

EPP can include buying products that:

- . Are less hazardous to human health
- . Are less hazardous to environmental receptors
- . Are less hazardous to environmental media
- . Are reusable or more durable
- . Are made from recycled materials
- . Are made from renewable materials
- . Are sustainably harvested
- . Are without special disposal management concerns
- . Conserve energy
- . Conserve water
- . Strengthen local economies
- . Are without excessive packaging
- . Are not associated with human rights violations
- . Are produced by socially responsible corporations

EPP contributes to:

- Lowering operational costs (energy, water, waste management, special management, compliance)
- Lowering exposure risks to consumers
- Reducing pollution of the environment
- Worker safety and related productivity improvements
- Lowering disposal costs
- Lowered costs for community (waste management, environmental enforcement, health costs)
- Reduced depletion of natural resources and preservation of habitat and cultures
- Long-term continuity of our high standard of living

The Concept, Presented Simply:

Pick a product category

Study the related environmental health and responsibility issues

Know any applicable laws and guidelines

Determine what criteria you want to use to rank products

Determine how you will use (e.g., weigh) the criteria in making purchasing choices (grades of preference to mandatory)

Determine what evidences are necessary for a product to qualify or be scored

Determine whether cost adjustments will be allowed

Determine how performance of the product will be considered

Develop the process for solicitations

Construct the process for applying and selecting

Determine how you will continuously improve the program

Example from Minnesota EPP Guide

OVERVIEW

Plastic lumber, made from recycled plastics, is commonly used for a variety of different purposes. Applications include decking, retaining walls and playground equipment. Recycled plastic lumber is recognized as an environmentally preferable alternative to hardwoods from endangered forests and a non-toxic substitute to pressure-treated wood. Recycled plastic lumber is also highly regarded among the discarded consumer plastics market because the use of plastic lumber helps keep materials out of landfills and incinerators. Recycled plastic lumber helps to reduce the consumption of natural resources, thereby reducing the impacts that resource extraction can have on human health and the environment.

Example, continued

PERFORMANCE

The performance of recycled plastic lumber depends on the type and amount of materials used, as well as the process utilized in materials production. This type of lumber can be used instead of wood when manufacturing many products; however the two do have different physical and mechanical properties. Time and temperature determine the properties of plastic lumber. Dimensional changes from temperature are greater in plastic lumber than in wood, while wood experiences dimensional instability with water contact. Despite these differences, recycled plastic lumber offers many advantages over wood products. Advantages include:

- Rarely cracks or splinters
- Resists rot, mildew and termites
- Weather and graffiti resistant
- Unaffected by bacteria, worms, insects, fungi or rodents
- Can be painted or stained when wood or other natural fiber is incorporated

- Provides good shock-absorbing surface for pedestrian traffic
- No waterproofing, staining or regular maintenance required
- Is long lasting, sometimes lasting more than 50 years, depending on the product
- Is sold in a variety of standard dimensional sizes, colors and textures
- Is aesthetically pleasing. Can be manufactured to meet different designs and appearance specifications.

Availability

The market for plastic lumber is increasing quickly. Plastic lumber first emerged in the late 1980's. Since then, plastic lumber products have gone through a great deal of developmental advancements that have helped enhance their performance, reduce their prices, and increase their availability.

Manufacturing of these products has

improved the mechanical properties of current products.

Many projects can be completed with plastic lumber including decking, marine docks, retaining walls, bridges, railroad ties, pallets, playground equipment, animal stalls, and sound barriers.

Cost

Recycled plastic lumber costs about 20-50 percent more than wood; however return on investment ranges from two to four years when reduced maintenance and replacement costs are considered. Recycled plastic lumber may also be reused. In addition, many manufacturers offer free replacement for planks that crack or splinter, and guarantee their product to last up to 50 years. Prices of recycled plastic lumber are expected to decrease as demand increases and

technology improves, while wood prices are expected to continue increasing.

Specifications

Consider incorporating the following specifications into your next bid for recycled plastic lumber:

- Recycled plastic lumber must meet ASTM D6662 "Standard Specification for Polyolefin-Based Plastic Lumber Decking Boards".
- Recycled plastic lumber must meet the US EPA's Comprehensive Purchasing Guidelines for post-consumer recycled content and total recovered content in plastic lumber.

Resources

Healthy Building Network (HBN).

