



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL™
UNITED STATES

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FSC US Membership Application Information

Last Updated: August 2012

Scope: United States

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612-353-4511

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FSC Mission

The Forest Stewardship Council shall promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forest.

FSC Membership Overview

Like some mission-driven, non-profit organizations, FSC is membership-based. At FSC, we take it a step further and are membership-governed. FSC relies on the diversity of our members to give us voice, balance, and integrity.

FSC members are fundamental to the entire FSC enterprise and vision. Without a diverse and active membership representing social, environmental, and economic interests, FSC could not set the high yet realistic standards for forest management that have made FSC the world's leading forest certification system.

It is important to note that if you are an FSC certificate holder this does not mean you are automatically an FSC member. The following information will provide you with all the materials you need to complete the membership application and make your voice heard.

FSC needs your participation as a member. The FSC system is built on the foundation of a strong, involved, and diverse, three-chamber membership base. With each new member, FSC becomes stronger and more grounded in true democracy. Please join in the mission today to protect the world's forests for our children, grandchildren, and all future generations.

Reasons Why YOU Should Become An FSC Member

1. To show that you stand behind the mission and values of FSC as FSC demonstrates the breadth and commitment of its diverse membership.
2. To show that you, your organization, or business supports responsible management of the world's forest – supporting FSC contributes to your NGO's mission or your company's social and environmental commitments.
3. To give you a voice in FSC governance and standards setting – as a member, you will vote on policy motions at FSC's General Assembly, the main forum for FSC decision-making. You are also eligible to sit on FSC US and FSC International Board of Directors.
4. To join a network of progressive peers who want to help encourage the responsible use of the world's forest through the power of the marketplace.

Frequently Asked Questions about FSC and Membership

What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, member-led, non-profit organization that assures environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically prosperous forest management through independent third-party certification and labeling of wood, paper and other forest products.

Based in Bonn, Germany, FSC was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and demand for a credible wood-labeling system. FSC sets rigorous forest management and chain of custody standards, which are then used by third-party auditors to ensure that those standards are being met in the management of forests and the production of forest products. FSC's on-product labeling allows businesses and consumers to choose products from well-managed forests—those that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. FSC is also the only forest certification organization endorsed by such major environmental organizations as the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation and Greenpeace.

FSC US is the national initiative of FSC and is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

What is membership?

FSC is a membership association and is governed by its members.

Members represent their interests based on their professional activities, regardless of the type of membership (individual or organizational). The diversity of interests is reflected in the three-chamber structure that forms FSC membership: economic, environmental and social.

When applying for membership, stakeholders select the following:

- **Type:** Individual or Organizational
- **Chamber:** Environmental, Social or Economic
- **Sub-chamber:** North or South, based on whether you are legally registered in a high-income country (North) or non high-income country (South), according to the World Bank definition. The United States is in the Northern sub-chamber.

FSC members have the right to vote on policy, standards and governance, including the election of FSC board members. FSC members based in the United States may also run for, and vote for, the FSC-US Board.

FSC members are encouraged to attend the FSC General Assembly, the triennial forum at which motions are presented and voted upon by members. The votes of all individual members in each sub chamber represent only 10% of the total vote of the sub chamber, while the votes of all member organizations make up the other 90%. See page 10 for an overview of how FSC weights votes.

FSC members pay annual membership dues according to their type of membership.

Why is FSC membership structured to ensure chamber balance?

In order to balance the interests of different stakeholders, FSC is governed by three chambers that make decisions cooperatively. The three chambers represent environmental, economic and social interests. Each chamber in turn is divided into two sub-chambers, Global North and Global South, to guarantee equal weight of vote and influence among the various countries and economic powers represented. Members based in the United States are in the Global North sub-chamber.

How do I become a member?

The Membership Process and Checklist (Page 12 to 13) details the steps for becoming a member. This includes:

1. Filling out the application form
2. Providing two letters of support from current FSC members
3. Providing all publicly available supporting information
4. Submitting the application and materials to Lori Knosalla at FSC-US
5. Waiting for review and approval by the FSC International Membership Committee

Why should I become an FSC member?

FSC is a participatory association. The membership is the highest authority of FSC and the ultimate decision-maker. FSC relies on the diversity of our members to give us voice, balance and integrity. But not all FSC certificate holders and environmental and social stakeholders are members. Many simply do not realize that membership is an option – nor how important it is for FSC's success.

