

Purpose of Statement:

This statement is for informative purposes and is intended to identify the applicable standards for classification of the sustainability characteristics for the Facility Maintenance Supplies purchased and used by the City of Cedar Rapids. The information in this statement will establish the guidelines set forth by accredited 3rd party organizations which provide certification based on industry accepted sustainability standards. These guidelines apply to Janitorial Chemicals, Janitorial Paper Products, and Janitorial Equipment purchased by the City of Cedar Rapids, as well as the Application Practices utilized in conjunction with aforementioned items. FlexPAC commits to making ongoing product & procedure recommendations based on the City of Cedar Rapids and their Sustainability Principles.

Sustainable Characteristics without Certification:

In the Industrial & Institutional Facility Maintenance Supply industry, there are several 3rd party certifications used to leverage sustainability compliance for organizations. However, there are also other product characteristics that allow a product to be more sustainable or “environmentally-friendly” while not carrying 3rd party certification. There are also application practices, consumption practices, manufacturing practices, and logistical practices that can help an organization conform to its sustainability principles.

For the purpose of conformation to the City of Cedar Rapids Sustainability Principles, if a product is labeled as “Sustainable” then it will follow the similar guidelines as a third-party certification, but might not meet all of the requirements to achieve certification. Listed below are characteristics that are considered when making the determination:

- No carcinogens
- Non-combustible
- Ingredients are biodegradable
- Dilution control systems
- No phosphates
- Product is 100% recovered materials
- No bleaching with chlorine
- Packaging is 100% recovered fiber
- Printing on towels and napkins is limited
- Product packaging (plastic containers) should contain 25% post-consumer waste and shall be recyclable
- No reproductive toxins
- Low VOC content - 1% by weight
- No heavy metals or zinc
- Replaces an RTU product
- Does not negatively affect IAQ
- No de-inking with chlorine solvents
- Core is 100% recycled material
- Wrapper is 100% recycled material



Green Seal Certification:

Green Seal is a nonprofit organization devoted to environmental standard setting, product certification, and public education. Green Seal’s mission is to work toward environmental sustainability by identifying and promoting environmentally responsible products, purchasing, and production.

Green Seal identifies products that are designed and manufactured in an environmentally responsible manner. Green Seal ensures consumers that any products bearing the Green Seal Certification Mark have earned the right to use it and encourages manufacturers to develop new products that are significantly less damaging to the environment.

Green Seal offers certification to all products that meet its standards. Manufacturers may submit their products for evaluation by Green Seal. Those that comply with Green Seal's requirements may be authorized to use the Green Seal Certification Mark on products, and they are subject to an ongoing program of testing, inspection, and enforcement.



EcoLogo or Environmental Choice Certification:

Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada but now recognized world-wide, EcoLogo provides customers – public, corporate and consumer – with assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent standards of environmental leadership. 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 Environmental Choice Program (ECP) offers its EcoLogo to manufacturers and suppliers who make their products and services as green as possible, according to the organization's standards. A key aspect of the certification process is that it requires third-party verification of compliance to ECP certification criteria. This process includes a review of each applicant company's product and process information, an examination of the company's quality control measures, and an audit of the company's facilities for purposes of initial certification.

EcoLogo (environmental choice) was recently acquired by UL. UL is a global independent safety science company offering expertise across five key strategic businesses: Product Safety, Environment, Life & Health, Verification Services and Knowledge Services.



EPA DfE/Safer Choice Partnerships for Safer Chemistry:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Design for the Environment (DfE) Program is a voluntary partnership program that works directly with industries to integrate health and environmental considerations into their business decisions. A DfE partnership helps businesses design or redesign products, processes, and management systems that are cleaner, more cost-effective, and safer for workers and the public.

The DfE Program usually works with industry sectors to compare the human health and environmental risks, performance, and costs associated with existing and alternative technologies or processes. A DfE solution may entail the redesign of a chemical formulation, a manufacturing or service-sector process, or a management practice.

Note: LEED EBOM 2009 *does not* recognize the EPA-DfE chemical labeling program for green building certification.

LEED *does* recognize the EPA-CPG for paper products and liners
CIMS-GB *does* recognize EPA-DfE labeling program for chemical products.
It does recognize the EPA-CPG for paper products and liners.



EPA Comprehensive Purchasing Guidelines Program:

The term ‘environmentally preferable purchasing’ was codified by the US EPA in 1993 to formally initiate the EPA’s work on developing standards and processes to identify “environmentally preferable” products for targeted purchasing by the federal government. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires procuring agencies to buy recycled-content products designated by EPA in the CPG Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.

Procuring agencies include all federal agencies and any state or local government agencies or government contractors that use appropriated federal funds to purchase the designated items. If an agency spends more than \$10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, it is required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable.

The CPG designates items in the following eight product categories: paper products, vehicular products, construction products, transportation products, park and recreation products, landscaping products, non-paper (trash can liners) office products, and miscellaneous products. LEED EBOM 2009 V3 and CIMS-GB recognize the EPA CPG standard for Paper Products and Liners



Carpet & Rug Institute:

The Carpet and Rug Institute represents the carpet and rug industry. The Institute’s members are manufacturers representing the bulk of all carpet produced in the United States. CRI introduced its Green Label Testing Program for vacuum cleaners in 2000 and more recently introduced a program for carpet extractors.

CRI applies science to make carpet better and last longer. CRI works with its member companies, allies in the field, independent testing laboratories and government agencies to continually improve its best practices in product improvement, environmental responsibility and customer care.

The Seal of Approval testing program, overseen by independent labs, is designed to ease concerns about the perceived difficulty of cleaning carpets. This Seal helps homeowners, facility managers, janitorial staff and professional carpet cleaners identify superior cleaning products, including spot removers, pre-spray/in-tank solutions, deep cleaning extractors/systems and vacuums.

CleanGredients:

Market-ready chemistry that meets the U.S. EPA’s Safer Choice Standard. CleanGredients is the definitive database of chemical ingredients whose formulations have been pre-approved by the U.S. EPA for use in Safer Choice labeled products. Ingredients listed in CleanGredients have been verified by independent third-party experts to pass the Safer Choice Standard, designed to safeguard human and environmental health. CleanGredients serves multiple audiences to provide verified, trusted safer chemistry data.

CleanGredients is an online database of chemical products (a.k.a. "ingredients") used primarily to formulate residential, institutional, industrial, and janitorial cleaning products that have been pre-approved to meet the U.S. EPA's Safer Choice Standard. CleanGredients is an indispensable purchasing resource for formulators who are seeking to find suppliers selling chemical ingredients that will help them to obtain the Safer Choice label in a manner that reduces risk to their business, saves the money and gets their products to market faster.





Bio-Based Products:

USDA's BioPreferred® Program Catalog is designed to assist users in identifying products that qualify for mandatory federal purchasing, are certified through the voluntary labeling initiative, or both. If a product meets or exceeds the minimum biobased content requirements for one or more product categories that have been identified by USDA for mandatory federal purchasing, USDA considers the product to be "qualified." If a product achieves third-party verification of its biobased content for one or more product categories, USDA considers this product to be "certified."



Companies with biobased products voluntarily submit their product information for inclusion in this Catalog, so not all biobased products available in the marketplace are represented. Although you cannot purchase a product directly from this Catalog, sourcing information, such as product details and company websites, is provided