HBN's guide is the first to rate plastic lumber strictly on environmental and public health priorities.

www.healthybuilding.net/plastic_lumber

Plastic Lumber Trade Association.

Publishes reports on the State of the Plastic Lumber Industry and promotes the engineering, art and science, marketing and procurement of recycled plastic lumber and other recycled plastic lumber products.

www.plasticlumber.org

Responsible Purchasing Network

Responsible Purchasing Guides

Our guides outline the scope and impact of responsible purchasing, and provide model purchasing policies and practices. They are available online or in print. Each guide includes:

- A social and environmental issues overview
- Best practices for implementing a responsible purchasing program
- Model policies and specifications
- Explanations of standards and certifications
- A list of products meeting our recommended criteria
- The latest responsible purchasing news

Expert Advice

RPN offers a variety of communications channels to learn from and network with peers and experts.

- Online Discussions Forums—network with your peers; share solutions; and discuss current products, policies, specs, and standards.
- RPN Support—RPN staff and partners are available for direct consultation via phone and email to provide product, policy, and specification advice.

Events & Seminars

RPN hosts events online, in-person, and teleconference workshops covering a range of cutting edge purchasing topics. Fees vary, but RPN members are entitled to free or discounted registration.

Consulting Services

We can help you develop purchasing policies, calculate financial and environmental costs and benefits, and design contract specifications. Preferred rates available for members. Grant-funded consulting is also available on a competitive as-available basis.

Publications

Members receive a complimentary copy of our annual Responsible Purchasing Trends report surveying trends in responsible purchasing. Members also have access to an online library of books, videos, articles, and slide presentations available at low or no cost.

ECOLABELLING

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has identified three broad types of voluntary labels, with ecolabelling fitting under the Type I designation.

Voluntary Environmental Performance Labelling -- ISO Definitions

Type I: a voluntary, multiple-criteria based, third party program that awards a license that authorizes the use of environmental labels on products indicating overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on life cycle considerations

Type II: informative environmental self-declaration claims

Type III: voluntary programs that provide quantified environmental data of a product, under pre-set categories of parameters set by a qualified third party and based on life cycle assessment, and verified by that or another qualified third party

Types 1 and 3 use third-party certifications, but Type 1 is for identifying leaders, while Type 3 requires the consumer to interpret the data.

The Global Ecolabelling Network is a nonprofit organization of eco-labellers, devoted to improving ecolabelling standards.

The EU Ecolabel



“EU Ecolabel While the logo may be simple, the environmental criteria behind it are tough, and only the very best products, which are kindest to the environment, are entitled to carry the EU Ecolabel.

What is more, this is a label that consumers can genuinely trust. The criteria are agreed at European level, following wide consultation with experts, and the label itself is only awarded after verification that the product meets these high environmental and performance standards.

The EU Ecolabel is a rapidly growing brand. Many producers wanting to sell their products across Europe have realised the benefits that the European Ecolabel brings. Products bearing the Flower logo can be marketed throughout the European Union and the EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

The voluntary nature of the scheme means that it does not create barriers to trade. On the contrary - many producers find that it gives them a competitive advantage.

Ecolabel criteria are not based on one single factor, but on studies which analyse the impact of the product or service on the environment throughout its life-cycle, starting from raw material extraction in the pre-production stage, through to production, distribution and disposal.

The EU Ecolabel is part of a broader action plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy adopted by the Commission on 16 July 2008."

EcoLogo Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada.

“North America’s largest, most respected environmental standard and certification mark.

EcoLogo provides customers – public, corporate and consumer – with assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent standards of environmental leadership. With THOUSANDS of EcoLogo Certified products, EcoLogo certifies environmental leaders covering a large variety of categories, helping you find and trust the world’s most sustainable products.

The **EcoLogo Program** is a *Type I eco-label*, as defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This means that the Program compares products/services with others in the same category, develops rigorous and scientifically relevant criteria that reflect the entire lifecycle of the product, and awards the EcoLogo to those that are verified by an independent third party as complying with the criteria.

