

GREEN PURCHASING



PURPOSE

Green Purchasing is buying products that help conserve natural resources, save energy and reduce waste.

UNDERSTAND THE CERTIFICATION SEALS

MATERIAL CONTENT



SCS CERTIFIED RECYCLED CONTENT A product containing pre-consumer or post-consumer materials.

RECYCLED CONTENT CERTIFICATION Recycled content in manufacturing is an important strategy to reduce carbon emissions. Pre-consumer (materials diverted from *manufacturing waste stream* and used to make a new product) and post-consumer (materials used in manufacturing that are diverted from the *consumer waste stream*) designations are indicated on customized symbols and recycled content is expressed quantitatively as a percentage.

GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD World's leading processing standard for textiles made with organic textiles defining high-level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain and in compliance with social criteria.

GENERAL CERTIFICATION



GREEN SEAL North American certification body that has been audited by the Global Eco-labeling Network. In collaboration with industry, government, academia and the public to create their science-based standards. It represents compliance with a rigorous set of criteria designed to achieve leadership levels in sustainability.

UL ENVIRONMENT Underwriters Laboratories, one of the country's largest certification bodies, now offers a service to validate a variety of sustainable claims.

ECOLOGO North America's largest, most respected environmental standard and certification mark assuring the products and services meet stringent standards of environmental leadership.

Consider these before purchasing:

- Is the product or service necessary?
- Do you need to purchase your own item, or can your requirements be met by renting or sharing?
- What is the lifespan for the product?
- How long will it last?
- Can the product serve any purpose after its initial use?

When choosing a product think:

- Is it appropriate and cost effective?
- Is it energy and resource efficient?
- How long is its lifespan? Is it durable, repairable, or upgradable?
- Is it reusable or recyclable?
- Is it made with or does it contain harmful chemicals (chlorine bleached paper, bio- accumulative toxins, BPA in plastics, etc.)

Look for products that show a label by a certified entity.

- Buy products that use less virgin materials and more post-consumer materials (recycled materials).
- Labels help you find and trust the world's most sustainable products and enable you to be a responsible consumer.

PAPER & WOOD



FSC CERTIFIED (Forest Stewardship Council)- Certification accrediting responsible consumption of forest products.

PROCESSED CHLORINE FREE & TOTALLY CHLORINE FREE Reserved for recycled content paper with at least 30% post consumer content.

BUILDING PRODUCTS & FURNITURE



LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) LEED is a U.S. green building program that promotes sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, sustainable materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Based on a point scale certification level.

GREENGUARD Certifies manufacturing standards for interior products and materials that have low chemical emissions to improve the air quality in which the products are used.

FLOOR SCORE Flooring products manufacturing standard and certification process in compliance with rigorous air quality and low-VOC emissions requirements.

LEVEL Sustainability standard and third party certification program for the furniture industry.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE



CERTIFIED HUMANE RAISED AND HANDLED Standards including no antibiotics or hormones, cage-free raising practices and audited slaughter.

FAIR TRADE CERTIFIED Validates ethical practices internationally.

USDA ORGANIC Criteria within the USDA for processing and handling of food in absence of pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics and growth hormones.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS & ENERGY USE



ENERGY STAR Run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a voluntary program rating appliances, electronics and lighting fixtures on energy efficiency. Also as a certification given to new homes.

ENERGY GUIDE Estimates amount of energy that a product will use and its yearly cost and also provides information comparing it to average usage for the type of product.

WATER DELIVERY



WATERSENSE Issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for products that are 20% more water-efficient than the average in the same category. Categories such as toilets, faucets, urinals and showerheads.

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