



FAQ for the Supplier Sustainability Awards 2024

Application and evaluation process

1. What are the requirements for applying for the Supplier Sustainability Awards 2024?

- The applicant must be a direct supplier of VARTA AG or its affiliated companies like e.g. VARTA Consumer Batteries GmbH & Co. KGaA, VARTA Microbattery GmbH, VARTA Storage GmbH and VARTA Micro Production GmbH.
- The submitted projects must be thematically related to the submitted award and should not be older than three years.
- Suppliers who submitted an application for the competition in 2023 can apply again. Suppliers who have received an award (winner, honorable mention) in 2023 can reapply with new projects for this year's award.

2. How can a supplier apply for the Supplier Sustainability Awards 2024?

- As an applicant, VARTA AG Group asks you to fill out the application form on the website for the respective Supplier Sustainability Award on the website.

3. When does the competition take place? What is the deadline for submission?

- The competition takes place from 28th October – 29th November 2024. Winners will be contacted no later than four weeks after the application deadline.

4. Which kind of award will VARTA AG Group present to the winners?

- VARTA AG Group will award a certificate as a price for the winners of each award. VARTA AG Group reserves the right to publish a list of further honourable mentions, should the applicant have agreed to publication within the application form. Winners will be contacted no sooner than four weeks after the end of the application period.

5. Which projects are eligible for supplier application?

- The correlation between the submitted projects and the respective award must be made clear in the application. In terms of content, there are no further specifications regarding the eligible projects. As a supplier, you are eligible to apply with one or more projects per award.



6. What are the evaluation criteria for the award?

- VARTA AG Group promotes transparency and hence shares the evaluation criteria for the Supplier Sustainability Awards. The evaluation criteria are the following:
 - being a member of a relevant association and/or sustainability initiative,
 - possessing a certification or undergoing audits to demonstrate formal recognition of the presented projects and transparency in sustainability efforts,
 - having targets set with regard to the mentioned projects,
 - extent and amount of positive qualitative or quantitative impacts created through the implementation of initiatives.
- In addition to the criteria mentioned above, the overall impression of the submitted initiatives is also evaluated. The criteria and supporting documentation will however influence the final evaluation and thus the selection of the winner. Please note that the fulfilment of all of these criteria is not a requirement for an application. An application is therefore possible even if not all criteria are met.
- Suppliers who submitted an application for the competition in 2023 can apply again. Suppliers who have received an award (winner, honorable mention) in 2023 can reapply with new projects for this year's award as well.

7. Is it possible to apply with more than one project?

- Each supplier is allowed to submit one application form per award. Within the form, however, you can name several projects or initiatives that correspond thematically to the respective award.

8. What does the evaluation process entail?



- An internal jury of VARTA AG Group will be reviewing the submitted documents based on the evaluation criteria. Winners will be contacted no sooner than four weeks after the end of the application period. VARTA AG Group will award a certificate to the winners of each award. VARTA AG Group reserves the right to publish a list of further honourable mentions, should the applicant have agreed to publication within the application form. Winners will be contacted by e-mail.

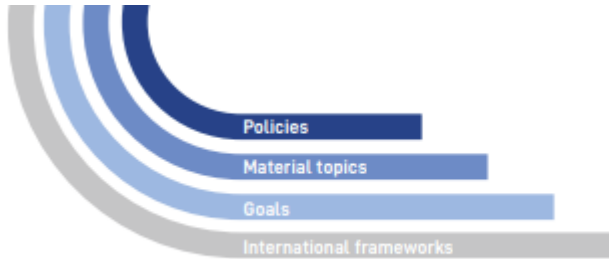
9. How does VARTA AG Group handle the information that is submitted in the course of the competition?

- VARTA AG Group will use the information to internally evaluate the competition and determine the winners. VARTA AG Group reserves the right to publish a list of further honourable mentions, should the applicant have agreed to publication within the application form. Application forms will neither be published nor forwarded to external parties.



Sustainability at VARTA AG Group

10. Which sustainability strategy and goals have been adopted by VARTA AG Group?



- VARTA AG Group aligns its actions with international frameworks which provide a global context for sustainability efforts and guide corporate goals and practices. On a corporate level, VARTA AG Group's five goals enable the company to implement the sustainability strategy. They serve as a compass for the evaluation of current and future performance.

	Goal 1: Shaping the future	Everything at VARTA is driven by the pursuit for a better quality of life for future generations.
	Goal 2: Sincere responsibility for people	An integral part of VARTA's success is its employees as well as everyone within its supply chain.
	Goal 3: Diversity and equal opportunities	Diversity is key in meeting the needs of VARTA's customers, suppliers, and stakeholders.
	Goal 4: Sincere responsibility for the planet	VARTA cares for the planet. Therefore, it aims to increase the capacity of its supply chain to align it with its environmental ambitions.
	Goal 5: Striving for energy-efficiency	VARTA constantly strives to optimise its use of resources in production processes and increase energy efficiency of its products.

The identification of material topics provides orientation for the prioritization of actions and therefore shape the organisation's sustainability strategy. Policies provide a guideline and work instruction to align employee behaviour with the achievement of the goals. Please refer to VARTA AG Group's [Sustainability website](#) for details on the strategy and initiatives.



11. What are VARTA AG Group's values and how are these relevant to business partners?

VARTA AG Group's values and expectation regarding business partners are stated in the following company policies:

- The [Code of Conduct](#) represents a universal framework for business activities and provides guidelines and rules for employee behaviour. The code was updated in 2023 through the input of further stakeholders and adapted to international standards, among other things aspects on the topics of freedom of association, donation management and dealing with conflicts of interest were added.
- The [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) upholds human rights and due diligence in its business relationships. Aligned with amfori BSCI and international principles, it covers sector-specific and cross-sectoral issues like conflict minerals, social audits, and supply chain transparency.

12. I still have a question, who can I contact?

For any questions, feel free to contact: sustainability@varta-ag.com

Thank you for your participation! We wish you good luck!