

# Origin Green Foodservice Charter & Credits System

Version 1.1

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**BORD BIA**  
IRISH FOOD BOARD





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## 1. Overview

Following the launch of the Origin Green programme in 2012 for farmers and food manufacturers, Bord Bia extended the scope of Origin Green in 2016 to cover the full supply chain by inviting retail and foodservice based organisations to participate in the programme.

In a similar vein to food and drink manufacturers, Origin Green retail and foodservice members develop a multi-annual sustainability plan which is audited and reviewed annually by an independent programme verifier to ensure targets and key milestones are consistently being met.

While the *Origin Green Retail & Foodservice Charter* was launched on a pilot basis in 2016, it has now been agreed that this strand of the programme will be retained on a permanent basis. Furthermore, while retail and foodservice organisations have previously been merged into one overall charter, they will now be split into two distinct groups with individual charters. The rationale for this stems from learnings over time where it became clear that significant operational differences exist between these two elements of the supply chain. The focus of this document in particular will be that of foodservice companies which can generally be broken out into two distinct categories:

1. **Foodservice Operators<sup>1</sup>**
2. **Distributors**

As identified in Bord Bia's recent *Origin Green Strategy: Powered by Partnership 2022 – 2025*, the launch of revamped retail and foodservice charters represents a significant opportunity for overall programme growth. In light of this, the foodservice element of Origin Green has been updated and revamped considerably to bring it into the line with the Origin Green Credits System approach which was successfully launched for manufacturing based members at the beginning of 2020.

With the *Origin Green Foodservice Charter* now becoming a permanent feature within the Origin Green programme, a more conclusive list of entry requirements has now been defined for participants.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes Contract Caterers and Quick Service Restaurants.

## 2. Origin Green Foodservice Charter

### 2.1 Eligibility Criteria & Entry Requirements

The requirements outlined in Table 1 below must be met at the time of registration to participate in the *Origin Green Foodservice Charter*. Where an existing member does not satisfactorily meet this revised criteria, they will be given a grace period of 12 months to meet these requirements.

**Table 1: Origin Green Foodservice Charter Minimum Entry Requirements**

Entry Requirement	Classification	Resolution
Applicants <b>must</b> have a minimum turnover of >€25m per annum. In addition, foodservice operators must have a minimum of 10 units/outlets to participate in the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> .	New requirement	Where an applicant cannot satisfactorily demonstrate fulfilling this requirement, its application for the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> will be declined.
Applicants <b>must</b> be able to demonstrate that a robust Food Safety Management System is in place at relevant units/outlets where food is prepared and/or served.	New requirement	Where an applicant cannot satisfactorily demonstrate fulfilling this requirement, its application for the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> will be declined.
All sites, units/outlets as outlined in the member's sustainability plan <b>must</b> be based in Republic of Ireland (ROI). No sites, units/outlets outside of this jurisdiction will be eligible for the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> . Members that wish to retain sites external to ROI in their overall sustainability plan for the purposes of consolidation are permitted to do so but these sites/units will not be audited or scored by the independent verifier. Furthermore, data related to sites external to ROI must <b>not</b> be included in target metrics.	Existing requirement	Sites or units outside of the ROI jurisdiction are ineligible for the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> .
All sustainability targets established as part of the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> <b>must</b> be based around the food, drink and horticultural supply chain.	Existing requirement	Targets outside of these areas will not be audited or scored by the independent verifier but may be included in a member's overall sustainability plan for the purposes of consolidation.
Applicants <b>must</b> have complete access to a minimum of one full calendar year of relevant data for the preceding year prior to applying for the <i>Origin Green Foodservice Charter</i> (this will ensure baseline data to develop sustainability targets is available from the outset).	New requirement	Applications to participate in the <i>Origin Green Foodservice charter</i> will be declined until this requirement is met.

## 2.2 Membership Tiers

At the foodservice level of Origin Green, there is two tiers of membership with differing minimum target requirements. This is outlined below in Table 2.

**Table 2: Origin Green Foodservice Membership Tiers**

Membership Tiers	Revenue / Turnover	Minimum Targets Required
Tier 1	>€250m	8
Tier 2	>€25m – 250m	7

## 2.3 Credits System

Table 3 below outlines how sustainability targets are assessed and scored by the programme auditors for Origin Green foodservice members. The introduction of a credits system for foodservice based members ensures there is a greater level of transparency for how membership of the *Origin Green Foodservice Charter* is achieved and retained, while also displaying a clear methodology for how sustainability target progress is assessed on an ongoing basis.

**Table 3: Origin Green Verifier Sustainability Target Performance Scorecard**

Sustainability Target Performance	Credits Awarded	Target Grading
Target not attempted (no legitimate effort made to achieve target with no viable evidence of progress).	0	Fail
Target not achieved with a poor attempt made and little evidence of progress.	1	Unsatisfactory
Target may or may not have been achieved but a reasonable and clear effort has been made with clear supporting evidence.	2	Satisfactory
Target achieved with evidence the company has surpassed expectations.	3	Exemplary



### 2.3.1 Sustainability Targets & Credits Required to Achieve Origin Green Verification

#### Tier 1 Member Companies - Revenue >€250m

Minimum Targets Required		Verifier Target Performance Scorecard			Member Performance			Annual Credits Requirement	Gold Member*
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary	Min	Mid	Max		
Tier 1	8	1	2	3	8	16	24	16	21

Members at this tier will have to reach the Mid level of target performance annually to achieve verification.

