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8. **PURPOSE**

Sustainability is engrained in Villanova’s mission as well as our Catholic identity.

Villanova’s mission outlines an encouragement for “students, faculty and staff to engage in service experiences and research, both locally and globally, so they learn from others, provide public service to the community and help create a more sustainable world”, as well as a “worldview that recognizes that all creation is sacred and that fosters responsible stewardship of the environment”.

Pope Francis solidified the Catholic Church’s commitment to sustainability, action to reduce the impact of climate change, and the support for those most impacted from the effects of climate change in his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si (“Care for our Common Home”). Villanova University’s affiliation with the Catholic Church, is informed and guided by its leadership to take concrete steps to address the concerns laid out in Laudato Si.

Villanova University has made many strides in living out our commitment to sustainability. In 2007, Father Peter Donohue signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, committing Villanova to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Since that time, Villanova has expanded our academic sustainability focused offerings, reduced our operational carbon footprint, hired a sustainability manager, and adopted a campus wide sustainability plan. Though there is still much to be done to improve Villanova’s efforts to live out our sustainability commitments.

Purchasing and consumption has a large impact on the environment as well as the social and economic well-being of people all around the world. This guide strives to provide a guideline for purchasers to evaluate a company, product, or service’s sustainability impact using third party verified certification systems to better inform purchasing decisions.

1. **SCOPE**

This policy applies to anyone seeking to spend University funds. While it may not be practical to apply this guide to every purchase, it is important to understand it’s intent and guidance. This policy should be included in all bid based purchases.

1. **DEFINITIONS**

**Tier 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Standard Name** | **General Overview** |
| [B Corp](https://bcorporation.net/certification) | Certified B Corps, are legally required to create benefits for all stakeholders, including local communities and the environment; not just for their shareholders. In their certification process, B Lab assesses a company’s entire social and environmental impact, from the materials it uses throughout the supply chain to the benefits it gives to its employees. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Cradle to Cradle (C2C)](https://www.c2ccertified.org/) | C2C is a globally recognized standard for designing products with the circular economy in mind. To receive certification, products are assessed for environmental and social performance across five critical sustainability categories: material health, material reuse, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship, and social fairness. |
| [GRI Standards](https://www.globalreporting.org/) | Worldwide standard for sustainable reporting that uses an independent, multi-stakeholder process to maintain a comprehensive sustainability reporting standard that is available as a free public good. |

