

Higg FEM 2026
Launch Webinar

November 5, 2026

Cascale + worldly

A Note About Q&A

Attendees are all muted during the presentation.

Please type your questions into the Q&A box at the bottom of the screen.



Cascale + worldly



Agenda

01. Introductions

02. Higg FEM 2026 Methodology Updates

03. Higg FEM Data Quality

04. Higg FEM 2026 Verification Program Updates

05. Higg FEM 2026 Platform Enhancements

06. Key Dates & Reminders

07. Q&A

Cascale + worldly



01

Introductions

Cascale + worldly

Meet the Speakers



Hamza Habib Hasan

Senior Manager,
Brand & Retailer Member Activation
Cascale



Demith Gooneratne

Director,
Higg Index Facility Tools
Cascale



Soni Khatri

Senior Manager,
Higg Index Verifications
Cascale



Vic Lau

Sr. Manager,
Customer Success
Worldly

Meet the Speakers: Cascale



Hamza Habib Hasan

Senior Manager,
Brand & Retailer Member Activation
Cascale



Demith Gooneratne

Director,
Higg Index Facility Tools
Cascale



Soni Khatri

Senior Manager,
Higg Index Verifications
Cascale

Meet the Speakers: Worldly



RJ Moore

Assoc. Manager,
Product
Worldly



Charlie Gustafson

Manager,
Product Marketing
Worldly

Cascale, Worldly, & the Higg Index

Together, Cascale and Worldly help organizations use the Higg Index to turn shared measurement into better decisions, stronger credibility, and measurable progress.

Cascale

Stewards the framework

- Stewards the Higg Index frameworks, modules, and methodologies
- Ensures the tools evolve with industry needs
- Supports credibility, alignment, and pre-competitive collaboration

Higg Index

Shared measurement framework

- A suite of tools for measuring social and environmental performance
- Used across the consumer goods value chain
- Helps organizations identify, understand, measure and improve performance

worldly

The sustainability & compliance platform

- Enables companies to report, comply and act
- Provides exclusive access to the Higg Index tools
- Manages global implementation across value chains



02

Higg FEM 2026 Methodology Updates

Cascale + worldly

Higg FEM 2026 Methodology & Framework Updates

Higg FEM Verification Operations

Modularity

Foundational Environmental Performance (FEP) Module

Content Improvements

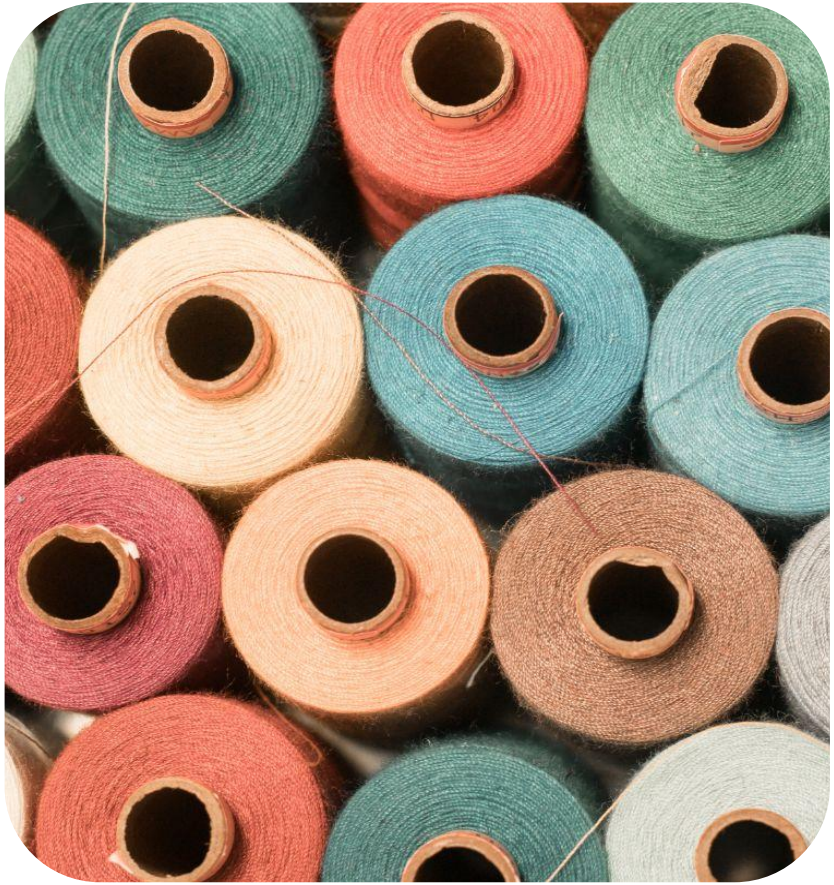
FEM Foundations Phase-Out

Platform Enhancements

Higg FEM 2026 Key Highlights

- **Modularity**
  - **Modularity has been a key priority for the Higg FEM** and based on feedback from members and governance channels
  - FEM 2026 will introduce the **FEP (Foundational Environmental Performance) Module**

- **Foundational Environmental Performance (FEP) Module**
  - **An aligned definition of Foundational Environmental Performance (FEP) was developed to address a fundamental gap:** the absence of a clear, unified, industry-aligned definition of what baseline environmental performance should look like.
  - **The FEP question set** draws from a subset of existing Level 1 FEM questions
  - **The FEP question set** will be governed by Cascale through a process overseen by the Technical Advisory Council (TAC).



What is Foundational Environmental Performance (FEP)?

Foundational Environmental Performance refers to the base level of environmental management practices that should be expected of *any manufacturing facility*, in any region, to meet legal compliance but also avoid the most critical risks of environmental harm.

