

Rating Status: Rated



Rating Date: 3/27/2013

Company Name:
California Safe Soil, LLC



2013 COMPANY RATINGS REPORT

GIIRS ratings are reviewed, rigorous, transparent, comprehensive, and comparable ratings of company impact. GIIRS helps investors make money while solving the world's most challenging problems. GIIRS Driving Capital to Impact



COMPANY RATINGS SUMMARY

Section Weight	Impact Area	Stars	Total Pts (200 Pts Avail.)
OVERALL		★★★★★	136.1
5.0%	Governance Related to a company's mission, stakeholder engagement, governance structure, controls, and overall transparency	★★★★	7.8
20.0%	Workers Focuses on how the company treats its workers through compensation, benefits, training, ownership, and work environment.	★★★★★	29.1
22.5%	Community Covers the company's impact on external community stakeholders	★★	15.7
22.5%	Environment Focuses on indirect and direct environmental impact of the company and its operations	★★★★★	83.4
30%	Socially & Environmentally Focused Business Models (SEM) Highlight a company's core impact business model, amplifying their positive impact beyond simply high impact business practices	N/A	48.0 (Points distributed in their relevant impact areas.)

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Company Description: We recycle organics from supermarkets and, using a unique new technology, digest organics with enzymes to produce a high quality liquid fertilizer called Harvest-to-Harvest, or H2H. We make vermicompost from our solids, so we are 100% recycled.

Company Mission: CSS is a sustainable business, recycling our supermarkets' organics and reducing our farmers' nitrate fertilizer dependency, improving our air, water and soil environment, and employing safe, efficient, and effective solutions to our customers' needs.

Sector: Manufacturing
Primary Market of Operations: Developed

Industry Category: Water, sewerage & waste
Size (# of Employees): 8

Industry: Materials recovery (ISIC 383)
Primary Country of Operations: United States

Products & Services: organic fertilizer, vermicompost
Revenue Range: \$0 - \$1,999,999

B Corporation? No
Date Founded: 2/17/2012

Section Weights: Weighting on a particular impact area within the company's assessment. Weights vary based on the companies sector, size, and geography

Stars: Set ranges based on quintiles of GIIRS Pioneers; reset bi- annually (see below for ranges)

Overall Rating	Overall Points	Impact Stars	GOV Points	WOR Points	COM Points	ENV Points
GIIRS Rated	0 to 79	★	0-2.9	0-17.9	0-12.9	0-0.9
★★★	80-99.9	★★★	3-4.9	18-20.9	12-25.9	5-10.9
★★★★	100-124.9	★★★★	5-6.9	21-23.9	26-38.9	11-24.9
★★★★★	125+	★★★★★	7-8.9	24-28.9	39-69.9	25-39.9
			9+	29+	70+	40+

The material on the ratings report is for informational purposes only, and is not an offer or recommendation to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any security or instrument or to participate in any particular trading strategy. GIIRS's opinions and analyses do not address the suitability of any security. GIIRS does not act as a fiduciary or an investment advisor. While GIIRS has obtained information from sources it believes to be reliable, GIIRS does not perform an audit and undertakes no duty of due diligence or independent verification of any information it receives. Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction.

BENCHMARKING

The charts on this page show the company's performance vs. three benchmark groups (company vs. market, market & sector, and market & size). Data is displayed for the company's overall performance and performance by impact area (governance, workers, community, and environment).

Market: Developed

Sector: Manufacturing

Size (# of Emps): 1-9

■ California Safe Soil, LLC

■ Market (All) 215 companies

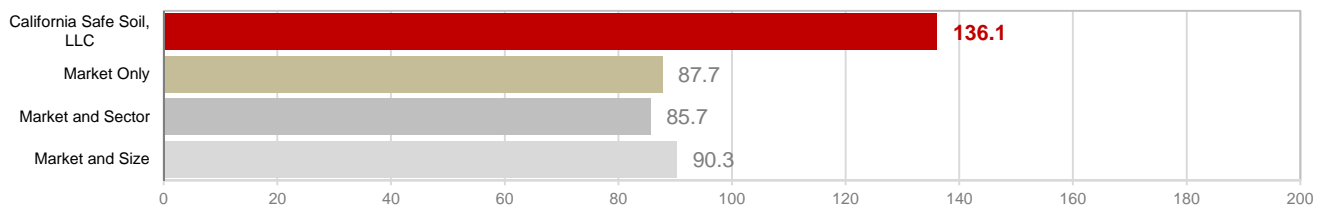
■ Market and Sector

■ Market and Size:

