

WALK THE PATH TO ZERO WASTE

EPP Checklist

Environmental impacts to consider prior to purchasing a product:

Check “yes” or “no” on each of the environmental impact questions below. In general, more “yes” responses means less impact the product has on the environment.

<u>Environmental Impacts</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the product minimize the use of virgin materials for its production?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the product contain recycled-content materials in its production (the higher percentage, the better)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the product easy to recycle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does the product use minimum packaging?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the product made of carcinogen-free materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the product Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-free?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the product durable, as opposed to single-use or disposable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Is the product energy efficient (i.e., Energy Star)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is the product less hazardous than similar products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Does the product have low volatile organic compound (VOC) content?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Does the product have a low toxicity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Is the product mercury-free?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Is the product free of persistent bioaccumulative, and toxic content? (PBT)-free?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Is the product made of rapidly renewable materials? (Furniture should not be made from rain forest hardwood.)
15. Is the product refurbished?
16. Is the product water-efficient?
17. Can the product receive upgrades?
18. Does the product reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
19. At the end of a product's lifecycle, are there environmentally friendly methods for disposal, such as recycling? If not, is it safer to dispose of compared to similar products?

Links and More!

There are plenty of places to find great information regarding EPP. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EPP website contains sections useful to consumers on finding and evaluating green products and services:
www.epa.gov/epp/

Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division (SRCRD)
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)
1149 S. Broadway St., 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 485-2260
Fax: (213) 485-3671
greenpurchasing@lacity.org
www.environmentla.com/cgbp/epp.html

City of Los Angeles
 Bureau of Sanitation
 Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division
 1149 S. Broadway, 5th Floor
 Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213
www.lacitysan.org



City of Los Angeles
 Department of Public Works
 Bureau of Sanitation



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)

Solid Resources Citywide Recycling Division

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Buy Recycled

www.lacitysan.org

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SAVE OUR SOLID RESOURCES — BUY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS AND HELP CREATE A GREENER ENVIRONMENT



Everyday the drive towards a “greener” world gains more steam. Whether it’s an emphasis on buying recycled, or a push for more energy efficient items, the prevalence of “green” products is increasing.

For example, materials previously discarded as trash are now recognized as valuable resources. When recycled, these commodities become resources used for manufacturing new consumer products and packaging. This process creates a more sustainable product by extending the lifecycle of the original item, generating less waste, and contributing to a greener planet!

With City Ordinance number 180751, the City of Los Angeles established its Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program. The Ordinance displays the commitment the City of Los Angeles has to the procurement of goods and services that benefit the environment. Through requirements in the Ordinance, City departments will do their part to contribute to a greener, healthier City of Los Angeles!

www.environmentla.com/pdf/2010/EPP_Ordinance.pdf

What is EPP?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Executive Order 13423 defines EPP as “products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service.”

Here are some attributes of traditional Environmentally Preferable Products:

1. Carcinogen-free
2. Chlorofluorocarbon(CFC)-free
3. Durable
4. Energy efficient
5. Heavy metal free (no lead, mercury, etc.)
6. Low toxicity
7. Rapidly renewable materials
8. PBT-free
9. Recyclable or recycled content
10. Reduced packaging



Why Purchase “Green” Products?

Buying green products or a recycled-content material provides a variety of benefits that can range from financial, human health and the environment, to larger societal benefits.

Some of the economic benefits include but are not limited to:

- Reducing materials consumption
- Providing a useful outlet for collected recycled material
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Conserving water
- Conserving energy
- Increasing the use of renewable products
- Reducing the presence of toxic and hazardous substances in the workplace and environment.



These benefits in turn:

- Improve public and occupational health and safety
- Improve wildlife habitats
- Decrease air, water, and soil contamination
- Improve compliance with regulations
- Decrease costs associated with waste management, disposal, and cleanup
- Promote a sustainable economy
- Develop markets for environmentally preferable goods and services



ECO Labels

With the importance of reducing waste and creating more sustainable products constantly growing, many companies have tried to “ride the wave” by falsely, or vaguely claiming their product is “green.” This practice is commonly known as “greenwashing” in which a company can put a vague statement or image on their product, such as the word “green” or a picture of a forest, to drive the idea that the product is good for the environment. In order to protect consumers against this, many independent third party organizations have created certifications for products in various categories. By looking for the logo of some of these organizations on the products you buy, you can ensure that your product meets the standard of EPP. Here are a few eco logos to look for:



More information on eco logos and what products they cover can be found here: www.environmentla.com/pdf/2011/ECO_Logos.pdf