Foundational Environmental Performance

Cascale convened stakeholders to establish an aligned industry definition of **Foundational Environmental Performance (FEP).**

The FEP framework aims to:

Set the baseline

Establish a common foundation for environmental performance expectations across the consumer goods industry

Drive industry alignment

Enable brands, manufacturers, and stakeholders to align on shared priorities for collective action, reducing inconsistent requirements and duplicative efforts

Provide a common reference point

Create a consistent benchmark for evaluating foundational environmental practices across the sector

Foundational Environmental Performance

FEP serves three distinct groups:

Manufacturers & Suppliers

- Improve operational resilience
- Prepare for increasing regulatory scrutiny
- Align supply-chain priorities to reduce conflicting requirements

Brands & Retailers

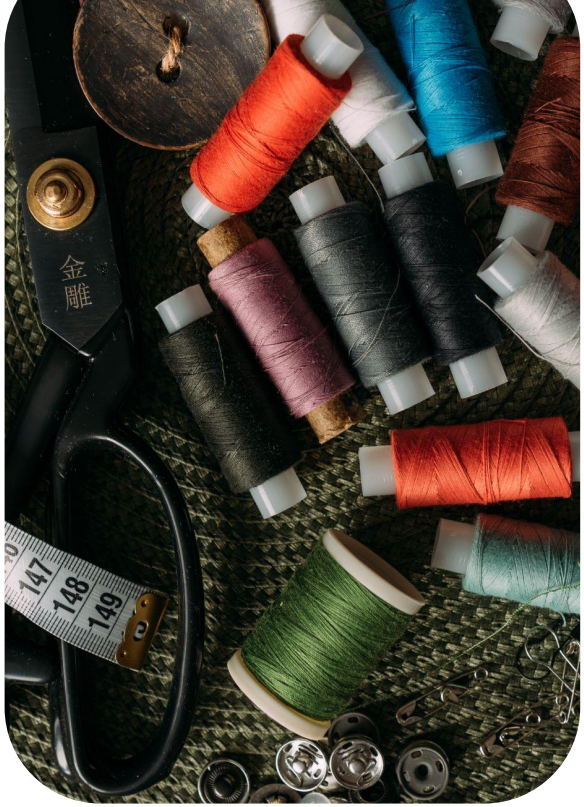
Streamline supplier engagement and strengthen due diligence through collective responsibility.

The Industry

Enable consistent monitoring, reporting, and cross-sector collaboration to improve environmental risk management across value chains.

FEP Module Methodology

- FEP questions were tagged within FEM 2025. The FEP Module is available as a **standalone assessment** on the platform beginning November 2026.
- **No new questions** were added to the FEP question set.
- A **self-assessment must be completed and posted** before verification can begin.
- A facility may complete and post **only one FEP Module** within the same Higg FEM cadence year.
- **The FEP Module does not have a fixed reporting period**. It measures performance across the **most recent 12-month window** at the time of completion.
- The FEP Module is currently **not scored.** Individual questions are processed as achieved / not achieved based on answers.



FEP Module Methodology & Question Set

Facility Eligibility

The FEP Module is **only available to new facility accounts** and **facilities that did not complete the Higg FEM** in the previous cadence.

FEP Technical Paper

To learn more about the rationale behind the FEP question set, access the Technical Paper.





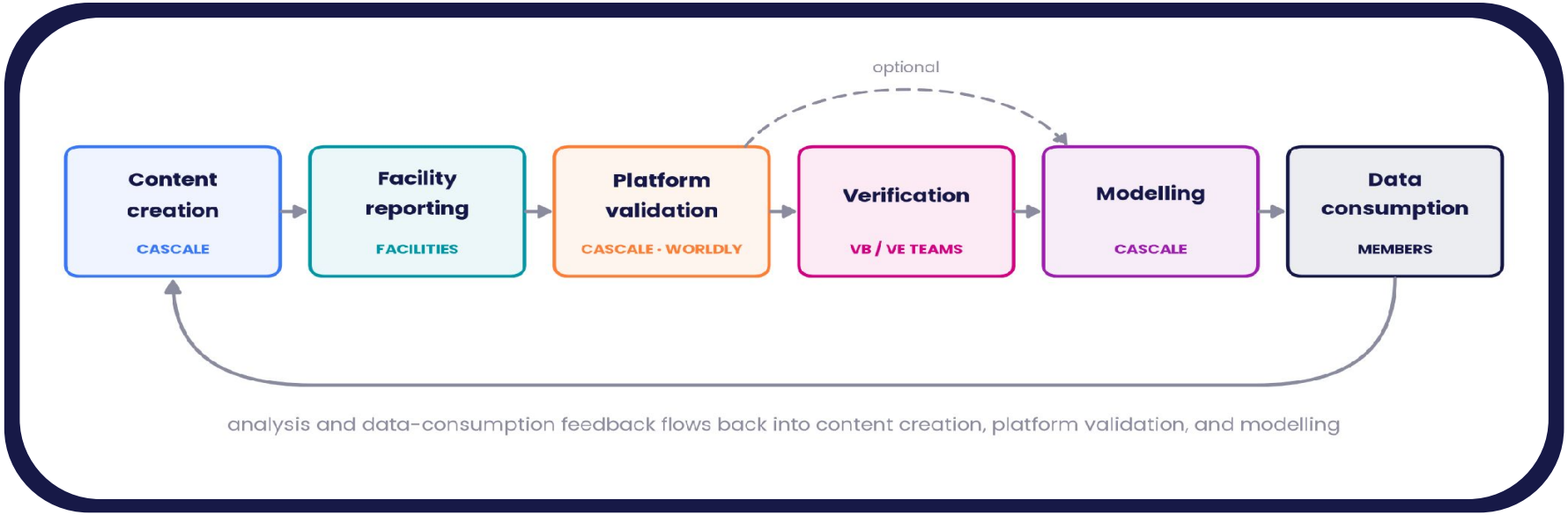
03

Higg FEM Data Quality

Cascale + worldly

Data Quality: a Process, Not an Outcome

Every step in the process of making, taking, and consuming Higg FEMs can fix, or introduce, errors. Because these stages feed into one another, our goal is a cycle where each step makes the data stronger.



Stages of the Data Quality Process

Content Creation

The first fix - the best place to fix an error is the assessment itself

Platform Validation

Stop the error while the facility is still looking at it

Verification

The human layer

Modeling

When the model is wrong, everyone's data is wrong

Data Consumption

Quality where the data is used



Higg FEM 2026 Data Quality

More integrated and consistent guidance: Question-by-question guidance will be better connected across the platform and the How to Higg Guide, enabling faster, more accurate, and aligned updates wherever users access support.

Enhanced guidance and training: Improved content makes requirements easier to understand and the assessment quicker to complete.

Continued alignment with GHG reporting standards: Updated emissions factor models support more consistent, credible emissions reporting.

