



## Environmentally Preferable Product Certifications to Look For



**Biodegradable Products Institute** is a non-profit organization that certifies products that will biodegrade in a commercial composting facility. Products must meet ASTM standards they will biodegrade leaving no synthetic residues. See <http://www.bpiworld.org/>.



**Chlorine-free Products Association** is a nonprofit organization that certifies chlorine-free products such as copy paper, envelopes and tissue products. See [www.chlorinefreeproducts.org](http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org).



**Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)** is an independent program that certifies "green" electronic equipment such as computers, monitors and laptops. New standards are being developed covering more categories of electronics. See [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).



**Energy Star**, a joint program of the US Department of Energy and US Environmental Protection Agency, lists qualified energy-efficient products (such as lighting, exit signs, appliances and office equipment). See [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



**EcoLogo** is environmental product certification program based in Canada. It has set standards for hundreds of product categories (including paper, paint, cleaners, office furniture, and building materials), and certifies products that meet them. Many products are sold in the U.S. See [www.ecologo.org/en/](http://www.ecologo.org/en/)



**e-Stewards** *e-Stewards* is a nonprofit organization that certifies electronic recyclers who recycle in an environmentally responsible manner, including not sending electronics to developing countries, not landfilling or incinerating materials, and not using prison labor to recycle electronic parts. See [www.e-stewards.org](http://www.e-stewards.org).



**Forest Stewardship Council** certifies that wood, and paper products made from wood, originated from certified, well-managed forests or other preferable sources, such as recycled materials. See [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org).



**Green Seal** is a nonprofit organization that set standards through a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based process for products (such as janitorial cleaners, floor strippers, and paints) and services (including hotels and cleaning services) and certifies they meet those standards. See [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org).



**Green-e** is a labeling program established by the nonprofit organization, Center for Resource Solutions, which verifies through its Green-e Energy label that electricity that has been generated using renewable sources such as solar and wind energy. See [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org).



**Greenguard** is a nonprofit organization that certifies products with reduced impact on indoor air quality (referred to low volatile organic compounds or VOCs). Certified products include flooring, paints, commercial furniture, and cleaning products. Some labels reflect varying levels of impact on air quality. Prefer GREENGUARD "Children and Schools" and the new "Premier" label for the lowest indoor air impacts. See [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org).



**Scientific Certification Systems** is a private company that certifies a variety of green claims including "Recycled content," "Organic" or low volatile organic compounds (VOCs). See [www.scs-certified.com](http://www.scs-certified.com).



**TransFair** is a third party certification program using a Fair Trade label on import products certifying that they have been manufactured and sold under fair and safe working conditions. Products include coffee, tea, fruit, flowers, and chocolate. See [www.transfairusa.org](http://www.transfairusa.org).



**US Department of Agriculture (USDA)** developed national standards for organically produced agricultural products to assure consumers that agricultural products marketed as organic meet consistent, uniform standards on the use of pesticides and fertilizers and other approved methods used to grow, harvest and process food and other agricultural products; See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/>.

## Other Environmental Purchasing Resources



**US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)** developed the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) that recommend minimum recycled-content levels for over 50 products, including copy paper, paper products, landscaping, and construction products. These guidelines are frequently cited on product labels. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/index.htm>. US EPA has also developed several tools to help facilitate EPP, <http://www.epa.gov/epp/>, including a database that provides specifications, purchasing guides, case studies and sample policies.

Practice Greenhealth offers environmentally preferable resources and some items are available publicly, including EPP case studies and policies. See [www.practicegreenhealth/educate/purchasing](http://www.practicegreenhealth/educate/purchasing).