

C3001 - PROCUREMENT

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

1. Context

Langara College is committed to reducing the environmental impacts of its operations and moving towards environmentally sustainable expenditures practices. As such, it recognizes that there are environmental impacts associated with the College's procurement decisions, including "upstream" impacts (e.g., extraction of natural resources, manufacturing, transportation, and packaging), and "downstream" impacts (e.g., final disposal, recycling or re-use of products).

- 1.1. Provided that quality and other criteria are the same, preference will be given to socially responsible goods or services.
- 1.2. When making procurement decisions, a life-cycle cost analysis should also take into account factors such as operating and energy costs, maintenance, consumable supplies, disposal and recycling costs, when selecting products. This applies particularly to procurement related to energy and water-using equipment.
- 1.3. Langara will lead by example by ensuring that apparel bearing its name/logo is produced under fair working conditions by maintaining current membership in the [Worker Rights Consortium](#) and/or the [Fair Labor Association](#).

2. Environmental Attributes

- 2.1. The following environmental attributes are considered preferable:
 - Biodegradable/Compostable: The ability of a substance to decompose in the natural environment.
 - Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-free: CFC's are compounds that contain carbon, chlorine, fluorine and have been used as refrigerants, cleaning solvents, aerosol propellants and in the manufacture of plastic foams.
 - Durable: As opposed to single use or disposable, a product that remains useful and usable for a long time without noticeable deterioration in performance.
 - Energy efficient: A product that is in the upper 25 percent of energy efficiency for all similar products. (See also Section 3.1 Product Specific Sustainability Recommendations regarding Energy Star appliances and equipment.)
 - Heavy metal and persistent, bio-accumulative toxin (PBT)-free: No lead, mercury, or cadmium content; no mercury, dioxins, or PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls).
 - Locally or regionally manufactured in order to reduce the environmental costs associated with shipping/transportation.
 - Low volatile organic compound (VOC) content: VOC's are chemicals found in paints, adhesives, glues, textiles, and furnishing materials that readily evaporate and contribute to the formation of air pollution when released into the atmosphere. Many VOCs are classified as toxic and carcinogenic. (See also Section 3.1 Product Specific Sustainability Recommendations regarding Furniture.)
 - Made from recycled materials with post-consumer content (by-products recovered or diverted from the solid waste stream).
 - Non-toxic, minimally toxic and carcinogen-free.

- Recyclable: A product that after its intended end use can be diverted from the solid waste stream for use as a raw material in another product.
- Reduced packaging.
- Upgradeable: The ability to increase a product’s performance or features without replacing the product.
- Water efficient: A product that is in the upper 25 percent of water efficiency for all similar products.

3. Product Specific Sustainability Recommendations

3.1. Consistent with environmentally sound procurement practices, the College will make every effort to procure goods and services that have the environmental attributes described above, and which meet the standards of third-party environmental certification programs. The following is a summary of specific environmental certification programs for various product categories.

<u>Product Category</u>	<u>Certification Program</u>
Appliances and Equipment	<u>Energy Star</u> : identifies products that are among the most energy efficient on the market. This symbol applies to products in the following categories: major appliances, heating, cooling and ventilation, consumer electronics, office equipment, windows and doors, some lighting (not fixtures), some commercial equipment. Energy Star Canada: https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/energy-star-canada/18953
Cleaning Supplies and Housekeeping Services	<u>Green Seal and/or Eco-Logo certification systems</u> : recognize several product categories and services including environmentally preferable cleaning products. Green Seal: www.greenseal.org ; Eco-Logo: www.ecologo.org .
Floor coverings, Carpets, Adhesives, and Cushions	<u>Green Label and Green Label Plus (Carpet & Rug Institute) certification</u> : for low emitting carpet, adhesive and cushion products to protect indoor air quality. https://carpet-rug.org/testing/green-label-plus/ <u>Declare Label / Red List Free</u> : created by the Living Future Institute, products that have Declare Labels confirm that they are free of “red list” materials that are harmful to humans and the environment. https://living-future.org/declare/

Furniture	<p><u>Eco-Logo Certification Program Office Furniture & Panel Systems</u>: https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program</p> <p><u>GREENGUARD Certification Standards</u> for Low-Emitting Products and the GREENGUARD Product Emission Standard For Children & Schools: establishes acceptable indoor air standards for indoor products and furniture. https://www.ul.com/services/ul-greenguard-certification</p> <p><u>SCS Sustainable Choice - Scientific Certification Systems Eco Products and Indoor Advantage Program</u>: certification services for a broad range of products including office furniture systems, components, and seating, building materials, carpet and rug, hard surface flooring, paints, finishes, wood products, and cleaning products. www.scscertified.com/ecoproducts/indoorairquality/standards.html</p>
IT/Computers	<p><u>Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)</u>: evaluates computer desktops, laptops, and monitors based on 51 environmental criteria. www.epeat.net</p>
Paints	<p><u>Eco-Logo</u>: standard for low-VOC paints, stains, and varnishes. https://www.ul.com/resources/ecologo-certification-program</p> <p><u>Green Seal</u>: standard for low-VOC paints and coatings, including wall, anti-corrosive, and reflective coatings, floor paints and primers and undercoats. (The standard does not include stains, clear finishes, recycled latex paint, specialty (industrial, marine or automotive) coatings, or paint sold in aerosol cans. https://greenseal.org/featured-categories/certify-paints-coatings-adhesives/</p>
Socially Responsible:	<p>The products are created without the exploitation of workers or the community.</p>
Wood Products/Lumber	<p><u>Forest Stewardship Council Smart Wood and Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)</u>: sustainably harvested forest and chain of custody forest products, including secondary products such as for millworks, casework, and furniture, for paper and printers; and, distributors of FSC-certified products (“FSC Pure”, FSC Mixed Sources” and FSC recycled”). www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry.cfm www.scscertified.com/forestry/forest_coc.html</p>

4. Other Resources

North American Green Purchasing Initiative: Self Assessment Tool: Highlights the environmental considerations faced at each step of the procurement process <http://www.cec.org/publications/the-north-american-green-purchasing-initiatives-eco-s-a-t/>

Responsible Purchasing Network: Produces Purchasing Guides for a range of products and services, including: Bottled Water, Cleaners, Computers, Copy Paper , Green Power, Fleets, Light-Duty Tires and Wheel Weights, Lighting, Office Electronics, and Paint. http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/all/index.php