

Sustainable Certifications

LOGO	WHO	WHERE	WHAT IT MEANS
	Biodegradable Products Institute www.bpiworld.org	Plastic products	Certifies that plastic products with “biodegradable” claims will safely break down in a typical commercial composting facility.
	B Corporation¹ A nonprofit dedicated to using the power of business to solve social and environmental problems. www.bcorporation.net	Businesses and products from many economic sectors	The company has earned a passing score (80 out of 200) after being rated on a range of factors related to its environmental and social practices.
	Certified Humane	Animal products	Meets the Humane Farm Animal Care program standards: animals are fed a nutritious diet without antibiotics or hormones and are raised with shelter, resting areas, sufficient space, and the ability to engage in natural behaviors
	Chlorine-free Products Association www.chlorinefreeproducts.org	Mostly paper products	Certifies that the product is chlorine-free.
	EcoLogo Canada’s environmental product certification program www.ecologo.org/en	Consumer products	Has issued standards for over 300 product categories many of which are sold in the United States.
	Energy Star² A program launched by the EPA in the 1990s to reduce energy consumption www.energystar.gov	Appliances, electronics, and lighting fixtures	Indicates that a third-party agency has tested the product for energy efficiency.
EPPnet	Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Network (EPPNet) www.nerc.org/eppnet/index.html	Environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices	A free electronic list-serve that provides subscribers with quick access to EPP policies, specifications, vendors, pricing and performance information.
	e-Stewards e-stewards.org/certificationoverview	Mostly paper products	Certifies that recyclers of electronic equipment adhere to the highest standard of environmental responsibility and worker protection.
	Forest Stewardship Council³ A nonprofit that advocates for the responsible care of forests. www.fsc.org	Paper and wood products	Affirms that businesses are sourcing paper and wood from suppliers that use sustainable forestry practices such as erosion control and that preserve habitats and watersheds.
	Fair Trade USA www.transfairusa.org	Coffee, tea, chocolate, and rice	Certifies that imported food products were manufactured and sold under fair and safe working conditions.

¹Larger companies pay up to \$25,000 per year to be certified; small businesses pay \$500.

²An audit showed that fake products, including a gasoline powered alarm clock, could earn the label. The system has since been reformed.

³Certification costs money. Also, some of the council’s leaders have financial ties to operations certified by the group.

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	Green-e Established by nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions www.green-e.org	Renewable energy	Verifies that electricity has been generated using renewable sources such as solar and wind.
	Green Electronics Council ⁴ A nonprofit that brings focus to the special issues of electronics and sustainability. www.greenelectronicscouncil.org	Computers, monitors, and other electronic devices	Products are awarded a gold, silver, or bronze seal based on their efficiency level and the manufacturer's commitment to reducing toxic materials and lengthening the product's life cycle.
	Greenguard A nonprofit organization www.greenguard.org	Low VOC products, including flooring, paints, and furniture	Certifies products that improve indoor air quality.
	Green Seal ⁵ A nonprofit that has been helping organizations be greener in a real and effective way since 1989. www.green-seal.org	Paper, paint, restaurants, hotels, and many other goods and services	It depends on the products or service. Soap must be free of carcinogens, for instance, and hotels must have water-saving fixtures.
	Health Care Without Harm An international coalition of environmental organizations and institutions www.noharm.org	Purchasing policies for medical facilities	Works to implement ecologically sound and healthy alternatives to health care practices.
	Marine Stewardship Council ⁶ Develops standards for sustainable fishing and seafood traceability. www.msc.org	Seafood	Certifies that seafood comes from fisheries that don't contribute to over fishing or environmental degradation.
	National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) www.naspo.org/content.cfm/id/Green_Guide	State Purchasing Officials	A Green Purchasing Resource Guide to help state officials navigating purchasing decisions.
	Rainforest Alliance ⁷ A nonprofit that works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods. www.rainforest-alliance.org	Food and produce	Awarded to operations that take measurable actions to reduce water pollution, soil erosion, deforestation, and waste as well as to improve worker conditions. Using certain pesticides can disqualify a company.
	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) A member-based network of procurement stakeholders www.responsiblepurchasing.org	Procurement	An online clearinghouse of information on EPP policies, programs, purchasing guides, reports, upcoming events and other related resources.
	Scientific Certification Systems www.scs-certified.com	Biodegradable" and "recycled content" products	Verifies green claims such as "biodegradable" or "contains recycled content."

⁴EPEAT's board of advisers includes manufacturers whose products have earned the seal and retailers who sell products with the seal.

⁵Certification costs money.

⁶The factors used to define a fishery as "sustainable" have been criticized for being too broad.

⁷Producers must pay for certification.

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	Smart Choices Program	PepsiCo. products	Products have specific requirements related to Daily Value of a targeted nutrient, limitations for fats, cholesterol, sodium, and sugar, or are formulated to have specific health or wellness benefits, such as reduced calories.
	Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium A collaboration of US states, local governments and other public agencies www.buysweatfree.org	Manufacturing	Ensure that purchases are manufactured in lawful conditions, monitors industry compliance.
	UL Environment www.ulenvironment.com	Carpeting, flooring, IT equipment, and office furniture	Validates environmental claims relating to recycled content, energy and water efficiency, degradability, VOC content and more.
	U.S. Department of Agriculture⁸ www.usda.gov	Food and personal care items	The product is free of hormones, antibiotics, genetic engineering, synthetic fertilizers, and most synthetic pesticides. If a product has multiple ingredients, at least 95 percent of them must be organic.
	US Department of Agriculture's BioPreferred Program www.biopreferred.gov/aboutus.aspx	Products containing plant-based material	A voluntary initiative that labels products containing plant-based material.
	US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm	Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines	Guidelines that recommend minimum recycled-content levels and provides EPP tools such as bid specifications and policies, product lists, fact sheets, and case studies.
	Watersense⁹ An EPA program that promotes water-efficient products, programs, and practices. www.epa.gov/watersense	Water-using fixtures and new homes	The EPA licenses various organizations to certify products' water efficiency. New homes must have a front yard that's on a water budget.
	Whole Trade Guarantee	Whole Foods products	Assures customers that foods imported from the developing world are being traded ethically, helping other countries increase income, crops, and business practices.

⁸Farmers can use certain synthetic pesticides and still get the seal.

⁹The program partners with KB Home, a housing manufacturer that the EPA fined in 2008 for violating the Clean Water Act.