

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLIER GUIDE



A guide for small businesses to source
sustainably

2014 Edition



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KEY TERMS

Alternative Energy

Energy derived from nontraditional sources (e.g., compressed natural gas, solar, hydroelectric, wind) (EPA, 2014)

Carbon Footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted into the atmosphere each year by a person, family, building, organization, or company. A person's carbon footprint includes greenhouse gas emissions from fuel that he or she burns directly, such as by heating a home or riding in a car. It also includes greenhouse gases that come from producing the goods or services that the person uses, including emissions from power plants that make electricity, factories that make products, and landfills where trash gets sent. (EPA, 2014)

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL)

Small fluorescent light bulbs that use 75% less energy (electricity), and last up to 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb, and can be screwed into a regular light socket. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment. However, all CFL contain a small amount of mercury and must be handled properly and recycled when they burn-out. cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment. However, all CFL contain a small amount of mercury and must be handled properly and recycled when they burn-out. (EPA, 2014)

Compost

Decomposed organic material that is produced when bacteria in soil break down garbage and biodegradable trash, making organic fertilizer. Making compost requires turning and mixing and exposing the materials to air. Gardeners and farmers use compost for soil enrichment (EPA)

Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency refers to products or systems using less energy to do the same or better job than conventional products or systems. Energy efficiency saves energy, saves money on utility bills, and s protect the environment by reducing the amount of electricity that needs to be generated. When buying or replacing products or appliances for your home, look for the ENERGY STAR label - the national symbol for energy efficiency. (EPA, 2014)

Free Range

This label indicates that the flock was provided shelter in a building, room, or area with unlimited access to food, fresh water, and continuous access to the outdoors during their production cycle. The outdoor area may or may not be fenced and/or covered with netting-like material. This label is regulated by the USDA. (USDA, 2012)

Green Roof

Roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, planted over a waterproofing membrane. (EPA, 2014)

On-Demand Hot Water System

Tankless or instantaneous water heaters that provide hot water only as it is needed. On-demand water heaters heat water directly without the use of a storage tank, avoiding the heat losses associated with hot water storage tanks. (EPA, 2014)

Organic

Organic is a labeling term that indicates that the food or other agricultural product has been produced through approved methods. These methods integrate cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may not be used. (USDA, 2012)

Rain Barrel

Mosquito-proof container used to collect and store rainwater that would otherwise wind up in storm drains and streams. The rain collected provides free "soft water" to homeowners-containing no chlorine, lime, or calcium-that can be used to water gardens and houseplants, or for car and window washing. (EPA, 2014)

Rain Garden

A rain garden is a depressed area of the ground planted with vegetation, allowing runoff from impervious surfaces such as parking lots and roofs the opportunity to be collected and infiltrated into the groundwater supply or returned to the atmosphere through evaporation and evapotranspiration. (EPA, 2014)

Renewable Energy

Energy and electricity supplied from continually replenished energy sources, such as wind and solar power, geothermal, hydropower, and various forms of biomass. (EPA, 2014)

Renewable energy Credits

Also known as green tags, green energy certificates, or tradable renewable certificates, RECs represent the technology and environmental attributes of electricity generated from renewable sources. Renewable energy certificates are usually sold in 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) units. A certificate can be sold separately from the MWh of generic electricity it is associated with. This flexibility enables customers to offset a percentage of their annual electricity use with certificates generated elsewhere. For more information, view *Green Tags vs. Delivered Product (PDF)*. represent the technology and environmental attributes of electricity generated from renewable sources. Renewable energy certificates are usually sold in 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) units. A certificate can be sold separately from the MWh of generic electricity it is associated with. This flexibility enables customers to offset a percentage of their annual electricity use with certificates generated elsewhere. (EPA, 2014)

Solar Power (Photovoltaic)

A system that converts sunlight directly into electricity using cells made of silicon or other conductive materials. When sunlight hits the cells, a chemical reaction occurs, resulting in the release of electricity. Solar panels are an example of a photovoltaic system. (EPA, 2014)

Sustainability

A popular definition is "Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development marries two important themes: that economic development must be ecologically viable now and in the long run, and that environmental protection does not preclude economic development. (EPA, 2014)

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

Emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids, VOCs include substances-some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects-such as benzene, toluene, methylene chloride, and methyl chloroform. include substances-some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects-such as benzene, toluene, methylene chloride, and methyl chloroform. (EPA, 2014)

COMMON GREEN LABEL KEYWORDS

Energy STAR



A joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping to save money and protect the environment through promotion of energy efficient buildings, homes, products and practices. ENERGYSTAR labeled products have met Federal energy efficiency standards.

