



# Comparison of Sustainability Certification Programs

There are four sustainability programs that Sonoma County Winegrowers recognize:

- Fish Friendly Farming
- California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance (“Certified Sustainable”)
- Lodi Rules
- Sustainability in Practice (SIP)

Program requirements vary but share alignment with best management practices for environmental and social responsibility, and business operation practices. An overview of these programs can be found here:

Program	Region Covered	Certification Period	Cost of Certification	Areas Covered	Requirements
<a href="#">Fish Friendly Farming</a>	Statewide for vineyard properties only	5 years	\$8.00/acre for preparation of farm plan and maps unless we have a grant, \$500 certification fee, \$300 recertification fee	Land Management, Water and Soil Conservation, Watershed Management and Restoration, Erosion, Road Repair & Maintenance, Environmentally Friendly Management Practices, Chemical use and nutrient management, water supply, creek conditions and restoration, workforce and community, business practices energy and recycling, photo monitoring, soil health, climate change adaption. In addition, when growers participate in FFF they have access to experts and support on compliance issues, restoration projects, technical assistance for grants and rebates when available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll property in the Fish Friendly Farming program</li> <li>• Farmers attend educational workshops on all aspects of land management, including existing vineyard/orchard or field management, new vineyard/orchard design, water and soil conservation, etc.</li> <li>• Develop a Farm Conservation Plan to inventory and evaluate natural resources and practices on the entire property to achieve environmental quality and improvement. Following the workshops, the FFF program provides professional one-on-one technical assistance for each landowner/manager to complete the Farm Conservation Plan.</li> <li>• Certification through a third-party review.</li> <li>• Implement and document the actions and</li> </ul>

					<p>projects identified in the Farm Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Provides compliance with water quality permits in Napa and Sonoma and soon Mendocino, Sierra foothills and Delta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-Certification after 5 years.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance: CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE</a>	Statewide for both wineries and vineyard properties	Annual. Growers may submit applications for certification on a rolling basis; however, certification can only be awarded during one of the three certification deadlines: March 1 <sup>st</sup> , May 1 <sup>st</sup> and July 1 <sup>st</sup> . Off-site documentation audits occur for every grower on an annual basis, while on-site audits occur at a minimum of every three years for each grower.	<p>The fees for certification are comprised of an Annual Administration Fee paid to CSWA and Auditor Fees paid directly to the third-party auditor. The Annual Administration Fees are based on the total vineyard acreage certified. <a href="#">See here for costs.</a></p> <p>Audit fees vary based on different size organizations and the estimated costs associated with auditor time. <a href="#">See here for estimates.</a> Or <a href="#">contact an auditor to request a quote.</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>• Water Conservation</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency</li> <li>• Healthy Soils</li> <li>• Responsible Pest Management</li> <li>• Wildlife Habitat Protection</li> <li>• Solid Waste Management</li> <li>• Strong Relationships with Employees, Neighbors and Communities</li> <li>• Air Quality Protection</li> <li>• Environmentally Preferable Purchasing</li> <li>• High Quality Grapes and Wine</li> <li>• Vibrant Businesses</li> </ul>	Participants implement and document sustainable practices across their operation. Practices are verified in annual inspections that vary from full documentation and onsite to offsite documentation review.
<a href="#">Lodi Rules</a>	Regional, mainly Lodi but also California	Annual. Growers certify their vineyard blocks on an annual basis, applying in February, documenting their practices for the growing season online in the Spring, and receiving their	<p><u>Base Grower Certification Fee:</u> New Grower: \$1,785 Renewing Grower: \$1,105.</p> <p><u>Grower Incremental Assessment Fee:</u> \$2.00 per application acre for vineyards within Crush District #11.</p>	Growers follow a set of over 100 farming practices which include business management, human resources management, ecosystem management, soil management, water management, and pest management. They also adhere to a thorough pesticide risk model which aims to reduce the risk to workers, consumers, birds, bees, beneficial insects, and small aquatic organisms.	The certification process encompasses two components: the Lodi Rules (practice standards), and a Pesticide Environmental Assessment System (PEAS), a risk assessment tool that measure the total impact of all organic and synthetic pesticides used during the year by each individual participant grower.

		certificates by November if they pass. Off-site documentation audits occur for every grower on an annual basis, while on-site audits occur at a minimum of every three years for each grower.	\$4.00 per application acre for vineyards outside Crush District #11 within CA. \$5.00 per application acre for vineyards outside CA within USA \$6.00 per application acre for vineyards outside USA		
<a href="#">Sustainability In Practice (SIP)</a>	Regional, mainly Napa but also California	Annual	Vineyards and wineries have a onetime application fee of \$500 for members, \$1,000 for non-members; inspector costs (\$100-125/hr); vineyard licensing from \$5-10/acre; winery licensing from \$0.002-0.03/gallon capacity (tanks and barrels). Wine (to use the logo on the bottle) has no application fee; inspector costs (\$100-125/hr); wine licensing from \$0.07-0.16/case.	Water Quality & Conservation; Pest Management; Energy Efficiency; Wildlife Habitat; Business Practices; Vineyard Management; Winery Facility Management; Soil Conservation; Pollution & Waste; Purchasing, Recycling & Waste Reduction; Grape Sourcing & Quality; and Continuing Education.	Participants implement and document sustainable practices across their operation. Practices are verified in annual inspections that vary from full documentation and onsite to offsite documentation review.

**Sonoma County Winegrowers are paying the cost of the Farm Plan/audit for year one of certification in any of the four programs listed above.**

**Funding is available on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, contact Director of Sustainability and Grower Education, Dana Cappelloni, at 707-522-5851 or [Dana@sonomawinegrape.org](mailto:Dana@sonomawinegrape.org)**