



For Immediate Release

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Call for Applications: Two Open Seats on the National Sustainable Agriculture Standards Committee

Madison, WI, March 10, 2010 – Leonardo Academy is seeking applications for two vacant seats on the National Sustainable Agriculture Standards Committee, within the Environmentalist and General Interest categories. Individuals or representatives of organizations that are focused on preserving and improving the environment, along with labor groups, consumer groups, agricultural development NGOs, academia and other interested parties that are interested in engaging in a national dialogue on sustainable agriculture, are encouraged to apply.

About the Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SCS-001) and the Standards Committee

The 58-member Standards Committee is working to develop a national standard for sustainable agriculture (SCS-001) under the rules of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Committee consists of a skilled, diverse membership representing a broad range of perspectives from across all areas of agriculture, including commodity producers; specialty crop producers; agricultural product processors and distributors; food retailers; environmental, labor, and development organizations; NGOs; industry trade associations; government representatives; academics; regulators and certifiers.

Supporting the Standards Committee are six subcommittees that have been working since July 2009 to develop the structure of the standard; draft economic, environmental, and social criteria for the Committee to review at its next in-person meeting; and acquire resources relevant to sustainable agriculture for inclusion in the Sustainable Agriculture Standard Reference Library. For more information on the subcommittee work, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/sustainableagstandards/>.

Leonardo Academy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing sustainability, is providing facilitation and process support for the SCS-001 standard development initiative.

How to Apply for Standards Committee Membership

To receive an application for membership on the SCS-001 Standards Committee, contact Amanda Raster at Leonardo Academy: amanda@leonardoacademy.org or (608) 280-0255, or visit <http://www.leonardoacademy.org/programs/standards/agstandard/development.html>.

Applications must be submitted by **12:00 pm CDT on Friday, April 9, 2010**. The new Committee members will be announced on **Monday, April 19, 2010**. Individuals who have previously submitted applications for Committee membership will automatically be placed in the pool of applicants for the current openings.

Beyond the Standards Committee – How to Get Involved

In addition to applying for Standards Committee membership, stakeholders are also invited to participate in the SCS-001 standard development process as a subcommittee member, observer or reviewer of the draft standard once it is opened up for public comment.



Subcommittees – Subcommittees are open to membership by all interested parties. Six subcommittees — 1) Economic Criteria Development, 2) Environmental Criteria Development, 3) Social Criteria Development, 4) Structure and Process, 5) Reference Library and Information and 6) Fundraising and Communications — are currently developing the structure of the standard, along with draft criteria, indicators and metrics; supporting Leonardo Academy’s outreach and fundraising efforts related to the standard, continuing to acquire resources for the Sustainable Agriculture Standard Reference Library and providing additional recommendations and guidance to the Standards Committee.

Observers – Observers are invited to participate in the SCS-001 standard development process. Observers may attend in-person Standards Committee meetings on a first-come, first-serve basis, subject to the availability of space, and may also participate in all Standards Committee and Subcommittee teleconferences.

Public Review and Comment – Once the Standards Committee reaches agreement on a draft Sustainable Agriculture Standard, it will be posted for public comment. The public review and comment period provides all stakeholders with an additional opportunity to participate in the standard development process. At the end of the public comment period, the Standards Committee will address all of the comments received prior to submitting the final standard to ANSI for approval as an American National Standard.

To sign up for the subcommittees, apply for observer status, learn more about participating in the public review and comment process or to join the Sustainable Agriculture Standard email list, contact Amanda Raster at Leonardo Academy: amanda@leonardoacademy.org, (608) 280-0255.

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About Leonardo Academy

Leonardo Academy is the ANSI-accredited standards development organization that is facilitating the SCS-001 standard setting process. Leonardo Academy is a charitable organization dedicated to advancing sustainability by leveraging innovative tools and information to motivate the competitive market. By utilizing an interdisciplinary approach to sustainability education and implementation, we strive to make sustainability practical for everyone. We develop integrative sustainability solutions designed to enhance the environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic prosperity of organizations, corporations and individuals. We envision a world filled with sustainable opportunities that can transform the way we live today and ensure the prosperity of future generations.