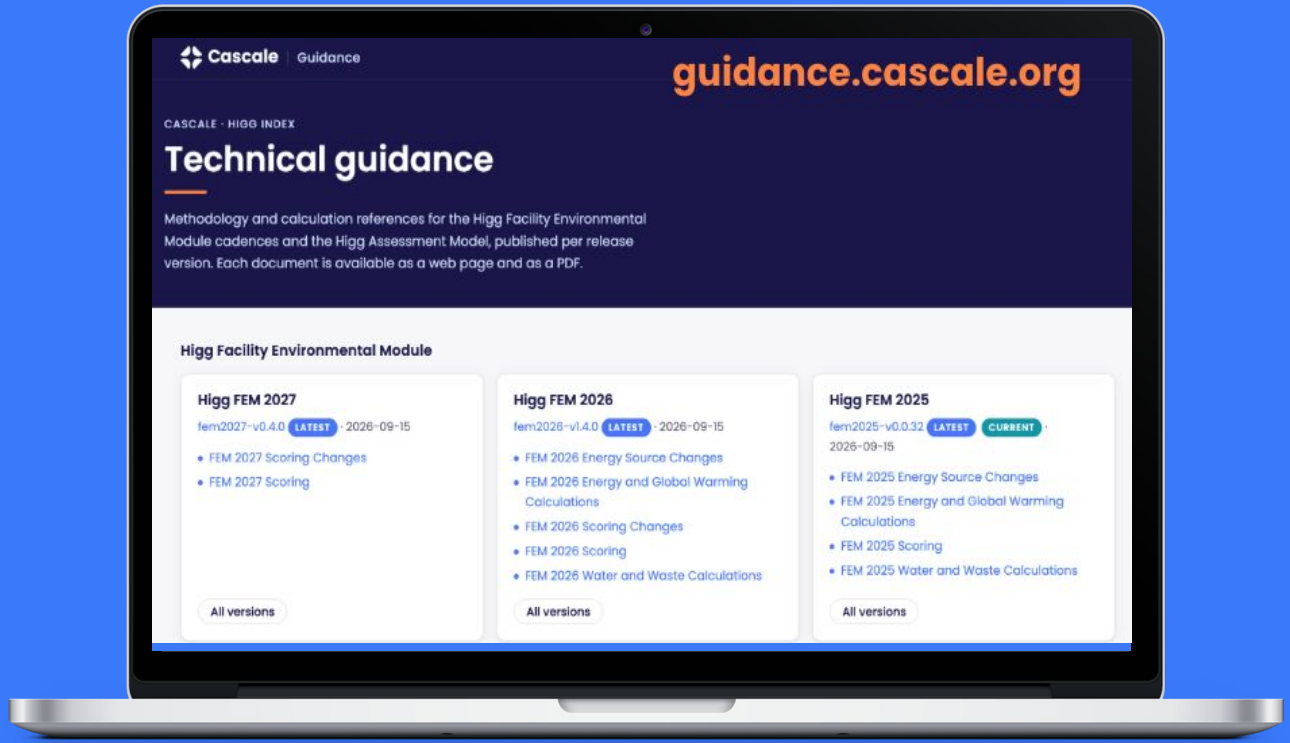
Stronger data validation and error prevention: New validations, including for water usage, and additional safeguards will help prevent impossible or inconsistent responses, reducing data errors and improving overall data quality.

Higg FEM 2026 Updates

Based on user feedback & internal analyses

- **Added new unit of measure** for Energy Q7, Q8 and Q10
  - Therms for Natural Gas
- **Requesting the reporting of the 8 digit SBTi ID** (sbti_id) in the Energy section
  - Please enter your 8 digit SBTi ID (sbti_id): NUMERIC (must have 8 digits)
- **Changes in Permit table**
  - Solid waste discharge broken down into two categories:
    - Waste Generation and/or Disposal (Non-Hazardous)
    - Waste Generation and/or Disposal (Hazardous)
- **Assessing need for Traders and Agents**
  - New Site Info Question (unscored/unverified) for FEM 2026
- **Chemical Module answer option update** to improve alignment with ZDHC StZ V2

