

Environmentally Preferred Sourcing Program

EPS Toolkit: Resources

There is an almost infinite number of resources today on the internet. Search for just about any environmental term and you will receive a number of results from multiple sources – including nonprofits, private companies, blogs and personal spaces. Below, we list websites we believe to be the most useful as you develop your environmental program. See also the [Third Party Certification](#) pages for more resource information.

Vizient Environmentally Preferred Program resources

Vizient™ has actionable resources to help your organization implement varying levels of an environmentally preferred purchasing (EPS) program, from just getting started to actual purchasing of green products and services at contract pricing.

- [Vizient Environmentally Preferred Sourcing Program Catalog](#)
- [Environmentally preferred contracts](#)
- [Green purchasing criteria](#)
- [Chemical Policy statement](#)
- [Readiness checklist](#)
- [Food Sustainable Resource Guide](#)
- [PVC DEHP resource](#)
- [GHSI statement](#)

Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the health care community that are committed to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. A nonprofit organization with founding principles of positive environmental stewardship and best practices by health care organizations, Practice Greenhealth formed in 2008 from the merger of three initiatives: Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, the Green Guide for Health Care and the Healthcare Clean Energy

Exchange. Members include hospitals, health care systems, businesses and other stakeholders. Practice Greenhealth provides a range of tools, resources, forums, webinars, technical assistance and networking opportunities to its members.

Health Care Without Harm

Formed in 1996 by 28 organizations after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified medical waste incinerators as the leading source of dioxin, today Health Care Without Harm is a global coalition of 473 organizations. It works in more than 50 countries to protect health by reducing pollution in the health care sector. Its website has a variety of resources, including information on mercury, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and diethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), medical waste, food, health buildings and green purchasing.

The Green Guide for Health Care

Part of Practice Greenhealth, the Green Guide for Health Care is a best-practices guide for healthy and sustainable building design, construction and operations for the health care industry. A voluntary, self-certifying metric tool kit of best practices, the guide is specifically customized for buildings that are predominantly institutional occupancies as defined by the local building code, such as acute care hospitals, where regulatory requirements have created particular needs. The Green Guide for Health Care borrows the credit numbering scheme and credit outline structure of the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) family of products, with some modifications.

Sustainable Hospitals

Sustainable Hospitals provides technical support to the health care industry for selecting products and work practices that reduce occupational and environmental

hazards. It has a long list of alternative medical products, from barometers to blood bags, and gloves to patient identification bracelets on its website.

The Environmental Protection Agency

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and the environment. Its website has information on compliance and enforcement issues, recycling, medical waste, hazardous waste reduction, mercury and much more.

The Healthy Building Network

The Healthy Building Network (HBN) is a national network of green building professionals, environmental and health activists, socially responsible investment advocates and others who are interested in promoting healthier building materials as a means of improving public health and preserving the global environment. Its health care project team is available to provide support and guidance to health care institutions, architects, designers and others who strive toward the same goals. The HBN website provides extensive information on green building topics specific to the health care sector.

Earth911

Earth911 provides actionable community-specific information on recycling and product stewardship at no cost through a single user-friendly, neutral and nongovernmental network. By visiting Earth911's website or calling their toll-free number, 800-CLEANUP, you can access information about recycling centers and other resources.

Green Seal Green Reports

Green Seal provides two- to six-page technical reports on products in a variety of categories giving specific brand recommendations of those that meet screening criteria.

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an easy-to-use online tool helping institutional purchasers select and compare computer desktops, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. Funded by the EPA and managed by the Green Electronics Council, the EPEAT registry includes products that are declared by their manufacturers to be in conformance with the environmental performance standard for electronic products, IEEE 1680- 2006.

EPEAT is a voluntary registration program with a verification program, not a certification.

The Basal Action Network

The Basal Action Network is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization that works to stop toxic trade (toxic wastes, products and technologies) by preventing dumping of toxic waste in third-world countries. It has a list of recyclers across North America who signed the Electronic Recyclers Pledge of True Stewardship on its website.

The National Recycling Coalition

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC) is the largest national nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement and improvement of recycling, waste prevention, composting and reuse. Its website offers a list of affiliated state and regional recycling organizations.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) is a nonprofit public service organization created by the rechargeable power industry that operates the rechargeable battery and cell-phone recycling program Call2Recycle™. The program is funded by licensing the RBRC battery recycling seal to manufacturers and marketers of rechargeable batteries and battery-powered products and by the resale of refurbished cell phones.

