

Earthworm Foundation – Scoring methodology for charcoal transparency survey

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1 Introduction – How we assess your data

The **self-declared data** you submit to us will be used to create a general **Charcoal Bag Score** for your individual charcoal products uploaded via the Charcoal Transparency survey. The **Charcoal Bag score** will give Europe’s charcoal industry and Europe’s consumers a tool to compare the level of responsibility between commercially available charcoal products.

The **Charcoal Bag Score** is communicated together with the **self-declared** product information and, if uploaded, a product picture, to the consumer via www.charcoal-transparency.org.

It is an aggregate of two scores that are not shown individually to the consumer:

The **Charcoal Bag Score** consists of:

1. **A company engagement** score; an indicator of a company’s will to bring responsible products to the market. The company may be a retailer, a trader or a producer and the score is based on different criteria depending on what type of company it is for. Each company will have one distinct company engagement score. See chapter 3.1 for details.

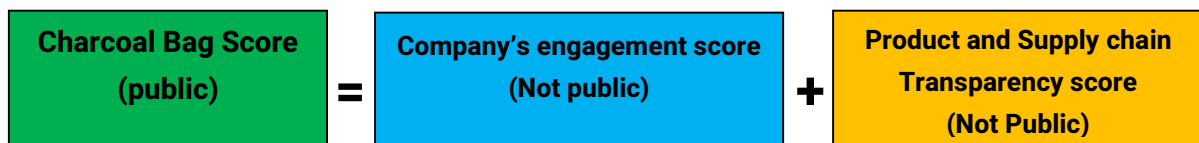
2. **A product and supply chain** score; an indicator of the level of transparency regarding the origin of the raw materials of the product and all the nodes of the supply chain. The score is a combination of the *product transparency* and the *supply chain transparency*. The score might vary between products of the same company. Each is described in chapters 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 respectively below.

Only questions that have been answered will be assessed. **Unanswered questions will lead to a reduction in the score.** The data you provide will remain confidential and only a final score in the form of a fivefold mixed color and letter scale which will be publically displayed.

For more information on data confidentiality, see chapter 4.

2 The Charcoal Bag Score

The Charcoal Bag Score is the official score given by the Earthworm Foundation, based on your **self-declared** information via the charcoal transparency survey. The Charcoal bag score will be visible on the product page on www.charcoal-transparency.org. The product page will show the score of your product based on EF's scoring methodology as well as the product information you provided via the Charcoal Transparency




2.1 The Charcoal Bag Score: Grading System

EF Charcoal Bag score will be displayed as a fivefold multicolor-letter score, similar to already existing scorecards for nutrition labelling on foodstuff on www.charcoal-transparency.org.

The grading system provides an easy understandable visual communication tool about the charcoal products performance against EF's scoring methodology for the consumer.

See the detailed description of the color and letter code system including the definitions for the different grades in the table below:

Grade	Grade in % ¹	Color-code	Based on EF's Charcoal Transparency Survey as well as collected data the following definitions apply:
A	100-90		A fully transparent charcoal product. The company is engaged and implements responsible and transparent actions with external partners. Real-time transparency data has been shared with EF.

¹ The Grade in % is the results of the survey information provided by the respondents on 1) Company engagement 2) Product and Supply Chain Information analyzed based on EF's scoring methodology

B	90-70		A transparent charcoal product. Product and supply chain information have been shared. The company engagement could be improved further.
C	70-50		A partially transparent product. Product and supply chain information have been communicated although incomplete. The company's engagement could be improved.
D	50-20		A non-transparent charcoal product. Product or supply chain information are incomplete or do not fill transparency requirements. The company has not provided sufficient information on responsible engagements.
E	20-0		No answer. No transparency. No information on product, on the supply chain or on the company's engagements towards responsible charcoal.

On a product to product basis, each respondent of the Charcoal Transparency Survey will receive a final Grade (A-E) based on the self-declared information provided. **The final score (A-E) will be published on www.charcoal-transparency.org together with product information and a product picture.**

2.2 Company engagement score

The company engagement score is based on answers given in the online survey. It is a reflection of the company's engagement toward reducing its impact on nature and treating the workers in the supply chain with respect. The score is given once per company. The score takes the following elements into account:

a) Responsible Sourcing

This reflects the company's efforts towards buying responsible raw material (as a producer) or charcoal (as a trader or retailer). The score is based on whether the company has a purchasing policy and what this policy contains and / or what systems are in place to ensure responsible sourcing of charcoal or wood. It also takes into account the steps taken during the production process for producers to reduce their environmental impact. EF will assess the robustness of your responsible sourcing policy by taking into account the integration of responsible charcoal criteria, as well as your public commitments.