FSC needs your participation as a member. With each new member, FSC becomes stronger and more grounded in true democracy. Please join us in our mission to see that more of the world's forests are managed to FSC's high environmental and social standards.

What does it cost to be a Member?

For yearly membership dues please go to page 11 for more information.

Membership or Certification?

Being an FSC member and FSC certificate holder are often confused. Both are ways to support the work of FSC.

When you become an FSC member, you show you support the principles of the FSC and the improvement of forest management around the world. FSC members have the right to vote on policy, standards and governance, including the election of FSC board members. FSC members based in the United States may also run for, and vote for, the FSC-US Board.

Being an FSC certificate holder means that your business has been certified by a third-party accredited FSC certifier, and that it complies with the standards and policies of the FSC. Certificate holders are encouraged to become members – because only membership conveys voting rights on standards, policy and governance and signals your commitment to a robust FSC system.

If you are interested in learning more about how to become FSC certified please go to www.fscus.org or contact FSC US at 612-353-4511.

Who can become an FSC Member?

Individuals and organizations (both businesses and non-profit) who support the idea of improved forest management around the world can become an FSC member. All members should demonstrate an active commitment to FSC and its Principles and Criteria.

Government agencies and officials are not able to become members of FSC. At its founding in 1993, FSC was strongly encouraged – by governments – to exclude governments from its governance to ensure continuing independence from government influence and to maintain a "non-state" governance, without any sovereign influence. Governments are not, however, prevented from participating in FSC working groups and standards and policy setting, and are encouraged to participate as observers in the FSC General Assembly.

Who are the members of FSC?

The most up to date record of current members of FSC can be found at the following link.

All International FSC Members – <http://info.fsc.org/publicmembersearch>

FSC US Members - <http://us.fsc.org/download.us-based-members-august-2012.128.htm>

Will I receive regular information from FSC?

FSC maintains a special email and intranet to keep members updated on upcoming Accreditation Services International (ASI) audits, drafts of standards, newly accredited FSC working groups, Board of Director nominations and elections, and other information. Members also receive e-newsletters from FSC International Center and FSC US.

The Three Chambers of FSC

To balance the interests of different stakeholders, FSC is governed by three chambers with equal vote and power to make decisions cooperatively. The three chambers represent environmental, economic and social interests. Each chamber is divided into sub-chamber north and south; the United States is in the “north” sub-chamber. This guarantees equal weight of vote and influence for the different interest groups as well as for different parts of the world and economic power.

Members of all FSC chambers demonstrate an interest in environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management, with demonstrated support of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Individuals and research, academic, and technical institutions are eligible to become members. A prospective member indicates the chamber with which they most closely align in their membership application. The FSC Board will look at this indication when determining an applicant’s designation to a particular chamber.

NOTE: Government organizations are not eligible to become members. (The governing board of FSC member organizations must also be independent of government organizations.)

Economic Chamber

This chamber is for those individuals and organizations that have a commercial interest in forest management and forest products.

Examples Include:

- Certification bodies
- Wholesalers
- Consumer associations
- Consulting companies
- Retailers
- Industry & trade associations (profit or nonprofit)

It is expected that:

- Certification bodies be in the process of being accredited by FSC
- Traders have made a commitment to have a significant percentage of their sales in certified material by a set date in the reasonable future
- Producers have a significant part of their production forests certified by an FSC accredited certification body or be certified within a reasonable time frame, usually two (2) years.

Environmental Chamber

This chamber is for those individuals and organizations that have an active interest in the environmentally appropriate management of the world’s forests.