Higg FEM Technical Guidance



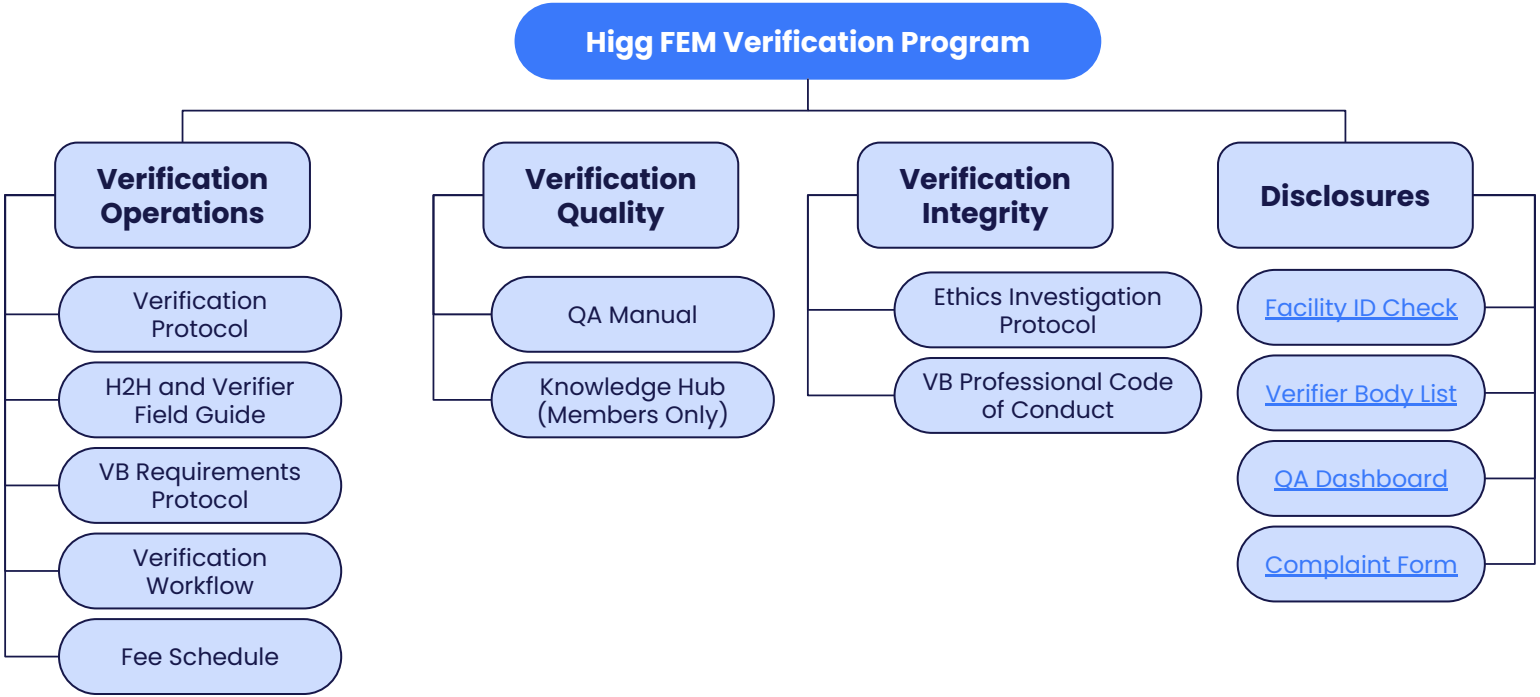


04

Higg FEM 2026 Verification Program Updates

Cascale + worldly

Verification Protocols Framework



Higg FEM 2026 Verification: Scope Updates

VERIFICATION SCOPE

Level 1 Continuity

- **Higg FEM verification** continues to apply to **Level 1 questions for Higg FEM 2026** and can be conducted at any point in the Higg FEM cadence.

FEP MODULE VERIFICATION

Standalone Module

- **Beginning January 1, 2027 – the FEP Module** is available as a standalone module on the platform for verification. FEP verification follows the same workflow and verification protocol as the Higg FEM.
- Higg FEM **Generalist Verifiers** can conduct Verification of the FEP module.
- All FEP questions will be verified as per the requirements of the **'Current' time ordinance category** as listed in the **Higg FEM Verifier Field Guide**.

Higg FEM 2026 Verification: Protocol Updates

Verification Protocol

- The **Verification Protocol** has been updated to include **guidance on the FEP Module**, updated verification requirements, and a new scenario **for minimum person-days allocation criteria** (eg. when a translator is required).

Verifier Field Guide

- The **Verifier Field Guide** has been updated to include new **time ordinance requirement for FEP verification,** and updates to the **Verification resources section**.

VB & Verifiers Requirements Protocol

- The **VB & VE Requirements Protocol** has been updated to add **VB Dashboard** section outlining key VB interactions and responsibilities.
- Updated **VB Status and Eligibility Guidance**, including status definitions and their implications for VBs and Verifiers.

Higg FEM 2026 Verification: Quality Assurance

Two upcoming developments in the Higg FEM Verification Program

01

Issue Classification & Sanctions Protocol

- Establishes a more structured approach to addressing **quality and integrity issues.**
- Details have been **shared** with the **Scheme Managers**

02

Updated QA Scoring for VBs and Verifiers

- A more comprehensive, risk-based approach to **evaluating VB and Verifier performance**

REMINDER

Enhanced Verification Disclosures

- Public VB dashboard and QA dashboard provide visibility into significant metrics like VB **QA scores, regional availability, verification volume, etc.**
- Higg FEM Verifier/Trainer Status Check

Higg FEM 2026 Verification:
Three Ways to Share Verified Performance

For facilities with a Level 1 verified Higg FEM 2024 or 2025 module

Section Scores

Share the verified Level 1 score for any of the seven FEM sections, such as Energy or Water.

Level 1 Achievement

State that your facility achieved verified Level 1, overall or in a specific section.

Certificate

Download it from the platform. Add it to your website or display it at your facility.

Find your data	Worldly › Data Downloads › **Scores and Levels CSV**
Always include	Assessment ID · Worldly ID · Facility name and address
Never share	Total FEM or total Level 1 scores, or any unverified data

Verification Evolution

Evolve the verification process and capabilities to stay fit for purpose and stay ahead

EVOLUTION PROJECTS	RATIONALE	OUTCOMES	PRESENT STATUS
Timely Impact Verification	Provide verified quantitative metrics data earlier in the year or more frequently	Scale-ready, economical verification approach available alongside Level 1 Higg FEM Verification	Phase 1 Approach development complete, Phase 2 conversations underway with Worldly
ZDHC StZ x Higg FEM Alignment	Reduce audit duplication on common questions and save facilities money	Approach for facilities to conduct a combined or mutually recognized verification	Phase 1 Technical Alignment underway
Revamp Integrity Process	Incorporate cross-industry best practices in resolving verification integrity cases	Industry benchmarking and implementation-ready roadmap	Independent body onboarded, gap analysis ongoing

Important Verification Contact Information



verification@cascale.org

Questions about Cascale or our verification initiative



fem@sumerra.com

Questions regarding Higg FEM verification, VB/VE applications and approvals, Verifier Training, VB Dashboards



support.worldly.io

Questions regarding Worldly platform or technical support

Complaint Form

[File a Higg FEM Verification Program Complaint]



Higg FEM 2026 Verification Training Program Updates

Cascale

Higg FEM Training: Learn Your Way

Train on your own or as a team. Every course is delivered by a Cascale-approved Trainer Body.



In Person

Classroom sessions led by an approved trainer, with hands-on practice on real FEM questions.



Webinar

Live online sessions with an approved trainer. Join from anywhere and ask questions in real time.



E-Learning

Self-paced online courses. Learn at your own speed, on your own schedule.



At Your Facility

Invite an approved trainer to your site. Your team learns together, in the context of your own operations.

A Global Network of Approved Trainers

22
Trainer Bodies

50
Approved trainers

16
Countries

Trainers based in Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye and Vietnam

Find a trainer: Active TB List

Find a session: Public Training Calendar

List as of October 2026

Cascale

What's New in the Verification Training Program

FEE UPDATE

USD 25

E-Learning Certificate

Down from USD 40. E-learning certificates now cost the same as in-person and webinar training.

FIRST TIME SHARED

5,000+

Learners Trained

More than 5,000 people have completed Higg FEM training so far. Join them.