b) Partnerships and Certification

This reflects the company's will to use raw material that has been externally verified by a third party organization for their raw material (in the case of producers) or for charcoal (for retailers and traders). This can include certification schemes (such as FSC 100 % certified or PEFC certified) or Foundations/Non-Profit Organizations such as EF.

c) Carbon emissions

This reflects the company's efforts to tackle the emissions relating to the product they sell. Either with a policy or concrete efforts taken

The Company engagement assessment can be summarized as follows:

What we ask	Explanation	Remark
Responsible Sourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible sourcing policy and its link to charcoal 	Earthworm Foundation reserves the right to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures taken during production process (for producers only) Knowledge of upstream supply chain Public commitment 	individually grade the respective categories based on its expertise in field assessments and knowledge of local charcoal conditions.
Partnerships and Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether or not the company works with a third party verification organization. 	
Carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The company's efforts to reduce CO2 / Green House Gas emissions from charcoal production, trade and /or retail 	

2.3 The Product and Supply Chain Score

The product and supply chain score consists of two separate criteria:

- Product Transparency
- Supply chain transparency

The two criteria are individually assessed based on the **self-declared** information you provide during the survey. The product and supply chain score can vary between your different products depending on the type, level and completeness of information.

2.3.1 Product transparency

Where does my charcoal come from? **Product information** is the key ingredient to show the “outside” world what is inside the charcoal bag. Product information gives the consumer the chance to acquire the needed information for a responsible purchasing decision.

EF highlights the importance for an accurate and detailed **declaration** of the **origin of the product** (the country where the product was produced) and **the declared wood species / raw materials** that were used to produce the charcoal.

Only if this information is present, can a product be considered responsible. EF wants to highlight that the higher the level of accuracy the better. For example, specific tree species and “*not geographical regions*” or phrases like “*European hardwoods*” should be printed on the charcoal bags.

In addition, EF will evaluate the quality of your products based on the indicated Carbone Fix rate (or fixed carbon content) via the Charcoal Transparency survey. The Carbone fix rate can be understood as an indicator for the completeness of the pyrolysis - the chemical process, taking place during the carbonization of wood; the higher the Carbone fix rate the more complete was the carbonization.

As a result, we will assess the product information as printed on your charcoal bag, based on the four following indicators:

What we ask	Explanation	Remark
Declared country of origin	Whether or not the Country of origin is fully, partially or not at all declared and printed on the bag will be assessed. Partial declaration of country of origin can be imprecise country level traceability such as “European Union”	Earthworm Foundation reserves the right to individually grade the respective categories based on our expertise

Declared wood species	Whether Wood species are fully, partially or not at all declared and printed on the bag. Wood species are written in either the national language or Latin. An example of partial declaration of wood species is “European hardwoods”	in field assessments and knowledge of local charcoal conditions.
Carbone Fixe Rate	Lower quality = < 78% C-fix rate Normal quality = 78-82 C-fix rate Good quality = > 82 % C-fix rate	
Certification	Whether the product (not the paper bag) is certified under one of the following schemes: FSC 100 % certified, PEFC certified	

2.3.2 Supply chain transparency

What is the story behind my charcoal bag? From the forest to the final consumer, charcoal bags often travel several thousand kilometers through various countries. There is no full charcoal supply chain transparency possible if we cannot identify where the wood is carbonized. The carbonization site’s actual location will connect the real origin of the wood to the forest where it originated.

Supply chain information are the basis to understand the journey of the product from the wood in the forest to the charcoal bag in the store. Identifying the actual carbonization site is the first step for full supply chain transparency. We encourage all company’s selling and trading charcoal to be as accurate as possible when identifying the origin of their charcoal products; Information about the carbonization sites is key for transparency.

We would like to emphasize that this information is often missing or inaccurate and therefore encourage you to provide as much information as possible. We also encourage you to provide quantitative data – e.g. how many tones of product X have been produced in 2019 – to assess the reliability of the information.

In order to address the topic of charcoal supply chain transparency, we ask you to fill out the excel file named “**EF_Charcoal_Supply_Chain_Questionnaire**” which you have received in the invitation email. After you have entered your supply chain information, please save the file and upload it again via the charcoal survey Question N°60.

The key information we ask you to provide is:

1. Information on your suppliers for the respective products you sell
2. Information on the packing factories in which the products are packed into bags
3. Information on the carbonization sites – the place where wood is transformed into charcoal
4. Information on the raw material – Which type of wood or other raw material, which species are used and where do they come from.