Examples Include:

- Non-Profits
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Research, technical, academic institutions

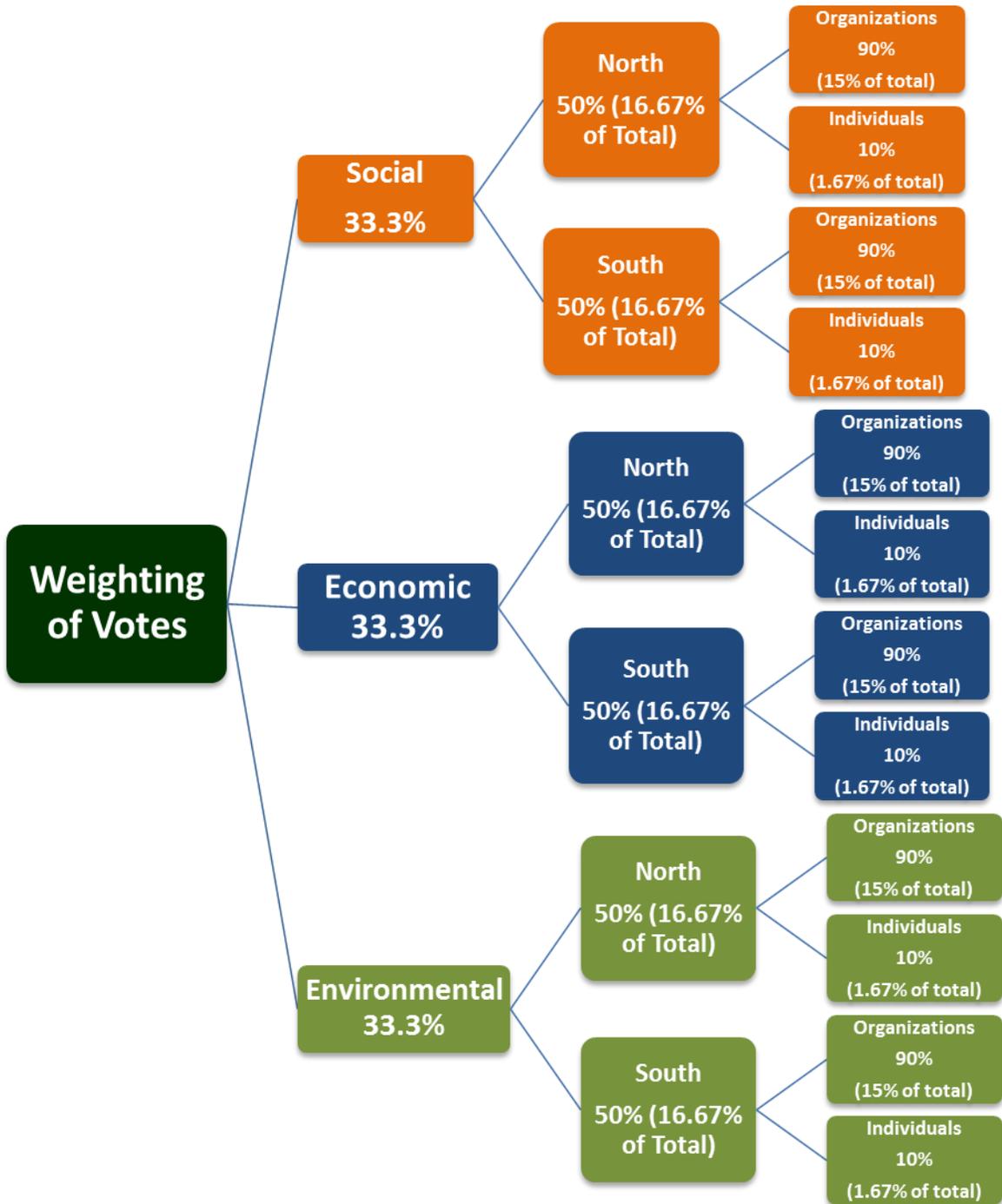
Social Chamber

This chamber is for those individuals and organizations that have a commitment to promoting and encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests because of the benefit for all people, workers, stakeholders, and indigenous populations.

Examples Include:

- Non-Profits
- Indigenous organizations
- Research, technical, academic institutions
- Social Movements
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Community organizations
- Faith-Based Groups

FSC Membership Weighting of Votes



FSC Membership Dues

The membership dues in the chart below apply to FSC members in the Northern sub-chamber, of which the United States is a part.

Applicants should **not** enclose membership dues with application materials. Once membership is approved by FSC International Center, new members will be billed by FSC-US.

The fee structure for organizational members is based on either the number of employees the organization has or its turnover (revenues / expenses for non-profit organizations) depending on what is easier for you to measure.

FSC membership renews automatically at the beginning of each year, unless FSC is notified with a written cancellation of membership with at least a two month notice.