The **EcoLogo Program** is one of two such programs in North America that has been successfully audited by the Global EcoLabelling Network (GEN) as meeting ISO 14024 standards for eco-labelling”

EcoLogoCM Program Certification Criteria Document CCD-046

Adhesives

First published: 1995/08 Page: 1 of 4

Last revised: 1995/08

Next scheduled review: *under review*

Many of the current adhesives contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which, when released, may contribute to reduced interior air quality. Many VOCs also react with nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight to produce ground level ozone and photochemical smog. Based on a review of currently available life cycle information, the product category requirements will produce an environmental benefit through a reduction in toxic emissions to the environment. Life cycle review is an ongoing process. As information and technology change, the product category requirements will be reviewed and possibly amended.

Notice of Intent

Developments in the areas of test methods for measuring VOC emissions (ASTM Z38897-draft), assessing indoor air quality, reduced levels of VOCs in formulations and performance criteria for adhesives will be reviewed from time to time for possible inclusion in future revisions of this guideline.

To be authorized to carry the EcoLogoCM, the adhesives must:

(a) meet or exceed all applicable governmental and industrial safety and performance standards;
and

(b) be manufactured and transported in such a manner that all steps of the process, including the disposal of waste products arising therefrom, will meet the requirements of all applicable governmental acts, by laws and regulations.

To be authorized to carry the EcoLogoCM, adhesives must:

(a) not be formulated or manufactured with aromatic solvents;

(b) not be formulated or manufactured with borax;

(c) not be formulated or manufactured with formaldehyde;

(d) not be formulated or manufactured with any halogenated solvent;

(e) not be formulated or manufactured with mercury, lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium or their compounds;

(f) not contain volatile organic compounds in excess of 5% by weight as measured by:

- *EPA Method 24-24A, 40 C.F.R., Part 60, Appendix A (1991);*
- *Method 18,48 Federal Register 48, no. 202, October 18, 1983;*
- *Method 1400 NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods, Volume 1, February 1984;*
- *Environmental Protection Agency Method 8240 GC/MS Method for Volatile Organics; September 1986;* or
- as demonstrated through calculation from records of the amounts of constituents used to make the product.

Note: In the case of multi-component adhesives, the VOC content should be calculated after the components have been mixed together to produce the final product.

(g) be accompanied by detailed instructions for proper application so as to minimize health concerns and maximize performance; and

(h) be accompanied by information describing proper disposal methods for containers 500 mL (or 17 oz) or larger.

Verification

To verify a claim that a product meets the criteria listed in the guideline, the EcoLogoCM Program will require access, as is its normal practice, to relevant quality control and production records and the right of access to production facilities on an announced basis.

Compliance with section 3(b) shall be attested to by a signed statement of the Chief Executive Officer or the equivalent officer of the manufacturer. The EcoLogoCM Program shall be advised in writing immediately by the licensee of any non-compliance which may occur during the term of the license. On the occurrence of any non-compliance, the license may be suspended or terminated as stipulated in the license agreement.

Ecolabelling.org

“You can use the ecolabels on this site to build a green purchasing strategy for your business or organisation. There are three reasons why you should do this: It's easier, cheaper, and more trustworthy.

Easier: Because the people who run these labels have already done the heavy-lifting of deciding what products and services are green so you don't have to.. Just ask for them by name.

Cheaper: Save money on consultancy fees by using ecolabels for your big products. Things like paper, food, and electronics have well established ecolabels. Apply your consultants in a more targeted manner by directing them to this site first, and then pay them only to find green options where no ecolabel already exists for a specific product.

Reliable: Because of concerns around greenwashing, consumers are more likely to trust an independent provider of data on whether something is green. Using ecolabels ensures responsibility for making those decisions is borne by a reliable third party.”

Search By Type

- Buildings 64
- Carbon 15
- Electronics 40
- Energy 31
- Food 90
- Forest Products 36
- Retail Goods 74
- Textiles 40
- Tourism 28
- Other 79

1. Select the types and regions where you are looking for labels (e.g. electronics and north america).

2. Select the metrics that are important to you (e.g. third party verified, full life cycle analysis).

3. Use the faceted search and data tools on this site to find the labels that cover those sectors.

4. Add those ecolabels to your purchasing and procurement calls.

We are on hand to answer your questions on how to use this site to save money while greening your supply chain.

Responsible Fishing Scheme

The Responsible Fishing Scheme has been developed to raise standards in the catching sector. The Responsible Fishing Scheme was created in response to the needs of the seafood supply chain to demonstrate their commitment to the responsible sourcing of ...

Paper Profile

Paper Profile enables the paper buyer to make well informed product choices, by presenting figures on essential environmental parameters in an uniformed way for specific products. It is a voluntary environmental product declaration scheme developed and ...



