropriate mechanisms to flexibly adjust to market conditions as they change.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

BCSI accredited corporations shall:

- Commit to environmental stewardship (ES) and minimize the negative environmental impact of their own activities.
- Develop and build business relationships with environmentally responsible, fair trade, or sustainable suppliers and distribution channels.
- Commit to minimizing energy usage, incorporating renewable energy sources if feasible.
- Consider at all times the environmental impacts for the entire product lifespan from creation to disposal including packaging. Include instructions to consumers for recovery, recycling or proper disposal at the end of the products' expected lifespan.
- Promote balanced consumption of its products and services to its customers in a way which avoids unnecessary waste, pollution or planned obsolescence.