Individual Membership	\$100 Annual Fee
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Non-profit Organizations 501(c)3			
Subcategory	Size of Organization		Annual Fee
	Based on # of employees	Based on Turnover	
Small	1-100	< \$15 Million	\$150
Medium	101-200	\$15 - 30 Million	\$1,000
Large	201-1000	\$30 – 150 Million	\$2,000
Very Large	> 1000	> \$150 Million	\$5,000

For-profit Organizations			
Subcategory	Size of Organization		Annual Fee
	Based on # of employees	Based on Turnover	
Very Small	1-100	< \$20 Million	\$200
Small	101-200	\$20 - 40 Million	\$1,500
Medium	201-1000	\$40 – 200 Million	\$3,000
Large	1001-10,000	\$200 Million – 2 Billion	\$6,000
Very Large	> 10,000	> \$2 Billion	\$10,000

Overview of the Process to become an FSC Member

When you decide to take the next step towards supporting FSC and being a part of this dynamic process you will begin by looking over the checklist and application materials in the following information.

Once you have all the materials collected and application filled out, please send all materials via email (preferred) or hard copy to FSC US for review. FSC US is responsible for collecting and reviewing all membership application materials and for recommending US based applicants for membership to FSC. The FSC Membership Committee reviews Membership applications once a month and once it is approved by FSC, and membership has been granted, FSC will contact you. FSC US will handle membership dues upon approval of membership, so please do not send any payment until FSC US has submitted an invoice to you.

For any questions contact:

FSC US Membership Coordinator – Lori Knosalla, l.knosalla@us.fsc.org, 612-353-4511

You can send hard copies to the following address:

FSC US
212 Third Avenue North, Suite 504
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Application Checklist

Please review the following checklist and complete all applicable items. Once you have collected all applicable items, please send all materials to FSC US for review and submittal to FSC Membership Committee.

Applying as an Organization	Applying as an Individual
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizational Application Form – please fill out in its entirety, find application form on page 13 2. Organizational Statutes or Articles of Incorporation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For non-profit organizations, please include a copy of your 501(c)3 letter of determination 3. Two letters of support issued by current FSC Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visit the FSC US website for the most up to date list of members: http://fscus.org/membership/ b. If you need assistance in identifying current FSC members to provide letters of support, please contact FSC-US and we will help connect you. c. See a Sample Letter of Support on page 16 4. Annual Report 5. Publicly available financial information 6. List of Board of Directors and their affiliations 7. Information on commercial activities and forest operations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Economic chamber</u> members only and only where applicable 8. Other information to support your application <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reports, history, newsletters, and brochures showing the aims of you or your organization 9. <u>ADDITIONAL</u> requirements for the <u>Economic Chamber</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We ask that landowners and wood products businesses make a commitment to become an FSC Certificate Holder within two years. This commitment is included in the application form. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual Application Form – please fill out in its entirety, find application form on page 15 2. Curriculum Vitae 3. Two letters of support issued by current FSC Members <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visit the FSC US website for the most up to date list of members: http://fscus.org/membership/ b. If you need assistance in identifying current FSC members to provide letters of support, please contact FSC-US and we will help connect you. c. See a Sample Letter of Support on page 16



Forest Stewardship Council - US
APPLICATION FOR
FSC MEMBERSHIP

ORGANIZATION

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Applying for membership is joining the International FSC (FSC-AC) as a US-based member
2. Only legal entities may apply to be an "Organization" member of FSC
3. "Organization" includes both for profit and nonprofit entities and companies.

Organization: _____

Designated Representative Name/Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

- We wish to be placed in the following chamber:
- (Please review "[Description of Chambers](#)" if unsure.)*
- Economic
- Environmental (only nonprofit organizations)
- Social (only nonprofit organizations)

Please provide a brief explanation regarding your chamber preference:

We provide certification services (certification body, auditor): Yes No

We are an industry association: Yes No

We work for the government or are a government-owned or -controlled body: Yes No

Our professional activities can be described as follows:

Our support for FSC's aims is based on the following actions:

Size of Organization:

For Profit Organizations:

- Very small (1-100 employees or <\$20 million turnover)
- Small (101-200 employees or \$20-40 million turnover)
- Medium (201-1000 employees or \$40-200 million turnover)
- Large (1001-10,000 employees or \$200 million - 2 billion turnover)
- Very Large (more than 10,000 employees or more than \$2 billion turnover)