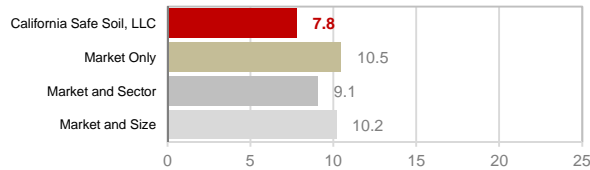
40 companies

96 companies

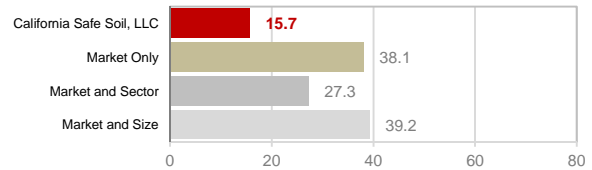
OVERALL RATING



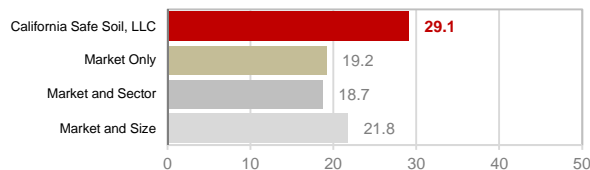
Governance



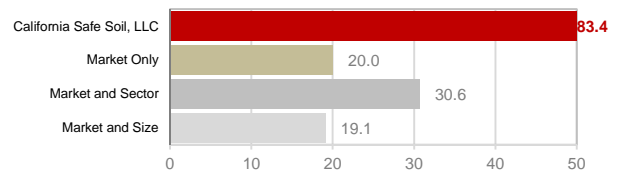
Community



Employees



Environment



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2013 COMPANY RATINGS REPORT

COMPANY RATINGS DETAIL

Section Weight	Impact Areas & Subcategories	Points Earned (Out of 200 total)	Benchmarks (Perf. By Quintile - As of 12/31/11)
	OVERALL ★★★★★	136.1	80-100%
5.0%	Governance ★★★★★	7.8	60-80%
	Corporate Accountability	4.3	40-60%
	Transparency	3.5	60-80%
	SEM: Mission Lock Governance Structure	0.0	---
20.0%	Workers ★★★★★	29.1	80-100%
	Compensation & Benefits	19.2	80-100%
	Worker Ownership	2.0	40-60%
	Worker Environment	5.8	80-100%
	SEM: Worker Ownership	0.0	---
22.5%	Community ★★	15.7	20-40%
	Community Practices	15.3	40-60%
	• Suppliers & Distributors	5.0	60-80%
	• Local Involvement	6.9	80-100%
	• Diversity	0.4	0-20%
	• Job Creation	3.0	60-80%
	• Civic Engagement & Giving	0.0	0-20%
	SEM: Community Practices	0.0	---
	SEM: Socially Oriented Products & Services	0.0	---
	SEM: Serve Those in Need	0.0	---
22.5%	Environment ★★★★★	83.4	80-100%
	Environmental Practices	19.5	80-100%
	• Land, Office, Plant	10.7	80-100%
	• Inputs	12.3	80-100%
	• Outputs	8.5	80-100%
	• Suppliers, Distributors & Transportation		80-100%
	SEM: Environmental Practices	18.0	---
	SEM: Environmental Products & Services	30.0	---
30%	Socially & Environmentally Focused Business Models (SEM)	Points distributed in their relevant impact areas. Each SEM worth up to 30 points.	

Section Weights: Weighting on a particular impact area within the company's assessment. Weights vary based on the companies sector, size, and geography

Quintiles: Set ranges based on quintiles of GIIRS rated companies rated as of the date indicated. Updated quarterly.

In some cases the subcategory scores (corporate accountability, transparency, etc.) may not add up to the impact areas scores (governance, workers, community, and environment) exactly. The difference in scores is not a scoring error, but rather a result of how the GIIRS assessment handles N/A questions in scoring.

