

Apparel Impact Institute

Energy and Carbon Benchmark

Terms of Reference, Benchmark Advisory Committee

March 2026

Overview

With the publication of version 1.0 of the Energy and Carbon Benchmark (the “Benchmark”) in March 2026, Apparel Impact Institute (Aii) is forming a Benchmark Advisory Committee (“BAC”) to provide ongoing feedback and technical guidance as the Benchmark is deployed. The BAC, to be composed of individuals from across the apparel ecosystem, is critical to the Benchmark’s ongoing improvement and to ensure alignment with its intended use to drive better carbon and energy performance in textile manufacturing facilities. The involvement of industry experts in the BAC is an extension of the role played by members of the Technical Review Committee in developing version 1.0 of the Benchmark.

The purpose of this document is to define the remit, responsibilities, and time commitment for the BAC.

Scope of Engagement

The BAC will provide ongoing feedback on the benchmark as version 1.0 is implemented, which will support further refinements and future versions. The nature of the feedback may vary from technical topics (e.g., incorporating additional processes and data into the Benchmark) to more operational or strategic in nature (e.g., how to increase adoption of the Benchmark amongst brands and manufacturers. Topics for engagement with the BAC may include:

- Incorporating new data into the Benchmark (e.g., new processes, emissions factors)
- Increasing industry adoption of the Benchmark
- Performance tiers and alignment with other frameworks (e.g., SBTi)
- Data assurance and validation protocols
- Guidance and terms of use
- Alignment of Benchmark and other industry tools (e.g., Higg FEM)

The BAC is an advisory body, not a decision making one. Aii will consider BAC feedback as it makes future revisions of the Benchmark. There will be a sub-group of the BAC that will provide technical guidance to support the ongoing development of the Benchmark, which is described below.

Composition

The BAC will be composed of roughly 12 individuals from across the apparel ecosystem and value chain - manufacturers, brands, retailers, civil society, and more. This diversity of experience and perspective is essential to the credibility and success of the Benchmark. These individuals will serve in a personal capacity, and opinions expressed will be their own, not of the organizations for which they work. For transparency, Aii will make public the names and organizations of BAC members.

Aii will make a public call for applications to the BAC, and will also extend invitations to qualified individuals. Aii, with input from industry experts, will select members of the BAC based on each individual's experience and capacity to contribute. Within the BAC, we will create a sub-committee of individuals with strong technical expertise that we will leverage as we refine the mechanics of the Benchmark going forward.

BAC members will be asked to serve a one year (12 month) term, with Aii holding the right to extend this term to ensure the BAC has the necessary level of expertise. Aii reserves the right to remove individuals from the BAC at its discretion, and individual members reserve the right to leave the BAC for any reason.

As noted above, Aii will form a sub-group of the BAC that will engage on more technical topics, for example defining the performance tiers of the Benchmark.

Meeting Schedule and Time Commitment

Aii will convene the full BAC on a roughly quarterly basis to provide updates and gather feedback on topics proposed by Aii and BAC members. Aii will convene the technical sub-committee on a monthly basis, particularly in the initial six months, as it refines the Benchmark. Aii will prepare for and facilitate these meetings. Aii may request feedback via additional meetings or email if issues arise that warrant this. Aii's expectation is that the time commitment for BAC members will be no more than four hours per quarter, with another six hours per quarter maximum for individuals selected to serve on the technical sub-committee.