The supply chain transparency information we ask can be summarized as follows:

Category	What we ask	Remark
Suppliers information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the supplier • Amount of charcoal purchased from the respective supplier of a respective product 	Earthworm Foundation reserves the right to

Packing factory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the packing factory Amount of charcoal packed at the packing factory for a respective product 	individually grade the respective categories based on its expertise in field assessments and knowledge of local charcoal conditions.
Carbonization sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the carbonization sites Amount of charcoal produced at the respective carbonization site for a respective product 	
Raw material source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the wood raw materials Harvesting region 	

For more information, see EF charcoal survey **FAQ's (frequently asked questions)**, [click here](#).

3 EF Field Score vs. Charcoal Bag Score

The following paragraph highlights the differences between the EF Field Score and the Charcoal Bag Score.

3.1 What is the EF field score?

The EF field score is the “**global performance**” score published together with your product picture, information and story on an individual product page on the charcoal transparency initiative (CTI), online available under www.charcoal-transparency.org (Figure 1).

Only **CTI members** have the possibility to have an EF field score published on the CTI.



Figure 1. The EF field score for an individual charcoal product

CTI members are company’s actively engaged within EF charcoal program and part of the charcoal transparency initiative (CTI). The CTI members can communicate their commitment and engagement for responsible charcoal via product stories on www.charcoal-transparency.org. The product story explains the origin (my origin), the supply chain (my journey), the production (my production) and the evaluation (my evaluation) of an individual product produced, traded or sold by the CTI member.

The evaluation is based on an individual field assessment, following EF Charcoal Control System (CCS), conducted by the EF charcoal team. The field assessment takes place where the wood is transformed into charcoal and is mostly done on a product to product basis.

The evaluation is done following EF definition for responsible charcoal with its four criteria: Sustainable management of forests and the environment, Respect of human rights, health and safety, Controlled production and distribution processes and Transparency of the charcoal supply chain.

An individual score per criteria as well as a global performance score (average of the four criteria) is published with the product story and product information on www.charcoal-transparency.org.

The EF field score reflects the engagement, commitment, transparency and level of trust between EF and its partners. It is a reflection of our joint efforts to transform the European charcoal market. It further provides the consumer with in-depth information about the origin and supply chain behind the product. The EF field score provides detailed information about the origin of an individual charcoal product assessed and analysed by the EF's charcoal program.

3.2 What is the Charcoal bag score?

The **Charcoal bag score** serves as a general orientation for the charcoal industry as well as the European consumer to compare different charcoal products available on the European market based on a standardized scoring methodology.

The **Charcoal bag score** does not substitute the **EF field score**. It is an additional and more general orientation, based on **self-declared** information, of where the company stands on its sustainability journey and the level of transparency of the product.

For CTI members with **EF field scores** published on www.charcoal-transparency.org, both scores will be online.

The **EF field score** provides even more in depth knowledge and transparency about the origin and the supply chain of the individual product. Furthermore, it is your company's commitment to our shared values. We work together for a transparent and responsible European charcoal market.

4 Data confidentiality

Everything you declare is kept confidential. During the survey, we ask you to give your consent that the information you declare can be processed and stored by EF. The following rules apply:

- Earthworm Foundation only collects personal information about users that is knowingly and specifically supplied to us by the user.
- Earthworm Foundation is committed to ensuring the privacy of your personal information. We will not sell or pass on your information to any other organisation outside of Earthworm Foundation.
- **Earthworm Foundation will evaluate the product information we receive on a case-by-case basis via the online survey and evaluate the supply chain transparency information based on the excel file "EF_Charcoal_Supply_Chain_Questionnaire". The EF scoring methodology will be used to calculate a score between 0-100%. The score will be published on the website: charcoal-transparency.org for the individual product.**
- We will link to commercial enterprises if they have joined Earthworm Foundation as member companies.



- Where we provide hypertext links to other web sites or contacts, we do so for information purposes only and such links do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by us of any products or services in such sites.
- You use such links entirely at your own risk and we accept no responsibility for the content or use of such web sites or for the information contained on such sites (including any web site through which you may have gained access to our web site).
- By submitting information to Earthworm Foundation, you agree not to import or transfer to this site either directly or indirectly any information or other content which is or may be inaccurate, misleading, offensive or in breach of any intellectual property right or similar right or damaging to the software or performance of this site.
- We advise you to only register/upload those products where your company holds a **trademark license** or is the **trademark holder**. The company that uploads products via the EF charcoal survey must be legally entitled to distribute content and information about the product to external parties like Earthworm Foundation. **Earthworm Foundation is not responsible for any false or inaccurate product information on www.charcoal-transparency.org.**

For any questions, you can reach us at contact@charcoal-transparency.org