Welcome to Upcycled Certified™, the world’s first and only third-party certification program for upcycled food ingredients and products. The Upcycled Certified™ Standard and program were developed by the Upcycled Food Association to provide structure, guidelines, and credibility to the upcycled food movement so that you can communicate your positive impact on climate change with confidence.

The below checklist helps you determine your eligibility for certification. The checklist is meant as a summary only and additional eligibility criteria apply. Meeting the requirements listed here does not guarantee certification; program approval can only be granted by the Upcycled Certified™ certifying body. For more information about the certification process see here or email certification@upcycledfood.org.

Key Requirements for Becoming Upcycled Certified™

My upcycled product or ingredient...

☐ Meets the definition of upcycled food: “upcycled foods use ingredients that otherwise would not have gone to human consumption, are procured and produced using verifiable supply chains, and have a positive impact on the environment.”

☐ Fulfills at least one of the Upcycled Certified™ upcycled input thresholds:
  • Upcycled Ingredient (UI): contains a minimum of 95% upcycled input(s) by weight (excluding added water).
  • Product Containing Upcycled Ingredients (PUI): contains a minimum of 10% upcycled input(s) by weight (excluding added water).
  • Minimal Content: contains less than 10% upcycled input(s) by weight.

☐ Is sold in the U.S. and/or Canada (Note: products sold globally can be certified, however the Upcycled Certified™ mark may only be used within these two territories.)

☐ Contains food diverted from any of the following waste streams:
  • Landfill  • Animal feed  • Compost
  • Anaerobic digestion  • Incineration
  • Unharvested/plowed in

☐ Falls within one of these categories:
  • Packaged food or beverage  • Foodservice item
  • Dietary supplement  • Companion pet food
  • Cosmetics  • Personal care products
  • Household cleaners  • Textiles and tableware
  • Otherwise classified as a consumer, non-durable good with a shelf life of under 3 years

☐ Has available supply chain tracking documents such as:
  • Facility and product production flows
  • Proof of purchase (bills of lading, invoices)
  • Spec sheets or waste records
  • Food safety attestations

☐ Is committed to fighting climate change; documentation of qualitative or quantitative greenhouse gas emission reporting and a food waste assessment are included in program paperwork.

☐ Is not one of the following:
  • An input derived from wood and forestry products
  • Cigarettes, tobacco, vaping, or nicotine products
  • A controlled substance according to U.S. Law
  • A durable good

QUESTIONS? Get in touch with certification@upcycledfood.org