Stars: Set ranges based on quintiles of GIIRS Pioneers; reset bi-annually (see below for ranges)

Overall Rating	Overall Points	Impact Stars	GOV Points	WOR Points	COM Points	ENV Points
GIIRS Rated	0 to 79	★	0-2.9	0-17.9	0-12.9	0-0.9
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★★★★★	125+	★★★★★	7-8.9	24-28.9	39-69.9	25-39.9
			9+	29+	70+	40+

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DISCLOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE

The disclosure questionnaire features questions focused on issues typically covered by negative screens. The disclosure questionnaire is not included in a company's rating, but the information from the questionnaire is provided on a company's rating report as context for interested investors.

Industries & Products	Yes	No
Any product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations		√
Alcohol (excluding beer and wine)		√
Commercial logging and logging equipment		√
Firearms, weapons or munitions		√
Genetically modified organisms		√
Mining		√
Nuclear Power		√
Fossil fuel-based oil or coal utility		√
Pornography		√
Tobacco		√
Wildlife or wildlife products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)		√
Penalties, Fines & Sanctions	Yes	No
Animal welfare		√
Diversity and equal opportunity		√
Employee safety or workplace conditions		√
Environmental issues		√
Financial reporting		√
Geographic operations or international affairs		√
Labor issues (internal and supply chain)		√
Marketing		√
Political contributions		√
Product safety		√
Taxes		√

Practices	True	False
Company is formally registered in accordance with domestic regulations	√	
Company facilities are not located adjacent to or in sensitive ecosystems	√	
No animal testing conducted	√	
Company or company supplier does not employ workers under the age of 15 (or other minimum work age covered by the International Labour Organization Convention No. 138)	√	
Overtime work for hourly workers is voluntary (not compulsory)	√	
Company or company suppliers do not use any workers who are prisoners	√	
Company allows workers to freely associate and to bargain collectively for the terms of one's employment	√	
Outcomes	True	False
Company has not had an operational or on-the-job fatality	√	
Company site has not experienced any accidental discharges to air, land or water of hazardous substances	√	
No construction nor operation of company facility has resulted in the relocation of any individuals or households near your facility	√	
No material recalls due to quality control issues	√	
No material litigation against company	√	

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MANAGEMENT

FROM THE MANAGEMENT

CONTACT DETAILS

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Our goal is to have a lasting positive impact on the way supermarkets recycle their organics and on the sustainability of farm practices, first in California, but ultimately across the country. Our H2H manufacturing plants are clean, safe and odor free (come to our plant in West Sacramento, and see for yourself). They can be permitted locally, near the distribution centers of our supermarket customers. We will build H2H storage depots local to our farm customers. H2H is easy for farmers to apply through existing farm equipment. We can produce H2H in large quantities at low cost. It is a highly effective fertilizer. All these factors make it as easy as possible for conventional farms to use H2H and adopt more sustainable farming practices.

We pasteurize H2H, so that it is pathogen free, assuring food safety. Composts and manures, while important contributors to the organic content of farm soils, cannot assure that they are pathogen free. They are possible vectors for infections like salmonella or e coli. The H2H food safety advantage is one of the key reasons the CA Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is supportive of CSS. We also cut GHG emissions, including CO2, methane and nitrous oxide. We have voluntarily submitted successful air quality tests to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), and they have toured our plant. CARB is supportive of CSS. Finally, as we are helping CalRecycle achieve their goal of increasing recycling rates to 75%, we have their support, as well.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Projected Capital Raised in Upcoming FY \$1,000,000.00	Current Investors: Not Provided
------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------

Nitrate runoff into CA's water supplies is a pollution problem currently receiving the attention of the CA state legislature and regulatory agencies. They are considering various forms of tax and regulatory proposals to restrict nitrate fertilizer use and raise funds to pay for clean-up efforts. However, these proposals may also have an adverse impact on the financial viability of family farms in CA. Finding solutions to the nitrate problem without negatively impacting family farms is an important public policy goal in CA, and one where CSS can make a meaningful contribution. CDFA and the CA Water Board are charged with collaborating to resolve the nitrate pollution issue. We have met with both agencies at the highest levels to offer our assistance to help resolve the issue.