**Tier 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard Name** | **General Overview** | **Certification can be applied to…** |
| [Green Seal](https://www.greenseal.org/) | Grade products and services based on their environmental leadership standards. In addition to health and environmental third-party certifications, Green Seal also tests for performance and quality. | Paint, light bulbs, cleaning services and products, sanitation products, paper, laundry products and services, and more. |
| [EPA Safer Choice](https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice) | Product certification focused on environmental and health safety. A product is only allowed to carry the Safer Choice label if each ingredient is among the safest in its class, as determined by the EPA. The EPA evaluates every ingredient against a stringent set of health and environmental criteria from a chemical perspective. | Cleaning and laundry products |
| [UL ECOLOGO](https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program) | Certifies products, services and packaging based on environmental standards. The ECOLOGO® label indicates that a product has undergone rigorous scientific testing to prove its compliance with third-party, environmental performance standards. | Building material, cleaners, high tech and office products, paper and plastic, and more. |
| California VOC | These standards can be helpful when there are no third-party certifications available from Green Seal, UL ECOLOGO® or U.S. EPA Safer Choice, to gauge a product’s environmental and health impact. Ask your vendor for products that meet the California VOC standard. | Alternative if product is not Green Seal, UL ECOLOGO® or U.S. EPA Safer Choice certified |
| [Energy Star](https://www.energystar.gov/) | Energy Star is a government-backed program that identifies energy efficient products for home, commercial and institutional use. Products with the Energy Star label have passed third-party testing in an EPA-recognized laboratory and meet international standards for quality, have been reviewed by an EPA-recognized certification body and are subject to ongoing testing. | Most common non-high-tech electronics |
| [EPEAT](https://epeat.net/) | EPEAT is an ecolabel for the IT sector, independently verifying manufacturers’ claims. EPEAT is managed by the Green Electronics Council (GEC) | Computers, displays, imaging equipment, mobile phones, servers, and TVs |
| [1% for the Planet](https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org/) | Organizational commitment to donate the equivalent of 1% of gross sales through a combination of monetary, in-kind and approved promotional support directly to environmental nonprofits. Does not reflect the sustainability of the products or services they sell but rather a statement of their values. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [PAS 2060/ Carbon Trust](https://www.carbontrust.com/what-we-do/assurance-and-certification/carbon-neutral-certification) | PAS 2060 was developed and monitored by Carbon Trust with the goal of creating an internationally recognized specification for carbon neutrality by following the highest quality of carbon credits, the Gold Standard. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [Certified Carbon Neutral](https://www.carbonneutral.com/who-we-are) | Certify that companies and businesses have achieved carbon neutrality by reducing energy demand and supporting off site emission reduction projects. Certification allows for a part of a company (like a particular product or service) to be certified carbon neutral. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [CDP Disclosure](https://www.cdp.net/en) | CDP runs the global environmental disclosure system. Each year CDP supports thousands of companies, cities, states and regions to measure and manage their risks and opportunities on climate change, water security and deforestation. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [Biodegradable Products Institute](https://bpiworld.org/) | Provide technically and scientifically credible certifications for materials that biodegrade in biologically active environments. | Range of products including bags, foodservice items, resins and packaging materials |
| [R2](https://sustainableelectronics.org/) | The R2 Standard provides a common set of processes, safety measures, and documentation requirements for businesses that repair and recycle used electronics. R2 is rigorously and independently audited, emphasizing quality, safety, and transparency. | electric repair and recycling services |
| [Terracycle](https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/) | TerraCycle offers solutions for hard to recycle and non-recyclable items. | Partnerships for hard to recycle/repurpose products |
| [Responsible Minerals Initiative](http://www.responsiblemineralsinitiative.org/) | The RMI provides tools and resources to help companies make sourcing decisions that improve regulatory compliance and support responsible sourcing globally, so that minerals supply chains contribute positively to social economic development. | Products that contain rare earth minerals and resources |
| [FSC](https://fsc.org/en) | The Forrest Stewardship Council offers certifications in Forest Management and Chain of Custody. FSC project certification provides third-party verification for projects made of or containing forest-based materials from responsible sources. | Wood and wood based products including cabinetry, furniture and paper products |
| [Certified Fairtrade](https://www.fairtradecertified.org/) | Fair trade certification encompasses rigorous social, environmental, and economic standards. Fair Trade Certified goods are grown and produced in safe and environmentally sound conditions that allow farmers to build a sustainable livelihood, earning additional money to empower and uplift their communities. | produce, clothing, baking & cooking, coffee, snack food, seafood, home goods, body care, chocolate, and more |
| [LEVEL by BIFMA](https://www.levelcertified.org/) | LEVEL seeks to inform consumers about the environmental and social impacts of furniture products. It addresses criteria across corporate, facility and product impacts. | Furniture |
| [Greenguard](https://spot.ul.com/greenguard/) | Greenguard sets standards for Indoor Air Quality. The standard certification gives assurance that products designed for use in indoor spaces meet strict chemical emissions limits, which contribute to the creation of healthier interiors. | Furniture |
| [BREEAM](https://www.breeam.com/) | BREEAM provides a framework for assessment of sustainability for master planning projects, infrastructure, and buildings. | Organizational commitment to BREEAM project certification, or provides consultation services for BREEAM certification |
| [LEED](https://www.usgbc.org/leed) | LEED is a certification through the USGBC. The mission is to increase the health of buildings and increase sustainable construction/ buildings. LEED is for all building types and all building phases including new construction, interior fit outs, operations and maintenance and core and shell. | Organizational commitment to LEED project certification, or provides consultation services for LEED certification. |
| [WELL AP](https://www.wellcertified.com/certification/v2/) | The WELL Building Standard is a vehicle for buildings and organizations to deliver more thoughtful and intentional spaces that enhance human health and well-being. | Organizational commitment to WELL project certification, or provides consultation services for WELL certification |
| [WBENC](https://www.wbenc.org/about-wbenc) | The Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) is the largest certifier of women-owned businesses in the U.S. and a leading advocate for women business owners and entrepreneurs. WBENC Certification validates that a business is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, operated and managed by a woman or women. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [MBE](https://nmsdc.org/mbes/what-is-an-mbe/) | Minority group members are United States citizens who are Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American. Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51% owned by such individuals or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals i.e. the management and daily operations are controlled by those minority group members. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [NWBOC's  WBE/MBE/VBE](http://www.nwboc.org/basicinfo.html) | The women business enterprise (WBE), minority business enterprise (MBE) and veteran business enterprise (VBE) certifications are based on the gender, race or veteran status of a business owner (51% or more). | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [Vets First](https://www.va.gov/osdbu/verification/) | The Vets First Verification Program affords verified firms owned and controlled by Veterans and Service-disabled Veterans the opportunity to apply for Vets First classification. | Applicable to all potential suppliers |
| [ISO 18601 Standards: Sustainable Packing](https://www.iso.org/standard/55869.html) | ISO 18601: 2013 Packaging and the environment- specifies requirements and procedures for the other International Standards in this series on packaging and the environment: ISO 18602, ISO 18603, ISO 18604, ISO 18605, and ISO 18606. All procedures for applying for the following are contained under ISO 18601. | Applicable to product focused suppliers. |
| [Sustainable Packing Coalition Guidelines](https://sustainablepackaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Definition-of-Sustainable-Packaging.pdf) | Per the Sustainable Packaging Coalition, Sustainable packaging: 1. Is beneficial, safe & healthy for individuals and communities throughout its life cycle; 2. Meets market criteria for performance and cost; 3. Is sourced, manufactured, transported, and recycled using renewable energy; 4. Optimizes the use of renewable or recycled source materials; 5. Is manufactured using clean production technologies and best practices; 6. Is made from materials healthy throughout the life cycle; 7. Is physically designed to optimize materials and energy; 8. Is effectively recovered and utilized in biological and/or industrial closed loop cycles. | Applicable to product focused suppliers. Alternative if product is not ISO 18601 certified. Request their alignment with these sustainable packing principles. |

