

Eco-Labels	
	Biodegradable Products Institute is an organization that certifies that so-called “biodegradable” plastic products will safely break down in a typical commercial composting facility. www.bpiworld.org
	Chlorine-free Products Association is a nonprofit organization that certifies chlorine-free products such as copy paper, envelopes and tissue products. www.chlorinefreeproducts.org
	EcoLogo 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. www.ecologo.org/en/
	Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an independent program that certifies “green” electronic equipment such as computers, monitors and laptops. www.epeat.net
	E-Stewards is a program that certifies that recyclers of electronic equipment adhere to the highest standard of environmental responsibility and worker protection. A copy of the e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment® can be found at http://e-stewards.org/certificationoverview/
	Forest Stewardship Council certifies lumber and other building products made with sustainably harvested wood or that reduce wood consumption. www.fscus.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. 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
	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. www.greenseal.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 www.scs-certified.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. www.transfairusa.org
	US Department of Agriculture allows use of its organic label for products meeting federal standards that address pesticide and fertilizer use and other approved methods used to grow, harvest and process food and other agricultural products. www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/









Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP): Resources for Public Agencies in the State of Maryland

Greening Maryland Act

The Act was established to develop green purchasing guidelines, practices, products and services to address the negative impacts on human health and the environment and reduce Maryland's carbon footprint. This is accomplished by promoting state-level procurement of energy-efficient products, biodegradable food service ware, and recycled-content goods. The Act also creates a Green Purchasing Committee and a "single point of contact" for EPP issues, and requires the publication of an annual report, strategy to increase green procurement, and Best Practices Manual.

The Act is available for download here: mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/sb/sb0693f.pdf

Additional Resources

	<p>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). www.energystar.gov</p>
	<p>Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Network (EPPNet) is a free electronic list-serv that links public and private officials charged with purchasing environmentally preferable products and services. It provides subscribers with quick access to EPP policies, specifications, vendors, and pricing and performance information. www.nerc.org/eppnet/index.html</p>
	<p>National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) has developed a Green Purchasing Resource Guide designed to help its members in "navigating the sea of information surrounding the adoption of a responsible purchasing program. This guide is intended to be a straight forward, easy-to-use document that provides purchasers with a basic understanding of the concept and benefits of green purchasing, offers recommended steps and proven strategies to enable the implementation of a green purchasing program, and supplies links to other resources offering detailed information on specific elements of the process." www.naspo.org/content.cfm/id/Green_Guide</p>
	<p>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. www.responsiblepurchasing.org.</p>
	<p>US Department of Agriculture's BioPreferred Program is a voluntary initiative that labels products containing biobased (plant-based) material. It offers a catalog of products that contain a minimum amount biobased content. www.biopreferred.gov/aboutus.aspx</p>
	<p>US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has developed Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines that recommend minimum recycled-content levels for dozens of products. For more information, www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm.</p> <p>US EPA has also developed a suite of tools to help facilitate EPP, including a database listing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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