Nonprofit Organizations:

- Small (1-100 employees or <\$15 million turnover)
- Medium (101-200 employees or \$15-30 million turnover)
- Large (201-1000 employees or \$30 million - 150 million turnover)
- Very Large (more than 1000 employees or more than \$150 million turnover)

- We are (check all that apply):
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A retailer | <input type="checkbox"/> A producer (forest management or plantations company) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A wholesaler | <input type="checkbox"/> An investment company |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A consulting firm | <input type="checkbox"/> A manufacturer (processor) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A trader /broker | <input type="checkbox"/> A FSC certificate holder (code: _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A social NGO | <input type="checkbox"/> A consumer's organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A union | <input type="checkbox"/> A research organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A development agency | <input type="checkbox"/> An indigenous organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A training organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____) |

- In the following fields:
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-timber forest products (NTFP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pulp & paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Education / training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Printing / print material |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DIY | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____) |

Our parent company or branch is (where applicable):

We have attached letters of support from the following two members:

1. _____

2. _____

We agree to allow FSC and FSC-US to make my membership information (i.e.: all information included in my application materials) publicly available: Yes No. Our membership information may only be shared within FSC.

For ALL Applicants:

I request membership in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC AC). I hereby confirm that the information given in this application is correct, and that I / we support the aims and activities of the FSC, as well as its Principles and Criteria for forest stewardship. I attach all the documentation listed on the requirements checklist, including two (2) letters of support.

I agree that my / our FSC membership will be made public. I am aware that FSC membership renews automatically at the beginning of each year, unless I send FSC a written cancellation of membership with two (2) months notice.

Additionally, for ECONOMIC Chamber Applicants, please state your organization's current and future commitment to the FSC (use the below text in 1 & 2, where applicable, to fill in below):

1. Forest-owning or managing organizations must demonstrate a commitment to be fully certified, typically within two years.
2. CoCs must describe current and future FSC commitments, which much constitute a significant percentage of business.

Signature of organization's CEO (electronic signature allowed) Type name Date

Signature of organizational representative (electronic signature allowed) Type name Date
(if different from above)



Forest Stewardship Council - US
APPLICATION FOR
FSC MEMBERSHIP

INDIVIDUAL

PLEASE NOTE:

Applying for membership is joining the International FSC (FSC-AC) as a US-based member.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

I wish to be placed in the following chamber:

(Please review "[Description of Chambers](#)" if unsure.)

- Economic
 Environmental
 Social

Please provide a brief explanation regarding your chamber preference:

I provide certification services (certification body, auditor):

Yes No

I work for the government or are a government-owned or -controlled body:

Yes No

I am a US citizen:

Yes No

My professional activities can be described as follows:

My support for FSC's aims is based on the following actions:

I have attached letters of support

1. _____

from the following two members:

2. _____

I agree to allow FSC and FSC-US to make my membership information (i.e.: all information included in my application materials) publicly available: Yes No. My membership information may only be shared within FSC.

I request membership in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC AC). I hereby confirm that the information given in this application is correct, and that I support the aims and activities of the FSC, as well as its Principles and Criteria for forest stewardship. I attached all the documentation listed on the requirements checklist, including two (2) letters of support.

I agree that my FSC membership will be made public. I am aware that FSC membership renews automatically at the beginning of each year, unless I send FSC a written cancellation of membership with two (2) months notice.

Signature of individual applicant (electronic signature allowed)

Type name

Date

Please put this letter on your organization's letterhead.

Remove this if you are an individual member.

FSC Membership Letter of Support

TO: FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

FROM: *Member organization or individual*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

On behalf of [*Current Individual or Organizational Member Name*], I am writing in support of the application by _____ to become a member of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). I know the work of [*applicant name*], and understand that they fully support the objectives and methods of FSC.

[Insert paragraph about why you feel they are a good fit for FSC membership]

I recommend the FSC-AC Board to approve the application.

Sincerely yours,

Signature of Organization Representative or Individual

Date

Print name of Organizational Representative or Individual

Please send signed letter to:

Lori Knosalla
l.knosalla@us.fsc.org

Or mail to:
212 3rd Ave N Suite 504
Minneapolis, MN 55401