1. **POLICY STATEMENT**

As part of Villanova’s larger commitment to sustainability, departments are encouraged to make purchases that adhere to certain sustainability standards. These standards have been selected to help University members make informed decisions about products and services regarding their social and environmental impacts. The aim is to promote the purchase of products that are:

* Durable, and multiuse as compared to disposable items
* Non-toxic and/or biodegradable
* Energy efficient
* Recyclable, or able to be disposed of safely
* Made from raw materials that have been obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
* Cause minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
* Shipped with minimal packaging
* Produced by organizations that support social equities

1. **PROCEDURE**

When researching, bidding, or reviewing new products or services use this guideline for assessing a company, product or service’s sustainability attribute. This is meant to guide decision making and provide a clear outline of how to assess one’s commitment to sustainability.

There are hundreds of environmental and sustainability third party certifications, this guide outlines a handful deemed as high quality and repeatable.

**Tier 1**

These certification standards demonstrate overarching company-wide commitments to sustainability and responsible operation on the part of the company. If a company is certified with any of these tier 1 certifications, it should be given preference during selection.

See “Definitions" for additional information regarding these standards and certifications.

**Tier 2**

Tier 2 certifications reflect more specialized sets of standards. If an appropriate Tier 1 vendor is not available for the product or service in question, a vendor with a tier 2 certification may be selected. The tier 2 certification selected should be applicable to the desired product or service ie. Green Seal for cleaning products.

In the absence of other products or services meeting tier 1 standards, preference should be given to the product or service that qualifies for one or more of these tier 2 standards.

See “Definitions" for additional information regarding these standards and certifications.

If none of the available products or services meet either Tier 1 or Tier 2 certification standards, but do hold another sustainability related third party certification, prioritize those who hold those certifications.

If you would like to request a third-party certification be added to this policy please contact the university sustainability manager, Liesel Schwarz (liesel.schwarz@villanova.edu)

1. **RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT**

Responsible Officer Sustainability Manager

Responsible Office name Facilities

General Telephone Number 610-519-7988

1. **RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT**

Responsible Officer (title only)

Name of Oversight Office

Address, City, State

General Telephone Number