

There are many independent third party organizations that provide certifications for “green” products across various fields. These logos help consumers identify products that have had their claims of environmental benefits verified. By buying products that have been independently verified, consumers can be sure that they are getting a product that will be safe for the environment. Here are a few of the major Eco Labels, and the products that they cover:



## California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard

<http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/green/epp/standards.pdf>

Product(s): Modular tile and broadloom carpet

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** The California Department of General Services developed the California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard for purchase of carpet for new construction, renovations, leases, Contract Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS), and replacement. Carpet vendors conducting business with the state are required to provide proof of independent third-party certification.



## Chlorine Free Products Association (CFPA)

<http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org/index.html>

Product(s): Paper products, paper pulp

Attribute(s): No chlorine use, no old growth, PCW recycled-content (PCF only)

**Summary:** Independent, not-for-profit accreditation & standard setting organization promoting third-party certified chlorine-free products and services. The CFPA has no financial interest in any of the companies whose products it certifies. Two certifications are issued: Processed Chlorine-Free (PCF) and Totally Chlorine-Free (TCF).



## EcoLogo

<http://www.environmentalchoice.com/en/>

Product(s): Over 300 product categories including: cleaners, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** EcoLogo is the certification mark for the Environmental Choice program of Canada's national environmental agency. The certification program is conducted by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, a private, for profit environmental marketing services company located in Ottawa, Ontario.



## ENERGY STAR

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

Product(s): Over 50 categories including: electronics, lighting, and more

Attribute(s): Energy consumption

**Summary:** A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy certifying energy-efficient products.



## EPEAT

<http://www.epeat.net/>

Product(s): Desktop computers, integrated systems, monitors, notebooks

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an environmental certification program for electronics managed by the Green Electronics Council. The standards for computer products were developed by an IEEE stakeholder process that included government, environmental and health advocates, and industry. Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels of certification are available.



## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

<http://www.fsc.org/>

Product(s): Forest products, including paper

Attribute(s): Multiple social and environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** FSC sets social and environmental standards for forestry and forest products and accredits third-party certifiers who issue FSC certifications for forestry practices and chain of custody products.



## Green-e

<http://www.green-e.org/>

Product(s): Renewable energy certificates, utility green pricing programs, competitive market electricity, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** Green-e is a non-profit certification and verification program administered by the Center for Resource Solutions, based in San Francisco.



## Green Seal

<http://www.greenseal.org/>

Product(s): Over 40 product categories including: cleaners, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

**Summary:** Founded in 1989, Green Seal is a non-profit environmental standards-setting and certification agency based in Washington D.C. Standards are developed through an open stakeholder process. Evaluation of products and practices to be certified to Green Seal standards is done by its technical staff and external auditors and includes a comprehensive review of the product/practice components, supporting data, product/practice performance, and an on-site audit to ensure that all of a standards criteria are met. Certification requires annual monitoring to ensure continued compliance.



## GREENGUARD

<http://www.greenguard.org/en/index.aspx>

Product(s): Over 15 product categories including: cleaners, office electronics, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Indoor air quality

Summary: The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute is an independent non-profit, ANSI-authorized standards developer that offers three air emissions certifications: Indoor Air Quality; Children and Schools; and Building Construction.



## Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)

<http://www.scs-certified.com/>

Product(s): Electricity, food and agriculture, manufacturing (including carpets and rugs), forest products (including FSC paper), fisheries and more

Attribute(s): Single and multiple social and environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: SCS is a third-party provider of certification, testing and auditing services, and standards.



## State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC)

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/StateAgency/>

Product(s): Paint, Tires, and Paper

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: SABRC is a joint effort by California's Integrated Waste Management Board and the Department of General Services to implement State law requiring all State agencies to purchase recycled-content products.



## Comprehensive Procurement Guide (CPG)

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/cpg/index.htm>

Product(s): Paper, Toner, Tires

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: The EPA created the CPG in order to promote the use of recycled solid waste in production and purchasing. If the EPA designates a product type to the guide, all federal agencies must purchase those products meeting CPG's minimum recovered content requirements.



## Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS)

<https://stars.aashe.org/>

Summary: STARS is a voluntary, self-reporting framework for gauging relative progress toward sustainability for colleges and universities.