UL Sustainable Product Certification

The UL Environment Sustainable Product Certification Mark indicates that a product has been tested by UL Environment Inc. and found to

comply with the terms of the standard used for evaluation. Levels achieved (platinum, gold, silver and bronze) are ...



UL Environmental Claim Validation

Underwriters Laboratory (UL)'s Environmental Claims Validation (ECV) service and label, tests a manufacturer's product and validates that the environmental claims they make in their marketing and packaging materials are factual. Claims validated ...



CEMARS - certified emissions measurement and reduction scheme

CEMARS certification is for large organisation or large emitting industries to measure their greenhouse gas emissions, put in place plans to reduce them and have both of these steps

independently certified. The CEMARS methodology for producing an ...



Water efficiency product labelling scheme

The Water Efficient Product Labelling Scheme is a voluntary Scheme run by the industry association the Bathroom Manufacturers Association (BMA). It is open to all companies who manufacture or sell product in the United Kingdom that meets the criteria ...



Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort

Eurofins "Indoor Air Comfort" product certification shows compliance with low VOC emission requirements of all relevant European specifications on two levels: Standard level "Indoor Air Comfort - certified product"

...

4C Association Verification System

A set of practices which are used in the coffee sector guides participants on the way towards a more sustainable production, post-harvest processing and trading of coffee. The 4C Verification System aims at helping coffee producing entities to know ...



GreenCircle

GreenCircle™ Certified - Sustainable Solutions Corporation (SSC) provides independent certification of green and sustainable aspects of products, manufacturing operations and claims. SSC can also demonstrate conformance with the Materials and ...

California best practices guide for epp

Developing Green Specifications

When developing your performance requirements, you must be specific in what you expect the product to adhere to. These requirements must be obtainable, measurable, and verifiable. Using general language like "Low VOC" is not a measurable or verifiable requirement. A specific attainable level of VOCs should be identified.

In developing these specific requirements, one additional criterion must be addressed, and that is the level of competition available to meet your requirements. Establishing a set of performance requirements that limit your competition among suppliers will undoubtedly raise the cost of such products. Maintaining an equitable number of suppliers while including environmentally friendly performance requirements will enable you to achieve the best results.

Using Existing Standards

The best method of specifying your performance requirements is to identify existing environmentally friendly standards and specify product compliance with these standards. Examples of existing environmentally friendly standards include:

- Energy Star
- Green Seal
- ISO 14000

These standards cover a large percentage of available products on the market today and insure that the products purchased will have the least impact on the environment during product

development and throughout their useful lives. For example, Green Seal conducts a life-cycle evaluation of the product category that evaluates the major environmental impacts in each life-cycle stage including resource extraction, production, distribution, use, and eventual disposal or recycling. The evaluation considers energy, resource use, and emissions to air, water, and land, as well as other environmental and health impacts. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify significant life-cycle stages to be addressed in the standard. The evaluation also ensures that the environmental criteria selected will not lead to the transfer of impacts from one stage of the life cycle to another or from one medium (air, water, land) to another without a net gain in environmental benefit. [48]

From NERC's study of NE state programs, 2009

Certifications used by state programs:

Ecologo

Energy Star

EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines

EPA's Design for the Environment

EPEAT

European Union

Forest Stewardship Council

Green Seal

LEED

EPP NET

I'm looking for an environmentally friendly, institutional bath room deodorizer for use in a law enforcement intake facility. We have a toxics reduction policy, so

anything that has a fragrance will not pass. Scented might be OK if it's a natural scent but fragrance is out.

Got any ideas?

X, Sustainable Purchasing Coordinator

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EPPNET, the Environmentally Preferable Products Procurement Listserv sponsored by The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC)
For more information visit this list's webpage at <http://www.nerc.org/eppnet.html> or NERC's home page at <http://www.nerc.org/>

UL Environmental

Guides of the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims

FTC crack down

Aspect Verification

Contract Clauses

Performance Guarantees

Selection and Weighting of Criteria

Trade-offs

Tailoring to Corporate Mission, Product Identification, Consumer Profile, Investor Demand

Flagging problem materials that cause expenses and compliance efforts. Query orders.

RFIs before RFP or RFQ. Pre-contract questionnaires.

Supplier surveys.

Supply-chain assistance.