For more information visit: <https://www.energystar.gov>

Forest Stewardship Council



The Forest Stewardship Council's mission is to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification is a third party verification that a forest is being managed to the highest environmental and social standards.

For more information visit <http://www.fsc.org>

Fair Trade



Fair Trade goods are just that. Fair. From far-away farms to your shopping cart, products that bear our logo come from farmers and workers who are justly compensated. We help farmers in developing countries build sustainable businesses that positively influence their communities. We're a nonprofit, but we don't do charity. Instead, we teach disadvantaged communities how to use the free market to their advantage. With Fair Trade USA, the money you spend on day-to-day goods can improve an entire community's day-to-day lives.

For more information visit: <http://fairtradeusa.org>

Green-e



Green-e is the nation's leading independent certification and verification program for renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions in the retail market.

For more information visit: <http://www.green-e.org>

Green Seal



Green Seal Certification represents compliance with a rigorous set of criteria designed to achieve leadership levels in sustainability. Those certified have met the same performance and quality requirements as expected from traditional non-green counterparts. Green Seal Certified companies establish an ongoing commitment to health and the environment through annual compliance monitoring and continuously working to improve. Green Seal sustainability standards are based on life cycle research and developed in an open, transparent, stakeholder-involved process. Green Seal operates under international guidelines for environmental labeling programs: ISO 14020 and 14024, as set by the International Organization for Standardization.

For more info visit <http://www.greenseal.org/Home.aspx>

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)



LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based, market-driven green building program that provides 3rd party verification of green buildings. The LEED certification demonstrates leadership, innovation, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

For more information visit <https://new.usgbc.org/leed>

USDA Organic



Organic is a labeling term that indicates that the food or other agricultural product has been produced through approved methods that integrate cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may not be used.

For more information visit: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/nop>

WaterSense



WaterSense, a partnership program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services.

For more information visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>

SUSTAINABLE BRANDS

Cleaning Products

IPAX Cleanogel, Inc.

- Non-hazardous cleaning and maintenance products. IPAX Offers industrial, consumer, and GSA products.
- <http://www.ipax.com/home.php>
- Purchase online at <http://www.ipax.com/buy.php>

Penn Valley Chemical

- Offers green cleaning products
- <http://www.pennvalley.com/green-cleaning>
- Located in Lansdale, PA

Procter & Gamble (P&G)

- Offers a large variety of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- http://www.pg.com/en_US/sustainability/
- Located at majority of major retailers

Seventh Generation

- The nation's leading brand of household and personal care products that help protect human health and the environment
- www.seventhgeneration.com
- The Seventh Generation website provides links to online retailers that sell their products
- Available at nearby retailers including Martin's, Wal-Mart, Giant Eagle, Target, and Nature's Way

Simple Green

- <http://www.simplegreen.com>
- Purchase online at <http://buy.simplegreen.com>
- Available at nearby retailers including Ace Hardware, Advance Auto Parts, Auto Zone, CVS, Costco, Home Depot, Lowe's, Petco, Petsmart, Sam's Club, Sherwin Williams Paint Stores, Sears, Staples, Target

Construction Materials and Equipment

Andersen Windows

- 2012 Energy Star Award
- <http://www.andersenwindows.com>
- Replacement parts can be purchased online at <http://parts.andersenwindows.com/>
- Andersen Windows products are also available at Home Depot and O.C. Cluss Lumber Co.

Paints and Coatings

Amazon Environmental

- Amazon Environmental is the U.S. leading manufacturer of recycled latex paint
- Green Seal Certified

- <http://www.amazonpaint.com>
- Available at Construction Junction in Pittsburgh, PA

California Paint Recycling, Inc.

