

Denison Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Denison University is committed to the use and purchase of environmentally and socially responsible materials and products. People authorized to make purchases on behalf of the college are expected to support our commitment to environmental responsibility through the guidelines and procedures contained in this Sustainable Purchasing Policy.

The goal of this policy is to reduce the adverse environmental impact of our purchasing decisions. By including environmental considerations in our purchasing decisions, along with concerns about sustainability, price, performance, and availability, we will remain fiscally responsible while attempting to promote practices that improve public health and safety, reduce pollution, and conserve natural resources.

Denison will aim to integrate a closed loop supply chain in its purchasing procedures that maintains a consistent 'cradle-to-cradle' purchasing process which considers economic, ethical, social and environmental impacts for all contracts and purchases; where all waste should first be eliminated or avoided and where any remaining waste be considered feedstock for new product development. To reuse, return or negotiate with suppliers the reduction or elimination of all packing materials.

Ethical and social impact will be documented by posting the supplier and subcontractor's annual corporate, social, ethical and environmental reports and other supporting documentation. When reports are not currently available the goal will be to work with suppliers to develop and implement corporate social, ethical and environmental reports.

Definition:

Environmentally and socially preferable products and services are those that are less detrimental to the environment and human health than competing products and services. Considerations include worker rights and safety, raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, and final disposition of the product.

Procedures:

Denison will seek products that have reduced environmental impact because of the way they are made, used, transported, stored, packaged, and disposed. The college will seek products that do not harm human health, are less polluting and that minimize waste, maximize use of bio-based or recycled materials, conserve energy and water, and reduce the consumption or disposal of hazardous materials. Denison will strive to balance environmental and fiscal responsibilities when making purchasing decisions by evaluating and purchasing materials that are:

- Durable, not single use or disposable
- Preferably made of recycled materials
- Biodegradable/Compostable
- Produced or grown locally – within 100 miles of Granville???
- Recyclable, but if not recyclable, may be disposed of safely
- Made from raw materials obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
- Produced by companies with good environmental track records and that have independent third-party verification (see Appendix)
- Carcinogen-free

- Energy efficient & Energy-Star rated
- Heavy metal free (e.g., no lead, mercury, cadmium)
- Non-toxic or minimally toxic (including low VOC)
- Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and or recyclable materials
- Water efficient – at least 20% more efficient than comparable products
- Designed to earn LEED credits

Sustainable Purchasing Checklist

Does this product/item/material exist on campus and can it be borrowed instead of purchased?

Can this order be combined with another order to reduce shipping and handling costs and/or to reduce packaging?

Is this product available from local (within 200 miles) vendors?

Will this product be able to be used by other departments/groups/individuals on campus, thus reducing their need to duplicate purchases?

Is this product ENERGY STAR rated (if applicable)?

Is this product produced by companies and suppliers with good environmental track records that have independent third-party verification (see the list of certifications in the Purchasing Guide)?

Does the supplier/company offer annual corporate, social, ethical and environmental reports and other supporting documentation?

Is this product durable and/or reusable?

Is the product made from raw materials obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner?

Is the product made of recycled materials?

Is the product shipped using minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and/or recyclable materials?

Is the product recyclable but if not recyclable can be disposed of safely?

Is the product and/or its packaging biodegradable or compostable?

Is the product non-toxic or minimally toxic (including low or no Volatile Organic Compounds VOCs)?

Is the product heavy metal free (e.g., no lead, mercury, cadmium)?

Is the product water efficient (if applicable) which means that it uses at least 20% less than comparable products and has the EPA's *Water Wise* label?

Appendix

Independent Certification Organizations and Companies

Chlorine Free Products Association (CFPA)



Product(s): Paper products, paper pulp

Attribute(s): No chlorine use, no old growth, PCW recycled-content (PCF only)

Summary: Independent, not-for-profit accreditation & standard setting organization promoting third-party certified chlorine-free products and services. The CFPA has no financial interest in any of the companies whose products it certifies. Two certifications are issued: Processed Chlorine-Free (PCF) and Totally Chlorine-Free (TCF).

Website: <http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org>

EcoLogo



Product(s): Over 300 product categories including: cleaners, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: EcoLogo is the certification mark for the Environmental Choice program of Canada's national environmental agency. The certification program is conducted by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, a private, for profit environmental marketing services company located in Ottawa, Ontario.

Website: <http://www.ecologo.org>



ENERGY STAR

Product(s): Over 50 categories including: electronics, lighting, and more

Attribute(s): Energy consumption

Summary: A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy certifying energy-efficient products.

