



## ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

**Disclaimer:** The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality supports and recognizes the contributions of these companies to the conservation and wise use of natural resources in the State of Michigan, however, the department is not endorsing the use or purchase of any particular product containing these certifications associated herein.

### **Important EPP Certifications to Look For**



**Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)** is an independent program that certifies “green” electronic equipment such as computers, monitors and laptops. See [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).

**Energy Star** is a joint program of the US Department of Energy and US Environmental Protection Agency where you can find certified energy-efficient products (such as light fixtures, exit signs, appliances and office equipment). See [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



**Environmental Choice** is Canada’s environmental product certification program. It has issued standards for over 300 product categories (such as flooring, paint, electricity, cleaners, office equipment, and paper products), many of which are sold in California. See [www.environmentalchoice.com/English/ECP%20Home](http://www.environmentalchoice.com/English/ECP%20Home).



**Forest Stewardship Council** certifies lumber and other building products made with sustainably harvested wood or that reduce wood consumption; go to [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org).



**Green Seal** is a nonprofit organization that set standards for products (such as janitorial cleaners, floor strippers, and paints) and certifies products that meet those standards. Find certified products, standards, and *Choose Green Reports* at [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org).

**Green-e** is a labeling program established by the nonprofit organization, Center for Resource Solutions, which verifies 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 that impact indoor air quality. Find products (such as flooring, paints, furniture, and cleaning products) with low VOCs and other emissions. Some are certified for use near children: [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org).

**Scientific Certification Systems** verifies green claims such as “biodegradable” or “contains recycled content”. SCS also oversees compliance with the California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard and other environmental certifications; see [www.sccertified.com](http://www.sccertified.com).





**TransFair** maintains a Fair Trade label issued to companies that import products such as coffee, tea, chocolate and rice that have been manufactured and sold under fair and safe working conditions. For a list of certified products, go to [www.transfairusa.org](http://www.transfairusa.org).

**US Department of Agriculture** allows use of its organic label for products meeting federal standards that address pesticide and fertilizer use as well as other approved methods used to grow, harvest and process food and other agricultural products. Information about this organic certification program can be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/).



## **Other EPP Resources**



**Green Purchasing Institute** provides hands-on technical support to local governments on EPP issues, including the development of environmental purchasing policies, bid specifications, contract language and outreach materials. Email: [info@greenpurchasing.org](mailto:info@greenpurchasing.org).

**GreenSpec Directory** is a paper and online directory that lists over 2,100 environmentally preferable building products based on uniform environmental criteria. It can be found at [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com).



**StopWaste** is a public agency in Alameda County that promotes waste prevention, recycling and EPP. It offers an EPP resource guide, model policy, and fact sheets on rechargeable batteries, remanufactured toner cartridges, recycled content recreation and transportation products, and environmentally preferable cleaning and office products. See [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org).



**Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)** is a member-based network of procurement stakeholders that maintains an online clearinghouse of information on EPP policies, programs, purchasing guides, reports, upcoming events and other related resources. See [www.responsiblepurchasing.org](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org).



**US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)** has developed Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines that recommend minimum recycled-content levels for dozens of products. For more information, go to [www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm](http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm). US EPA has also developed a suite of tools to help facilitate EPP, including a database listing:



- Contract language, specifications, and policies created by federal, state and local governments;
- Vendor lists of product brands that meet federal EPP standards; and
- EPP Updates, guidance documents, fact sheets, and case studies.



*This fact sheet was compiled by The Green Purchasing Institute; please email [info@greenpurchasing.org](mailto:info@greenpurchasing.org) with any questions or comments.*

*Additional information provided by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*