Bonus: completed training helps you answer “sipapprovedtraining” question in your Higg FEM.



05

Higg FEM 2026 Platform Updates

Cascale + worldly

Higg FEM 2026 Platform Updates



Higg FEM 2026 and the FEP Module



Making the Higg FEM easier to complete



New features and integrations



Engaging your supply chain



Education and support resources



Subscriptions, plans, and services

Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

Higg FEM 2026 and FEP

on the Worldly Platform

Higg FEM 2026 is live!

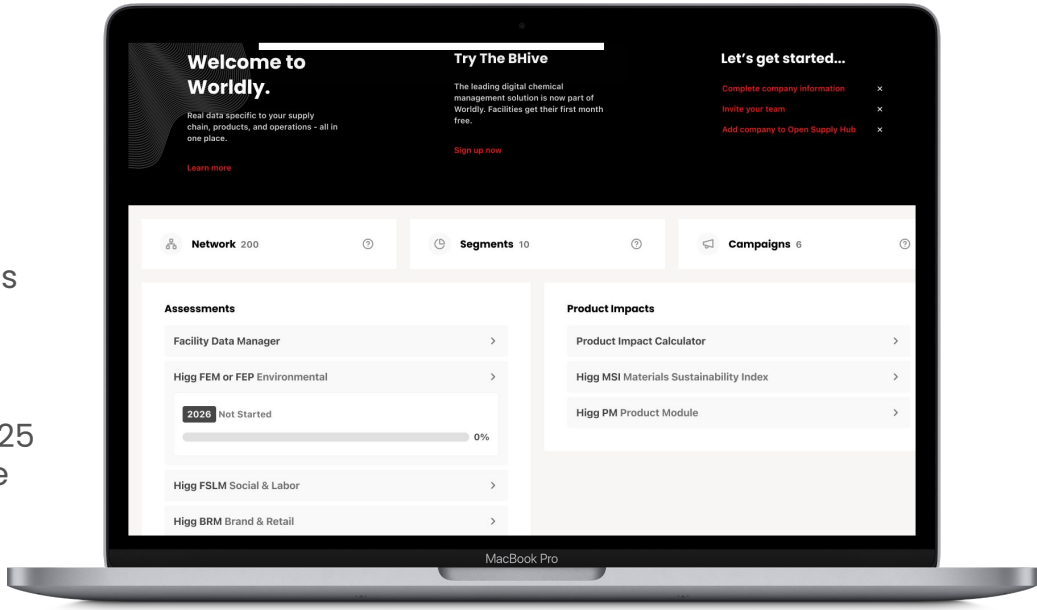
- Facilities will be able to purchase the Higg FEM 2026, through the Environmental Assessments subscription.

FEP within every Higg FEM

- Every facility completing a Higg FEM receives an FEP baseline result with no added work.

FEP Module replaces FEM Foundations

- Facilities that did not complete Higg FEM 2025 can complete the FEP Module, outside of the full Higg FEM 2026.



Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

Making it easier to complete the Higg FEM

On the Worldly Platform

Roll Forward

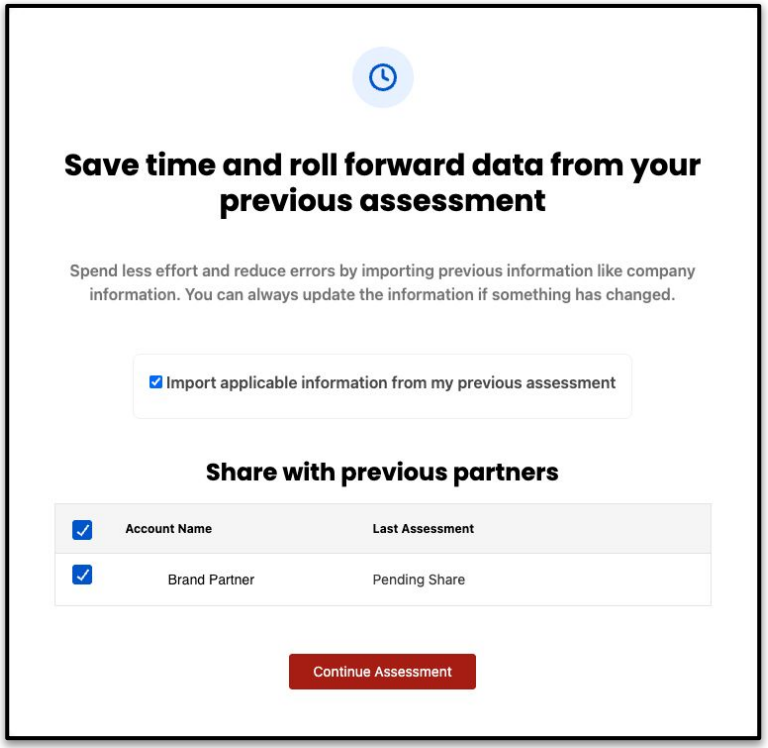
- Carry forward last year's qualitative FEM data to save time and speed up reporting. Re-use and review non-numeric answers from previous cadence.

FDM to Higg FEM Import

- Eliminate duplicate entry by importing 2026 Facility Data Manager data into Higg FEM 2026 — available January 2027.

Outlier Detection

- Boost data accuracy by catching atypical energy and water values before submission. Updated outlier thresholds applied starting in January 2027.



Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

The Worldly Assistant helps you along the way

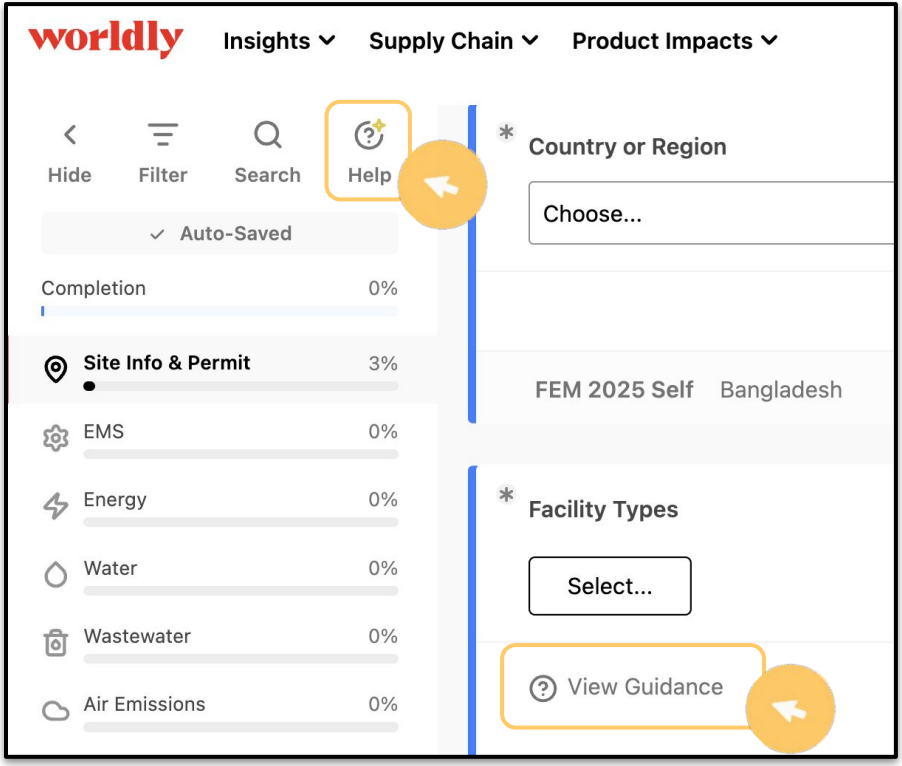
The assistant will make the Higg FEM 2026 easier to complete

Worldly Assistant for all assessments

- Instant guidance under every question for facilities, verifiers, and brands
- Trained on the Worldly knowledge base, How to Higg and SLCP
- Ask questions in your preferred language

Refreshed assessment experience

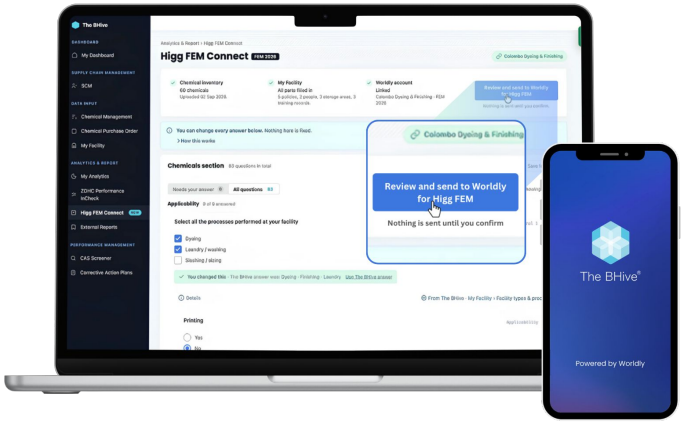
- Design updates to help users maintain context, navigate faster, and access guidance and the Worldly Assistant more easily
- New question search lets users find specific visible questions



Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

Import Chemical data to the Higg FEM

Using The BHive on Worldly



Reduced workload for Facilities; Consistent data for Brands

- Facilities using The BHive skip duplicate entry, save time and keep Higg FEM answers consistent.
- Brands see consistent chemicals answers that match the data facilities manage in The BHive.

Coming with Higg FEM 2026: BHive to FEM import

- Facilities can use existing BHive data to **pre-fill the Chemicals Management section** of Higg FEM 2026, on average 50 to 100 answers.

Already on The BHive?

Link your BHive and Worldly accounts.

Not yet?

Add Chemical Management with The BHive

Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

Optional production volume allocation

Coming January 2027: a highly requested feature

Facilities allocate after posting

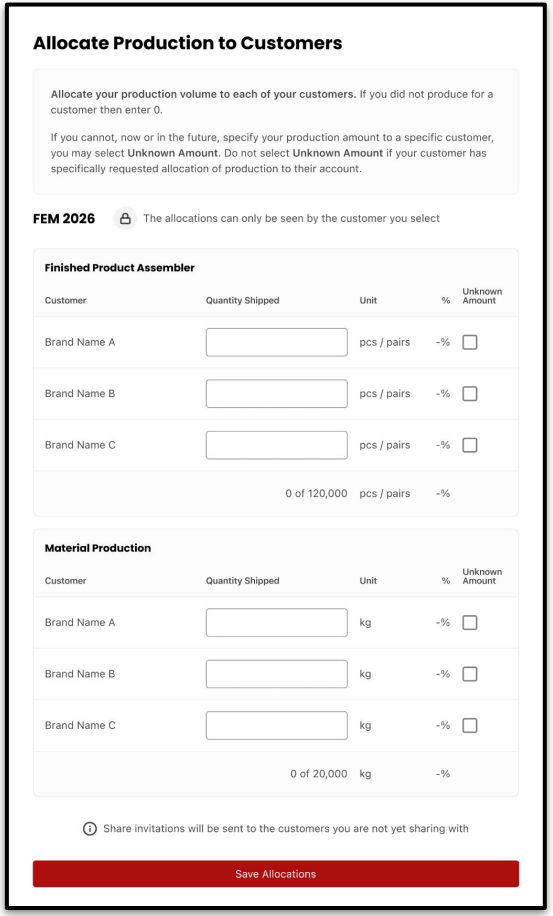
- Facilities can share allocated production volume with each brand they share their Higg FEM with, after they post

Optional allocation

- Not required, and optional for each brand a facility shares with. Brands can still upload their own allocation for each facility

Visible side by side

- Both facility-entered and brand-entered allocation are viewable on the FEM modules table



Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

Supplier engagement on Worldly

A dedicated Customer Success Manager for every Worldly Platform plan customer

1. Build your supplier network

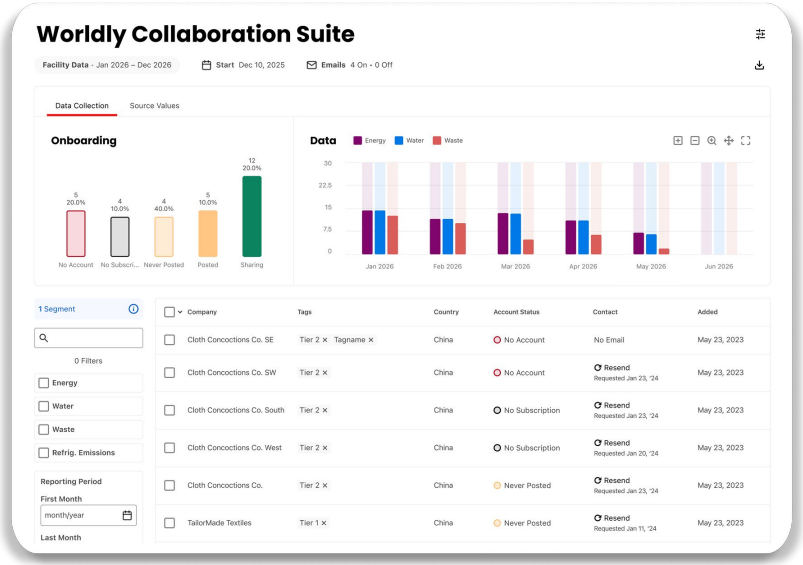
- Your CSM will upload your facility list and check for matches, so your network starts clean with fewer duplicates

2. Your goals are baked in to program design

- Worldly CSMs help design supplier engagement programs around your goals and timelines, with best practice email templates and tactics at your disposal

3. Track and act from one network view

- See your whole supplier network, segment it, monitor engagement and completion live, and get regular updates and recommendations from your CSM



Reach out to your CSM this month, or learn more and get started with the **Supplier Engagement Kickstarter** program

Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

New supplier profiles tell a full story

The full story of every supplier, in one place

The supplier profile is the source of truth

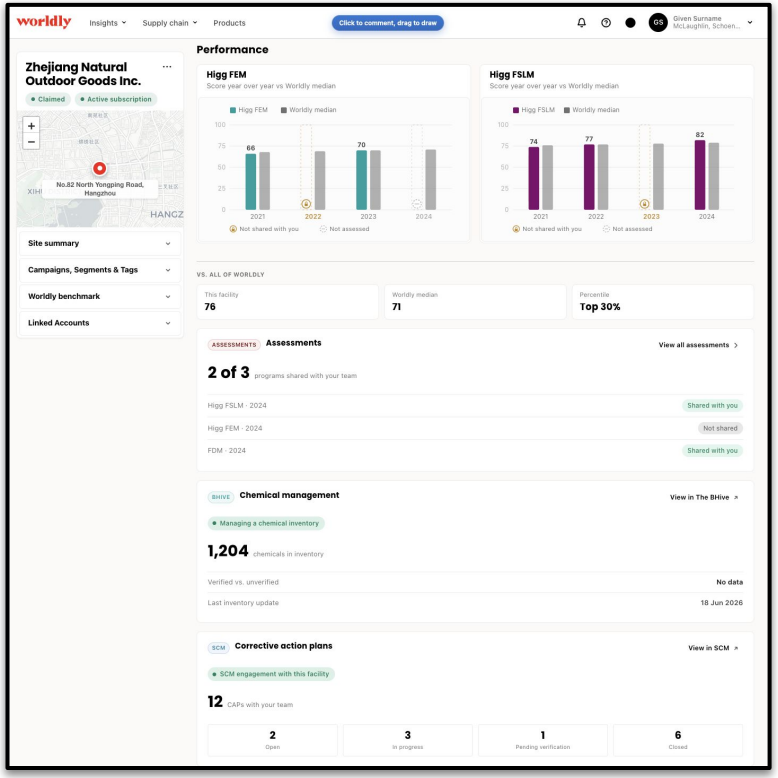
- Site information, assessment statuses, brand shares, performance and year-over-year results, on one page

Engage suppliers before they even sign up

- Every supplier is discoverable and requestable
- One shared record for each unclaimed profile, collaboratively pre-populated with known information.

One account per facility, used everywhere

- Claim your account once, keep your information current
- Control what each brand sees, assessment-by-assessment



Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

Updated Facility Subscriptions

Facility Plans

Environmental Assessments with the Higg FEM. Includes the new FEP module* and FDM
Social Assessment with the Higg FSLM
Chemical Management with the BHive
Facility Data Manager (FDM) by invitation only
Foundational Environmental Performance Module (FEP Module) by invitation only

Discounts	**10% off** when bundling Environmental Assessments with more plans	**10%** off 2-year subscriptions	**20%** off when combining bundle and 2-year discounts

*FEP replaces FEM Foundations and will be included with Environmental Assessments.

Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

What's included in a facility subscription

Suppliers get full support for completing assessments



Dedicated Supplier Support



Worldly Assistant



Education & Capacity Building

Suppliers get value from using Worldly for engagement and analytics



One Assessment, Many Shares



Insights Hub Analytics



Platform access doesn't expire

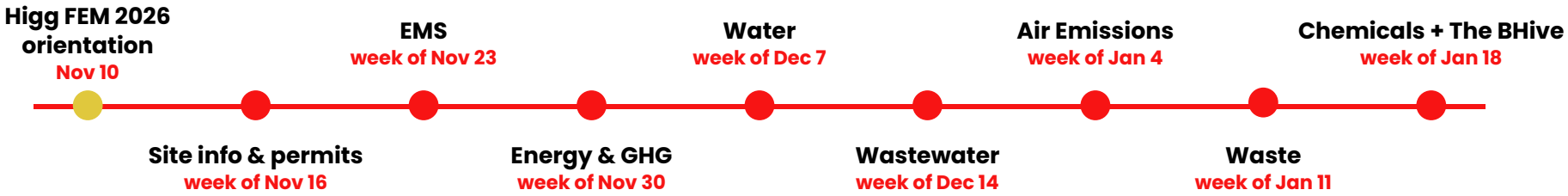
Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

Training Calendar & Webinars

Upcoming opportunities to join live or watch a recording

Higg FEM section series

View the schedule and register for sessions on the online training schedule



Q&A and clinics

- **Cascale + Worldly live Q&A sessions** (Biweekly January - April, monthly May-Dec)
- **Facility registration clinics:** Bangladesh, China, intermediaries, starting in Dec
- Webinar recordings

Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

Education Resources

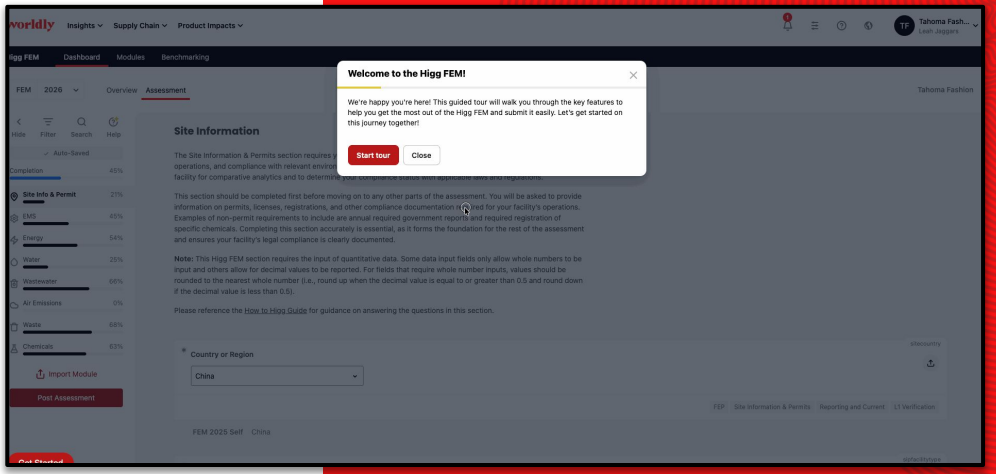
Worldly Learning Center

- Higg FEM curriculum, updated for 2026 with FEP content folded into live trainings
- FEP e-learning course
- Full e-learning course catalog

How to Higg + Worldly Support

- How to Higg (Cascale)
- Knowledge base: Higg FEM 2026 changes, FEP Module, pricing and packaging
- Videos: Higg FEM vs FEP, what is the difference; Importing FDM data into Higg FEM (January)
- **NEW** In-app guides: Facility onboarding tours; Get started with Higg FEM; updated Collaboration Suite tours





Confidential and proprietary. Do not share or reproduce without Worldly's consent.

worldly

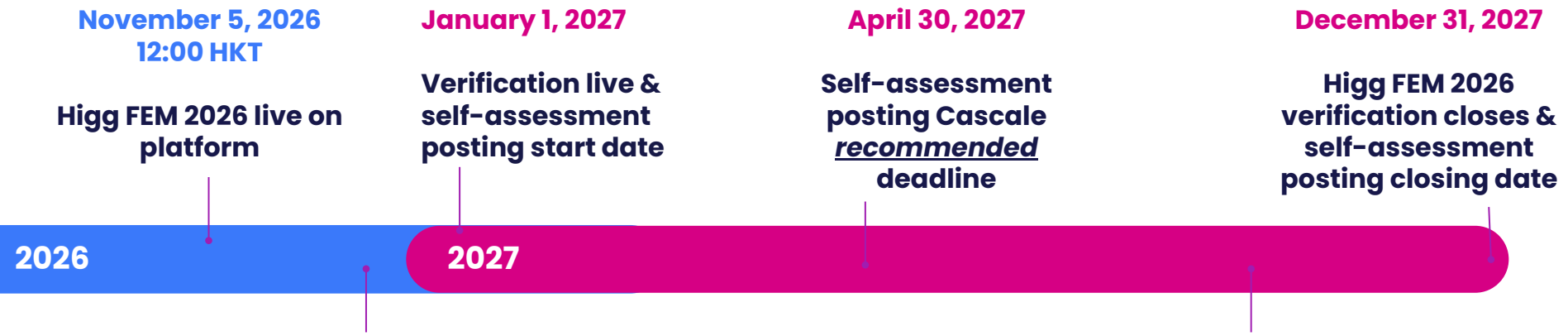


06

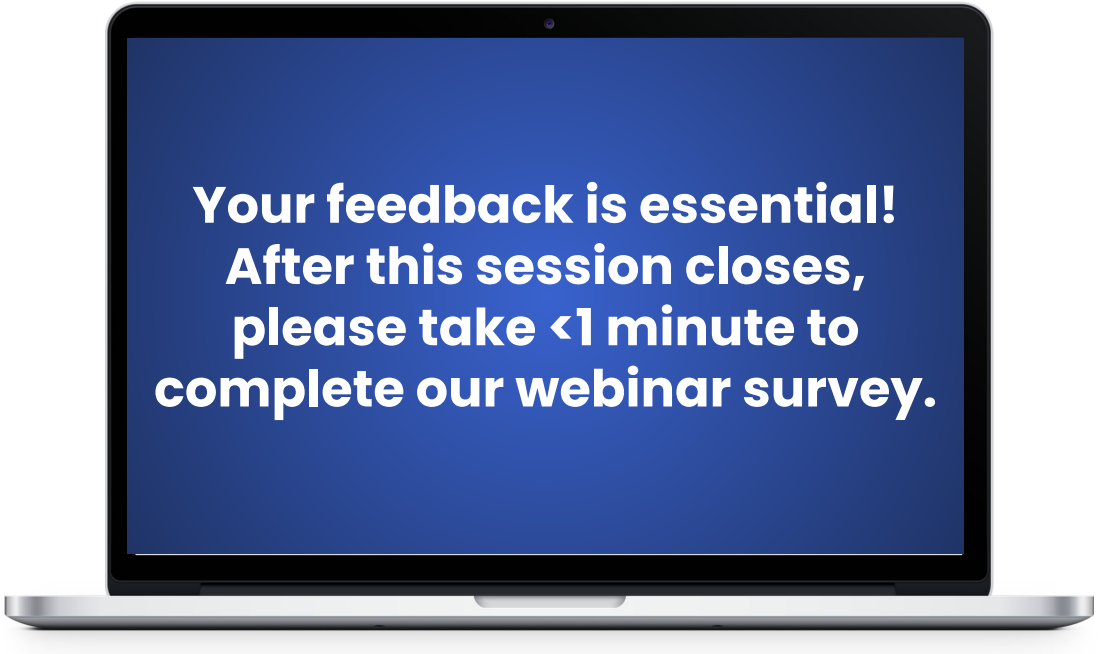
Key Dates & Reminders

Cascale + worldly

Key Dates: Higg FEM & FEP 2026



Webinar Survey



ACT NOW

Confirm your contact information



Complete the form

Cascale



07

Higg FEM 2026 Q&A

Cascale + worldly



Thanks!

Do you have any questions?
higgindex@cascale.org www.cascale.org

support@worldly.io www.worldly.io

Cascale + worldly