Website: <http://www.energystar.gov>

EPEAT



Product(s): Desktop computers, integrated systems, monitors, notebooks

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is an environmental certification program for electronics managed by the Green Electronics Council. The standards for computer products were developed by an IEEE stakeholder process that included government, environmental and health advocates, and industry. Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels of certification are available.

Website: <http://www.epeat.net>

Fair Trade



Product(s): Over 100 product categories including: food, apparel, paper, art, and more

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental and social attributes spanning the products production and sale

Summary: Enables the sustainable development and empowerment of disadvantaged producers & workers in developing countries through Fair trade labeling. Fair trade has over 2,700 licensees - owners of brands that source from Fair trade producers and sell the final product with the Fair trade Certification Mark

Website: <http://www.fairtrade.net>

FloorScore



Product(s): Hard flooring

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: is a program for testing and certifying hard floor services compliance with California's indoor air quality emission requirements laid out in California Section 01350 program. Scientific Certification Systems developed the program with the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI). US Green Building Council approved FloorScore Certification as an indicator for LEED Credit in November 2006.

Website: <http://www.scs-certified.com/iaq/floorscore.html>



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Product(s): Forest products, including paper

Attribute(s): Multiple social and environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: FSC sets social and environmental standards for forestry and forest products and accredits third-party certifiers who issue FSC certifications for forestry practices and chain of custody products.

Website: <http://www.fsc.org>



Green-e

Product(s): Renewable energy certificates, utility green pricing programs, competitive market electricity, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: Green-e is a non-profit certification and verification program administered by the Center for Resource Solutions, based in San Francisco.

Website: <http://www.green-e.org>



Green Label Plus

Product(s): Flooring: carpets & adhesives

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) developed the Green Label in 1992 as a label for carpets and adhesives that pass their independent testing program for indoor emissions from carpets. The program was updated with stricter standards and called Green Label Plus in 2004. “[C]arpet must be tested by Air Quality Sciences, Inc. of Atlanta (the only certified testing laboratory).”¹ There are 109 certified products

from 25 different companies, including: Atlas Carpet Mills Inc., Beaulieu of America, Blue Ridge Commercial Carpet, C&A Floor coverings, Inc, Camelot Carpet Mills, Constantine, Millikin and Company, Lees Carpets by Mohawk Industries, InterfaceFLOR Commercial.

Website: http://www.carpet-rug.org/drill_down_2.cfm?page=8&sub=3



Green Seal

Product(s): Over 40 product categories including: cleaners, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Multiple environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: Founded in 1989, Green Seal is a non-profit environmental standards-setting and certification agency based in Washington D.C. Standards are developed through an open stakeholder process. Evaluation of products and practices to be certified to Green Seal standards is done by its technical staff and external auditors and includes a comprehensive review of the product/practice components, supporting data, product/practice performance, and an on-site audit to ensure that all of a standards criteria are met. Certification requires annual monitoring to ensure continued compliance.

Website: <http://www.greenseal.org>



GREENGUARD

Product(s): Over 15 product categories including: cleaners, office electronics, paints, and more

Attribute(s): Indoor air quality

Summary: The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute is an independent non-profit, ANSI-authorized standards developer that offers three air emissions certifications: Indoor Air Quality; Children and Schools; and Building Construction.

Website: <http://www.greenguard.org>



Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

Product(s): Rating system and certification

Attribute(s): Energy consumption and conservation

Summary: A self-assessment system developed by the US Green Building Council for rating the environmental preferability of new and existing commercial, institutional, and high-rise residential buildings.

Website: <http://www.usgbc.org>



Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)

Product(s): Electricity, food and agriculture, manufacturing (including carpets and rugs), forest products (including FSC paper), fisheries and more

Attribute(s): Single and multiple social and environmental attributes spanning product lifecycle

Summary: SCS is a third-party provider of certification, testing and auditing services, and standards.

Website: <http://www.scscertified.com>



WaterSense

Product(s): Multiple products including plumbing fixtures and appliances,

Attribute(s): Water conservation

Summary: Products bearing the WaterSense label are generally 20% more water-efficient than similar products in the marketplace and must be independently tested before qualifying for the label.

Website: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>

Note: This list is not comprehensive; there are a number of other verified third-party certifications for a wide range of products. Please consult the Denison Office of Sustainability, the Denison Purchasing Office or <http://ecolabelling.org/> should you require more information about a product or its certification.