- Remanufactured latex paint products
- Products range from a minimum of 25% to a maximum of 100% post consumer/post industrial recycled content
- <http://www.californiapaintrecycling.com/index.htm>
- Available at Pittsburgh Paint, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA

KILZ PRO-X

- Low VOC and low odor selections
- Available at Home Depot
- <http://www.kilzpro-x.com/kilzpro-x/html/english/index.html>

Rust-Oleum

- Many low VOC products
- <http://www.rustoleum.com/default.asp>
- Available at Wendell H Stone, Ace Hardware, Autozone, Wal-Mart

YOLO Colorhouse

- Zero VOC, Green Seal certified, low odor paint products
- <http://www.yolocolorhouse.com/#1>
- Purchase online at <http://www.yolocolorhouse.com/retail/online-purchase/>

Printing and Writing Paper

Mowhawk Fine Papers, Inc.

- <http://www.mowhawkconnects.com/>
- In the online store you can search for paper products according to environmental specifications such as: carbon neutral, green seal certified, acid free, etc..

Neenah Paper

- Neenah Paper's website has an environmental calculator which enables you to calculate the environmental savings you have achieved by using Neenah paper products
- Purchase online at <http://www.neenahpaper.com>
- Products available in Pittsburgh, PA as Arvey Paper & Office Products, Lindenmeyr Express, and xpedx

Paper Products

AmSam/Interline Brands

- Environmentally preferred, Green Seal Certified, and Energy Star Certified product options
- <https://www.amsam.com>
- Create an account, and then place orders online

Hoffmaster Group, Inc.

- Earth Wise Tree Free line of 100% compostable tableware, containers, napkins, and cutlery
- Products are made from sugar cane, bamboo, cotton, and corn
- Purchase online at <http://www.hoffmaster.com>

Kimberly-Clark Professional

- FSC, LEED, and Green Seal Certified products
- <http://www.kpcprofessional.com/us/index.html>
- Available in Pittsburgh, PA at Fisher Scientific and Lagasse Sweet

Saalfeld Redistribution

- Line of Spring Grove products is Green Seal certified
- <http://www.saalfeldredistribution.com>
- Create an account and place orders online

Von Drehle Corporation

- Preserve, Feather Soft, Harbor, Blue Water, and Blue Mist are product lines made from 100% recycled fiber, and are Green Seal Certified
- There is virtually no waste generation in the manufacturing systems for these products
- <http://vondrehle.com/default/index.cfm>
- Create an account, then place orders online

Food

Nature's Promise

- Giant Grocery's line of natural and organic products including dairy products, bread, baked goods, produce, and meat
- Available at Martin's in Connellsville, PA

Food Source Inc.

- Organic dairy, spices, and vegetables
- <http://www.foodsourceinc.com/>
- Located in West Chester, PA

FSC Certified Forest & Chain of Custody Certified Hardwood Product Suppliers

National Industrial Lumber Co.

- Siding, fire-rated lumber, plywood, misc. wood packaging
- www.nilco.net
- dave_d@nilco.net
- 412-382-9187
- 1 Chicago Ave
Elizabeth, PA 15037

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

Candy

Hershey Company

- Candy and chocolate
- www.hersheys.com
- 1-800-468-1714
- Located in Hershey, PA

Coffee/Tea

Gerhart Coffee Company

- <http://www.gerhartcoffee.com/>
- 717-397-8788
- Located in Lancaster, PA

La Prima Espresso Co.

- <http://www.laprima.com/>
- 412-565-7070
- Located in Pittsburgh, PA

Golden Valley Farms Coffee Roasters

- Tea and coffee
- <http://www.goldenvalleyfarms.com/>
- Located in West Chester, PA

SUSTAINABLY FOCUSED STORES

Backyard Gardens

- Locally made and grown foods including mustards, jellies, eggs, cheese
- 724-329-4014
- 15 Sherman Street
Ohiopyle, PA 15470

Harpers Country Meats

- Retail meat store, also match customers with local animal farmers
- 745-529-7990
- 745 Flatwoods Road
Vanderbilt, PA 15486

Herbalicious

- Organic foods, homeopathic remedies
- 724-542-9745
- 612 West Main Street
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Nature's Way

- Locally grown and organic foods
- 724-836-3524
- 796 Highland Ave
Greensburg, PA 15601

Wholesome Living

- Natural and organic foods
- 814-623-8800
- 107 Railroad Street
Bedford, PA 15522

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