

Origin Green Retail Charter & Credits System

Updated September 2024

Version 2.1

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1. Overview

Following the launch of the Origin Green programme in 2012 for farmers and food processors, 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. This document will focus on **retail** companies.

In a similar vein to food and drink processors, Origin Green retail 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. Members develop a multi-annual sustainability plan with a minimum of eight clear and time bound targets across three key areas, namely: Sustainable Sourcing; Environment and Social Sustainability.

2. Origin Green Retail 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 Retail Charter*.

Table 1: Origin Green Retail Charter Minimum Entry Requirements

Entry Requirement	<p>All sites, as outlined in the member's sustainability plan, must be based in the Republic of Ireland (ROI). No sites outside of this jurisdiction will be eligible for the Origin Green Retail Charter. 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 will not be audited or scored by the independent verifier. Furthermore, data related to sites external to ROI must not be included in target metrics.</p>
	<p>Where an individual or independent retail store is not affiliated to a retail franchise, it must have both a minimum turnover of €25m in the Republic of Ireland and a retail store area of no less than 1,500m².</p>
	<p>All sustainability targets established as part of the Origin Green Retail Charter must be based around the food, drink and horticultural supply chain. Targets in secondary areas such as textiles, toys, stationery, etc. may be included in the overall sustainability plan for the purposes of consolidation but will not be audited or scored by the independent verifier.</p>
	<p>Where the sale of food & drink for human consumption represents 30%¹ or less of a retailer's overall SKUs or sales revenue, it will be ineligible for the Origin Green Retail Charter.</p> <p>Where foodservice represents the largest proportion of annual sales revenue, companies will be redirected towards the Origin Green Foodservice Charter.</p>
	<p>Applicants must have complete access to a minimum of one full calendar year of relevant data for the preceding year prior to applying for the Origin Green Retail Charter (this will ensure baseline data to develop sustainability targets is available from the outset).</p>

¹ This may be subject to change following consultation with an applicant organisation.

Where animal products that are covered by a Bord Bia Quality / Sustainable Assurance Scheme (or an equivalent standard) are sold fresh in store, the level of Quality Assured produce (or equivalent) in SKUs or sales must match the coverage levels outlined below as a minimum entry requirement to participate in the Origin Green Retail Charter. At present, these levels are as follows:

Fresh Produce type	Bord Bia Scheme	Minimum Coverage %
Beef	SBLAS	95%
Pigmeat	PQAS	95%
Lamb	SBLAS	55%
Poultry	SPPAS	95%
Eggs	SEAS	95%
Fruit & Vegetables	SHAS	70%

Where existing participants cannot demonstrate compliance with this criteria, they will be given 12 months to meet this requirement.

Where fresh fruit and vegetables are sold in store, applicants must be able to demonstrate that the produce is certified to the Bord Bia Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme ([SHAS](#)), GLOBALG.A.P, or an equivalent standard, where necessary, to facilitate seasonality in production.

Where existing participants cannot demonstrate fulfilment of this requirement, they will be given 12 months to meet this criteria.

Where plants and flowers are sold in store, applicants must be able to demonstrate that the produce is certified to Bord Bia's Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme ([SHAS](#)), GLOBALG.A.P, or an equivalent standard, where necessary, to facilitate seasonality in production.

Where existing participants cannot demonstrate compliance with this criteria, they will be given 12 months to meet this requirement.

2.2 Membership Tiers

The consolidated nature of the Irish domestic retail market ensures that a limited number of companies will ultimately participate in the *Origin Green Retail Charter*. It is suggested that two tiers of membership will suffice initially with differing minimum target requirements. This is outlined below in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed Origin Green Retail Membership Tiers

Membership Tiers	Revenue / Turnover	Minimum Targets Required
Tier 1	>€250m	10
Tier 2	>€25m– 250m	8

2.3 Credits System

Table 3 below outlines how sustainability targets will be assessed and scored by the programme auditors for Origin Green retail members. The introduction of a credits system for this cohort will ensure there is a greater level of transparency for how membership of the *Origin Green Retail Charter* is achieved and retained. It is imperative that the programme can display 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/Pass
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			Annual Credits Requirement
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary	
Tier 1	10	1	2	3	20

Minimum Targets Areas Required	Sustainable Sourcing			Environment			Social Sustainability					
	Raw Material Supplier Certification	Packaging	Sourcing from Origin Green Verified Members	Supplier Sustainability Initiatives (inc. of supplier development/engagement)	Emissions	Waste (must incl. Food Waste)	Water	Biodiversity	Employee Wellbeing	Community Engagement	Health and Nutrition	Diversity Equity and Inclusion
10							optional	optional				optional

Mandatory Target



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

Minimum Targets Required		Verifier Target Performance Scorecard			Annual Credits Requirement
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Exemplary	
Tier 2	8	1	2	3	16

Minimum Targets Areas Required	Sustainable Sourcing			Environment				Social Sustainability				
	Raw Material Supplier Certification	Packaging	Sourcing from Origin Green Verified Members	Supplier Sustainability Initiatives (Inc. of supplier development/engagement)	Emissions	Waste (must incl. Food Waste)	Water	Biodiversity	Employee Wellbeing	Community Engagement	Health and Nutrition	Diversity Equity and Inclusion
8				optional			optional			1 from 2		optional

Mandatory Target



2.4 Close-out Period for Unsatisfactory Target Performance

Companies at the two tiers of the *Origin Green Retail Charter* must attain the ‘Annual Credits Requirement’ for their respective tiers to achieve verification.

If an Origin Green member scores below its tier credit requirement within a given year, remedial measures must be put in place and approved by the programme verifiers before a company can regain its verified membership status. In this scenario, corrective action(s) is outlined with a clear timeline for implementation. This progress is then subsequently assessed via a dedicated follow-up or close-out procedure to determine whether the member in question has implemented the requested action. Progress is also assessed in the subsequent Annual Review or via a spot audit on-site where necessary. The process above may also be repeated where a member has been found to have breached legislative or regulatory requirements.

2.5 Fees Structure

Fees towards participation in the *Origin Green Retail Charter* have to date been kept at a minimum since the launch of the programme in 2016 and subsidised wherever possible. A fee is 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 retail members of Origin Green are generally larger organisations with complex plans, including a host of sustainability targets (20 on average per member). This has resulted in increased auditing costs during the verification process. Therefore, fees for participation in the *Origin Green Retail Charter* have increased. The updated retail member fees are set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Origin Green Retail Charter Membership Fees

Membership Tier	Revenue / Turnover	Plan Development Membership Fee (€)	Annual Review Membership Fee (€)
Tier 1	>€250m	€1400	€700
Tier 2	>€25– 250m	€1120	€560