

ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP (AWS)

AWS STANDARD ADVANCED INDICATOR SCORING RUBRIC

VERSION 3.1

9 MARCH 2023

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1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DOCUMENT

The Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) Technical Committee (TC) is the body responsible for the AWS Standard Advanced Indicator Scoring Rubric. The TC will review the contents of this document on an ongoing basis. A record of amendments is shown below.

2. AMENDMENT RECORD

VERSION NO.	DATE OF PUBLICATION	DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT
V1.0	May 2018	Approved
V2.0	March 2019	Updated to align with AWS Standard V2.0 release March 2019.
V3.0	15 November 2022	Updated for clarity and consistency.
V3.1	9 March 2023	Erratum inserted missing 3.5.2 advanced indicator; renamed AWS Standard Advanced Indicator Scoring Rubric for clarity

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4. INTRODUCTION

There are three levels of AWS Standard certification that a site may achieve: Core, Gold and Platinum. **All core criteria must be met as a minimum requirement for certification.** Additional points are awarded for performance against the advanced indicators. The greater the number of points achieved the higher the level of water stewardship performance and AWS certification.

Advanced indicators and higher-level certification were introduced to recognize that good water stewards seek continual improvement and commit to ongoing action to respond to the ever-evolving nature of local water context. Some advanced indicator scores show a range of possible points reflecting the degree of effort and accomplishment for the indicator. It is at the discretion of the Conformity Assessment Body how many points to allocate towards the advanced indicator score.

Gold and Platinum status rewards and recognizes those sites that push their water stewardship performance to higher levels. The range of advanced indicator points required for each certification level are as follows:

TOTAL ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	AWS CERTIFICATION LEVEL
0 to 39	AWS Core Certified
40 to 79	AWS Gold Certified
80 or greater	AWS Platinum Certified

Table 4.1 Advanced Indicator Points required for each AWS Certification Level

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5.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR SCORING

AWS STANDARD V2.0 INDICATOR	AWS STANDARD V2.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR TEXT	AWS ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	NOTES
STEP ONE			
1.4.3	The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified.	7	
1.5.8	Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water- related data collection shall be identified.	4-7	<p>Must do the following(s) to obtain 4 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a scheme of collecting catchment level data together with actual data collected. <p>In addition, to obtain additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two or more types of external water-related data are collected; (+1) At least one type of data are collected with certified methods or by licensed testing institutions; (+1) Data is shared with stakeholders; (+1)
1.5.9	The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified.	4	
1.6.3	Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends.	3	
1.6.4	Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.	4	

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AWS STANDARD V2.0 INDICATOR	AWS STANDARD V2.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR TEXT	AWS ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	NOTES
STEP TWO			
2.1.2	A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization’s senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified.	1	
2.3.3	The site’s partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organizational ownership) shall be identified and described.	4	
2.3.4	The site’s partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified.	4	
2.3.5	Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site’s water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and which stakeholders are involved shall be identified.	7	
2.4.2	A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.	6	
STEP THREE			
3.1.3	Evidence of improvements in water governance capacity from a site- selected baseline date shall be identified.	2	
3.1.4	Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the good water governance of the catchment shall be identified.	2	
3.3.4	The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified.	6	

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AWS STANDARD V2.0 INDICATOR	AWS STANDARD V2.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR TEXT	AWS ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	NOTES
3.5.2	Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline data shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment.	6	
3.5.3	Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified.	2	
3.6.3	A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified.	5	
3.6.4	In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified.	4	
3.7.3	Actions taken to address water-related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated.	5-7	<p>Must do the following to obtain 5 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of the site's actions taken with supporting evidence <p>In addition, to obtain additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of suppliers taking action as a result of the site's engagement; (+1) • Achievements of the actions are evaluated and quantified if applicable; (+1)
3.9.6	Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified	8	

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AWS STANDARD V2.0 INDICATOR	AWS STANDARD V2.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR TEXT	AWS ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	NOTES
3.9.7	Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified	8	
3.9.8	Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified	8	
3.9.9	Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented	8	
3.9.10	Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified.	4	
3.9.11	A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified.	3	
3.9.12	A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified.	8-14	<p>Must do the following to obtain 8 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of collective actions with supporting evidence; <p>In addition, to obtain additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one action is taken, for every additional action; (+2, max 4) • Contribute to more than one AWS outcome area; (+2)
3.9.13	Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be identified.	3-10	<p>Must do the following to obtain 3 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of quantified improvement from baseline date; • Confirmation of the site's positive and material contribution from stakeholders participating in the

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AWS STANDARD V2.0 INDICATOR	AWS STANDARD V2.0 ADVANCED INDICATOR TEXT	AWS ADVANCED INDICATOR POINTS	NOTES
3.9.13 (cont.)			<p>actions and stakeholders affected by the actions;</p> <p>In addition to obtain additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one action, for every additional action; (+2, max 4) • Contribute to more than one AWS outcome area; (+2) • Results of the actions are validated by external experts or recognized by public authorities; (+1)
STEP FOUR			
4.1.4	A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified.	3	
4.3.2	The site's efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site's efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.	6	
STEP FIVE			
5.3.2	The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization's annual report.	1	
5.3.3	Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization's annual report.	1	