Chemical Footprint Project

The Chemical Footprint Project provides a tool for benchmarking companies as they select safer alternatives and reduce their use of chemicals of high concern. The tool measures overall corporate chemicals management performance through a 20-question survey that evaluates management strategy, chemical inventory, footprint measurement, and public disclosure and verification.

Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council

Founded in 2013, the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support and recognize purchasing leadership that accelerates the transition to a prosperous and sustainable future. The Council's programs and community of practice help purchasers in organizations to: prioritize opportunities to influence the social, environmental and economic life cycle impacts of purchased goods and services; identify existing leadership standards and approaches that address these priorities; benchmark progress toward goals; and receive recognition for advancement.

Third-party certification

Environmental certification, labeling or standard-setting organizations develop specifications or definitions for environmentally preferable products, and in most cases certify products that have met those standards. Third-party certification provides assurance that a product has been independently tested and found to meet criteria, which verifiably reduces its negative environmental and health impacts.

All certifying or labeling organizations provide lists of their certified products; some will work with purchasers to review products and determine if a specific product meets a purchaser's particular criteria. Below, we list several of the third-party certifiers of interest to health care facilities.

LEED and the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that certifies sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools and neighborhoods through its LEED Green Building Rating System™. LEED is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED projects are in progress in 41 different countries, including the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Mexico and India.

Commercial buildings as defined by standard building codes are eligible for certification under the LEED for New Construction, LEED for Existing Buildings, LEED for Commercial Interiors, LEED for Retail, LEED for Schools and LEED for Core & Shell rating systems.

Energy Star

Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficient products, first created by the U.S. government in 1992. Operated jointly by the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy, the Energy Star program has been adopted by Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan and the European Union. While Energy Star specifications differ with each item, devices carrying the logo consume 20 to 30 percent less energy on average.

Green Seal

Founded in 1989, Green Seal is an independent nonprofit that provides science-based environmental certification

standards for environmentally responsible products and services. Hundreds of products and services from major companies are certified. Green Seal has more than 40 major product categories covered by its standards.

Green Seal uses a life cycle approach and bases its work on thorough, state-of-the-art scientific evaluations using internationally accepted methodologies.

Environmental Choice

Launched by the Canadian government in 1988, EcoLogo has grown to serve buyers and sellers of green products throughout the United States and Canada. It is North America's oldest environmental standard and the only one approved by the Global Ecolabelling Network as meeting the international ISO 14024 standard for environmental labels. EcoLogo sets standards and certifies products in more than 120 categories. The website lists more than 7,000 EcoLogo-certified products from hundreds of manufacturers.

GREENGUARD Environmental Institute

The Greenguard Environmental Institute is an industry-independent, nonprofit organization that oversees the GREENGUARD Certification Program. The program is based on proven emissions standards and provides specifying and procurement professionals with a resource for low-emitting products.

The GREENGUARD Standards for Low Emitting Products evaluate more than 75,000 chemicals, including volatile organic compounds, carcinogens and reproductive toxins. The GREENGUARD Children & Schools Standard is modeled for educational classroom environments, while the GREENGUARD for Building Construction is based on best practices for preventing mold growth in the design, construction and building operation phase.

The Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. It sets standards and provides accreditation for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. The FSC label can be found on many wood products. Its website has a list of certified manufacturers.

Scientific Certification Systems

Scientific Certification Systems is a third-party provider of certification, auditing and testing services, and standards, founded in 1984. Its goal is to recognize the highest levels of performance in food safety and quality, environmental protection and social responsibility in the private and public sectors, and to stimulate continuous improvement in sustainable development. It provides a certified products database for a variety of products ranging from paint to textiles.

USDA Organic certification

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements and administers national production, handling and labeling standards for organic agricultural products. The NOP also accredits the certifying agents (foreign and domestic) who inspect organic production and handling operations to certify that they meet USDA standards.

The Vizient Environmentally Preferred Sourcing (EPS) Program offers members supply and service cost savings through more than 36,000 supplier agreements. EPS suppliers have verified EPS attributes and provide products that can support members' sustainability objectives. This toolkit is a resource to help members create or enhance their sustainability programs.

As the nation's largest member-driven health care performance improvement company, Vizient provides network-powered insights in the critical areas of clinical, operational, and supply chain performance and empowers members to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care.



To learn more, contact us at eps@vizientinc.com.