There are many diverse soil biological initiatives that can contribute to soil health and reduce the need for nitrate fertilizer. For example, there are natural bio-pesticides and beneficial microbes that various participants are bringing to market in CA. We are working to integrate these solutions with H2H, as the nutrient value in H2H potentially makes it an excellent medium for the successful soil introduction of these natural biological agents. Working in partnership with CA regulators, farmers, researchers at UC Davis, and other natural biological market participants, we are confident that we can come up with solutions to the nitrate pollution problem that actually enhance crop yields and CA family farm economics – all starting from recycled supermarket organics. Very exciting!

*The Management Letter on this page is provided directly by the Fund and has not been validated by GIIRS.

Understanding the Global Impact Investing Rating System (GIIRS)

GIIRS provides an independent judgment of social and environmental impact for both companies and investment funds using a ratings scale of 1 to 5 stars. Through a broad spectrum of questions regarding impact models, practices, policies and achievements, the system is designed to be applicable to a wide range of industries and business models. Also, like impact investing, GIIRS sets itself apart from socially responsible investment ratings, which typically focus on negative screens, as GIIRS ratings recognize only positive impact generated by a company or fund.

Ratings System Overview

The GIIRS assessment and ratings are:

- **Transparent:** Criteria and weightings for each impact area, subcategory and individual question within the assessment are fully transparent.
- **Independently Governed:** Overseen by independent Standards Advisory Council of experts, practitioners, investors and thought leaders.
- **Dynamic:** A new version of the survey is developed every two years.

Unique characteristics:

- **Comprehensive:** Recognizing multiple social impact models as well as >100 multi-stakeholder practices and policies of a sustainable enterprise.
- **Comparable:** Allow investors to compare and aggregate ratings of various company geographies, sectors, and sizes in the same portfolio. Specifically tailored questions and weightings applied in a consistent framework ensure both relevancy and comparability. There are twelve company tracks in domestic markets and sixteen tracks in emerging markets.
- **Adaptable:** Incorporate industry addenda focused on products and services of companies within specific industries. Based on market demand, currently offer financial services addenda for both developed and emerging markets and a building addendum for developed markets. Additional addenda for other industries will be added over time.
- **Positive Impact Focus:** GIIRS ratings focus on the performance generated by a company or fund, rather than on negative screens
- **Appropriate for Private Companies:** Questions tailored for small and medium sized enterprises
- **For Assessment & Improvement:** Companies can use the GIIRS Assessment to both get a GIIRS rating and as a tool to manage their performance overtime

GIIRS

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

I. Social Enterprise Models

Specific models designed to create social and/ or environmental impact through company products or services, target customers, value chain, ownership or operations.

II. Practices

Impactful practices, policies and achievements.

- Governance
- Workers
- Community
- Environment

III. Disclosure Questionnaire

Unweighted disclosures to investors of potentially sensitive issues.

The Verification Process

GIIRS utilizes a three level verification process to ensure accuracy and validity of ratings information. All ratings and reports will be classified by GIIRS according to the level of review undertaken.

Level 1: Assessment Review

Companies engage in a 1-2 hour call with GIIRS staff to review answers, clarify questions and definitions, and ensure proper inputs for calculations.

- Ratings Classification: **Rated**
- Reviewed By: **GIIRS**

Level 2: Documentation Review

Companies are required to provide documentation to support responses to certain questions deemed material by GIIRS. A review of the selected documents will be executed with the assistance of a third-party.

- Ratings Classification: **Reviewed**
- Reviewed By: **3rd Party Services Provider**

Level 3: On-Site Review

Each year 10% of the prior year's GIIRS-rated companies will be selected by GIIRS for an on-site review. An on-site review includes a facilities tour, employee interviews and assessment of additional supporting documentation.

- Ratings Classification: **On-Site Reviewed**
- Reviewed By: **3rd Party Services Provider**

Deloitte & Touche LLP has been retained as the preferred provider of document and on-site review services to assist GIIRS in its validation and rating process. In certain instances, GIIRS or another third-party will conduct documentation and on-site reviews.