

Top Green Labels Guide: Buying products that are certified by reputable firms is a straightforward way to practice sustainability. Label requirements are great sources for bid specs and RFP criteria.



Universal recycling symbol, designates recyclable materials in a product or its packaging. Influenced the creation of other symbols including the [Plastic Bottle Material Code System](#)—three chasing arrows with a number inside designating the plastic resin from which the product is made.



Whole Foods. This symbol assures customers that foods imported from the developing world are being traded ethically, helping other countries increase income, crops and business practices.



Energy Star is a joint program between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to help consumers save money and protect the environment. Since 1992, it has been a trusted source when it comes to cost-effective and energy-efficient products.



Transfair USA certifies Fair Trade. Their label guarantees each product is manufactured following strict social, environmental and economic guidelines



Organic crops raised w/o conventional pesticides, petroleum-based fertilizers or sewage sludge-based fertilizers. Animals must be fed organic feed and given access to the outdoors. No antibiotics or growth hormones allowed.



Rainforest Alliance. The certification is a set of rigorous standards in forestry and agriculture used to evaluate farms being considered for the label. Its strict guidelines protect the environment, wildlife, workers and local communities.



From PepsiCo. 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.



Center for Resource Solutions has two certifications and one verification program to let consumers know the products they are buying have been produced using a set amount of renewable energy.

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Indicates meeting 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.



The EcoLogo Program, founded in 1988 by the Canadian government, is one of two such programs in North America that meets ISO 14024* standards for eco-labeling. Certification requires third party verification.



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the most recognized third-party green building certification in existence.



Scientific Certification Systems is a global leader in third party certification and verification of environmental, sustainability, stewardship, food quality, food safety and food purity claims. Bearers of this label can claim the highest level of environmental performance and social accountability based on life cycle assessment methodologies.



EPEAT helps purchasers evaluate, compare and select electronic products based on their environmental attributes. It currently covers desktop and laptop computers, thin clients, workstations and computer monitors.



BioPreferred is a Federally administered program created by the 2002 Farm Bill to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorized the voluntary labeling program, among other things, for broad consumer marketing of biobased products. The labeling program is in development.



Green Seal provides science-based environmental certification standards that are credible and transparent; since 1991 hundreds of products from well-known brands have been certified and 180 product categories of certification have been developed.



The EPA has an entire website (www.epa.gov/epp) devoted to environmentally preferred purchasing that covers policies, guidelines, ten categories of products, information for vendors and more.

*International Standards Organization