Third Party Certification
for Environmentally Preferable Products

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 a reputable organization. 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, such as recycled fibers
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/

Product(s):	Paper products, paper pulp
Attribute(s):	Chlorine free
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).

Comprehensive Procurement Guide (CPG)
http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/index.htm

Product(s):	Paper, Toner, Tires
Attribute(s):	Mutliple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle, such as the reduction of solid waste and recycling
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.

EcoLogo

http://www.ecologo.org/en/

Product(s):	Over 300 product categories including: cleaners, paints, and more
Attribute(s):	Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle, such as low VOC, low toxicity, biodegradable
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):	Reduced 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, such as reduced energy consumption
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, such as sustainable forest management and protection of biodiversity
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, such as renewable energy sources and reduced greenhouse gases
Summary:	Green-e is a non-profit certification and verification program administered by the Center for Resource Solutions, based in San Francisco.

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, ANSIauthorized standards developer that offers three air emissions certifications: Indoor Air Quality; Children and Schools; and Building Construction.

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, such as low VOC, low toxicity, and biodegradable
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.

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)

http://www.scscertified.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, such as organic and sustainable agriculture and sustainable forest management
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, such as reducing, reusing, and recycling
Summary:	SABRC is a joint effort by CalRecycle and the Department of General Services to implement State law requiring all State agencies to purchase recycled-content products.

WaterSense
http://www.epa.gov/watersense/

Product(s):	Faucets, toilets, urinals, showerheads, irrigation controllers
Attribute(s):	Water conservation and efficiency
Summary:	In partnership with the EPA, WaterSense works to promote water conservation. WaterSense seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services.

Green Power Partnership
http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/index.htm

Product(s):	Electricity produced from solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact small hydroelectric sources.
Attribute(s):	Avoided environmental impacts and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
Summary:	The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to use green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use.