\*Gold Origin Green members are those that have reached a sufficient number of credits within a given year to demonstrate exceptional performance. This can be attained at this tier by achieving an **exemplary performance in 5 out of the 8 minimum targets required** and a satisfactory performance in the remaining 3 targets. **Please note that the credit requirements needed to attain gold membership may be subject to change.**

Minimum Targets Required	Sustainable Sourcing			Operations			Social Sustainability			Additional Targets	
8	Product & Supplier Certification	Packaging	Supplier Sustainability Partnerships	Emissions	Waste (must incl. Food Waste)	Water	Employee Wellbeing	Community Engagement	Health & Nutrition	Diversity & Inclusion	Biodiversity



**Tier 2 Member Companies - Revenue >€25m - €250m**

Minimum Targets Required		Verifier Target Performance Scorecard			Member Performance			Annual Credits Requirement	Gold Member*
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary	Min	Mid	Max		
Tier 2	7	1	2	3	7	14	21	14	18

Members at this tier will have to reach the Mid level of target performance annually to achieve verification.

*\*Gold Origin Green members are those that have reached a sufficient number of credits within a given year to demonstrate exceptional performance. This can be attained at this tier by achieving an **exemplary performance in 4 out of the 7 minimum targets required** and a satisfactory performance in the remaining 3 targets. **Please note that the credit requirements needed to attain Gold Membership may be subject to change.***

Minimum Targets Required	Sustainable Sourcing			Operations			Social Sustainability			Additional Targets	
<b>7</b>	Product & Supplier Certification	Packaging	Supplier Sustainability Partnerships	Emissions	Waste (must incl. Food Waste)	Water	Employee Wellbeing	Community Engagement	Health & Nutrition	Diversity & Inclusion	Biodiversity
		1 from 2				optional		optional		optional	optional

**Mandatory (target must be passed for verification)**

**Target must be attempted**

## 2.4 Close-out Period for Unsatisfactory Target Performance

Companies at the two tiers of the *Origin Green Foodservice Charter* must attain the minimum number of sustainability credits annually to achieve verification. Whilst every effort is generally made to achieve and surpass sustainability targets, occasionally, external factors can negatively impact performance. Should a member achieve an unsatisfactory performance score (1 credit) for a non-mandatory target, it will still be able to achieve verification if enough credits have been accumulated overall. This will be time bound and limited to one target only in a given reporting year.

Should a member post an unsatisfactory performance score in the next subsequent year for the same target, this leeway will no longer apply. The aim of this approach is to facilitate members in having a defined close out period to implement corrective action(s).

## 2.5 Gold Membership

Similarly to manufacturers, Origin Green foodservice members will also be eligible for recognition as Origin Green Gold Members should they attain the credits required for this distinction within a given reporting year.

In order to be considered eligible for this achievement, both **Tier 1 and Tier 2 members must achieve a minimum of 3 credits in the Emissions Target Area** annually i.e. the target must achieve an exemplary score from the independent verifiers.

In addition, **Tier 1 members** must also achieve a minimum score of **8 credits** (two targets graded exemplary and one satisfactory) within the **Sustainable Sourcing** target area. **Tier 2 members** must also achieve a minimum score of **5 credits** (one target graded exemplary and one satisfactory) across the two highest performing targets in the same area. The rationale for incentivising a strong performance from a foodservice member in the Sustainable Sourcing target area is that it can have a significant positive impact downstream on the supply chain which will strengthen and enhance the overall Origin Green programme.

Finally, Origin Green foodservice members cannot score unsatisfactory in a target area and still achieve Gold Membership. This will only apply if the target area in question is counted towards the member's overall credits score. In this regard, members will not be penalised for setting additional optional targets which may give them a better opportunity to achieve gold membership as the highest scoring optional targets will be automatically included in the final credits score each year.

## 2.6 Fees Structure

Fees for participation in the *Origin Green Retail & Foodservice Charter* have to date been kept at a minimum since the launch of the programme in 2016 and subsidised wherever possible. A fee is currently applied to verified members (€700 for initial verification and €350 annually thereafter) to cover costs associated with the independent verification of sustainability plans.





While this has served the programme well to remove barriers to entry, it must be recognised that foodservice members of Origin Green are generally larger organisations with complex plans, including a multitude of sustainability targets. This has resulted in increased auditing costs during the verification process. In recognition of this outdated fees structure, fees for participation in the *Origin Green Foodservice Charter* have slightly increased.

The following fees are based on the revised Origin Green credits system for foodservice members in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Origin Green Foodservice Charter Membership Fees**

Membership Tier	Revenue / Turnover	Initial Membership Fee (€)	Annual Membership Fee (€)
Tier 1	>€250m	€850	€425
Tier 2	>€25 – €250m	€700	€350

### 3. Conclusion

As part of the rollout of this new credits system and to familiarise Origin Green foodservice members with this process, members will be given their Origin Green credits score for 2021 Annual Reviews. However, this score **will not impact verification outcomes** until 2023, following the submission and credits allocation for 2022 Origin Green Annual Reviews. Origin Green Gold Membership for foodservice members will also be activated at this point in time.

Origin Green Annual Reviews for foodservice members must be submitted by October 31<sup>st</sup> each year. At all times, late submissions will be ineligible for Origin Green gold membership. There will be no exceptions to this condition.