

Labelling

Until recently, environmentally friendly products were more expensive and not always of the same standard as their mainstream counterparts. Standards have improved in recent years, and quality and prices are now comparable, with prices often cheaper for the 'green' option.

UNSW aims to increase the proportion of environmentally sustainable products purchased by the University. This Fact Sheet aims to educate purchasers about some of the more common accredited labels to enable them to buy environmentally sustainable products and services.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was founded in 1994 and is an international body which accredits certification organisations in order to guarantee the authenticity of their claims. In all cases the process of certification is initiated voluntarily by forest managers who request the services of a certification organisation. The goal of the FSC is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests by establishing a worldwide standard of recognised and respected Principles of Forest Stewardship.

Web: www.fscaustralia.org

Australian Certified Organic



Australian Certified Organic (ACO) is Australia's largest certifier for organic and biodynamic produce. ACO has over 1,300 operators within its certification system. ACO provides certification services to operators from all sectors of the organic industry. Certification ensures compliance with national production standards and allows trace back of all products to their origin.

Web: www.australianorganic.com.au

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand



The Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ) is a non-profit organisation, which has been formed to unify and strengthen the fair trade movement in Australia. The FTAANZ brings together interested parties in Australia and New Zealand to foster and promote a common understanding of fair trade: ensuring a better deal for producers and workers marginalized and disadvantaged through current international trade practices and rules. The FTAANZ is involved in ensuring the credibility of the Fairtrade label on products such as coffee and tea and in helping to market these products in the Australian context.

Web: www.fta.org.au



ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING AT UNSW

Energy Star



The National Energy Star Program is an international standard for energy efficient electronic equipment with a specific focus on standby power consumption. It was created by the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in 1992 and has now been adopted by several countries around the world, including Australia, for standby power. Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan and the European Union have also adopted the standard. Its use falls under the National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Program (NAEEEP) which is funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. In the USA Energy Star is used on a wide range of products as an endorsement label for energy efficiency.

Web: www.energystar.gov.au

Energy Rating



The Energy Rating website outlines the wide range of work carried out under the National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Program (NAEEEP). NAEEEP is funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. The site includes details of various end-use energy efficiency programs, both mandatory and voluntary. Its main resource is the Energy Rating comparative database for whitegoods, which is a major source of information for consumers.

Web: www.energyrating.gov.au

Water Rating



The water efficiency labels form part of the Water Efficiency Labelling Standards Scheme being implemented cooperatively by the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

Web: www.waterrating.gov.au

Green star



Green Star is an environmental rating system for buildings, developed by the Green Building Council of Australia. It evaluates the environmental initiatives of designs, projects and/or buildings based on a number of criteria including energy and water efficiency, indoor environment quality and resource conservation. The Green Building Council is in the process of creating rating tools for different phases of the building life-cycle (design, construction, fit-out and operation) and for different building classes (office, retail, convention, health, education and residential). UNSW aspires to five green star rating for all major new building developments. UNSW's Lowy Cancer Research Building, opened in 2010, is rated as a 5 Green star.

Web: www.gbcaus.org



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GreenFleet Australia



Greenfleet is a non-profit organisation that offers a native tree planting program to individuals and organisations, to offset greenhouse gas emissions. For \$40 (tax-deductible), Greenfleet plants 17 native trees on the motorist's behalf. As they grow, these trees will absorb the greenhouse gas emissions that the average car produces in one year (based on 4.3 tonnes of CO₂). Greenfleet's policy is to help restore biodiversity by planting the trees to create forests in areas of environmental concern. Since 1997, Greenfleet has planted more than two million trees around Australia. UNSW uses GreenFleet.

Web: www.greenfleet.com.au

Green Power



The Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA), was established by the NSW Government in 1996 to promote products and services that reduce energy related greenhouse emissions while achieving economic, environmental and social benefits for the NSW community. SEDA fosters sustainable energy supply and end use through education and market transformation, targeted energy efficiency programs, and financial support for emerging sustainable energy technologies. SEDA established the Green Power Accreditation Program in 1997. The program, which SEDA now project manages on behalf of the National Green Power Accreditation Steering Group, was expanded nationally in 2000.

Web: www.greenpower.com.au

Green Globe



Green Globe 21 is the global benchmarking and certification system for sustainable travel and tourism. It is based on Agenda 21 and principles for Sustainable Development endorsed at the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. It provides companies, communities and consumers with a path to sustainable travel and tourism. Green Globe provides a benchmarking and certification product for over 20 business sectors in the travel and tourism industry and has participants in all continents and 48 countries.

Web: www.greenglobe21.com

NASAA Certified Organic



NASAA - providing top quality certification services (IFOAM, USNOP, JAS, ORGAA) across Australia and South-East Asia.

Web: www.nasaa.com.au



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Marine Stewardship Council



The Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) role is to recognise, via a certification programme, well-managed fisheries and to harness consumer preference for products bearing the MSC label of approval. The MSC is a non-profit international organisation. Australia hosts the first fishery certified to the MSC Standard (West Australian Rock Lobster Fishery) and has some 25 products from certified fisheries available in Australian retail outlets, including products from the New Zealand hoki fishery and the Alaskan salmon fishery.

Web: www.msc.org

Australian Forestry Standard



Australian Forestry Standard Limited is a sustainable forest management through the development and maintenance of the Australian Forestry Standard, and related complementary standards. The AFS (AS 4708) is an Australian Standard available for voluntary application by forest managers, and independent third party audit and certification by organisations. AFS Ltd supports the standards development and review processes, which are delegated to multi-stakeholder technical committees involving the full range of stakeholders in sustainable forest management outcomes. It seeks to promote the adoption of the AFS within Australia's forests, and promote its recognition as an internationally credible forest certification standard.

Web: www.forestrystandard.org.au

Products and Services



Environmental Choice Australia is part of The Global Ecolabelling Network, a non-profit interest group composed of 25 ecolabel organisations throughout the world. It was established in 1994 to improve, promote, and develop the "ecolabelling" of products and services. The goal of the interest group is to further the exchange of information between national eco-label activities. UNSW has relationships with preferred suppliers that offer a range of Good Environmental Choice Australia certified products.

Web: www.geca.org.au



ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING AT UNSW

Environmental Purchasing and Procurement at UNSW

What you can do

When making purchasing decisions, examine the environmental performance, alongside decisions such as value for money, and fitness for purpose. Look for products and services that are clearly labelled as having good environmental performance, including the environmental labels reviewed in this Fact Sheet.

UNSW Procurement has negotiated a range of preferred supplier arrangements for environmentally sustainable products, including those that:

- Contain recycled content
- Are reused or recycled at end of life
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Save water and/or energy
- Are non-toxic
- Help protect biodiversity and habitat
- Are made or recycled locally
- Minimise unnecessary purchasing
- Provide long term value for money.

For further details on UNSW environmental purchasing contact UNSW Procurement, Bronwyn Rice, email: b.rice@unsw.edu.au

Rethink:

Consider when making purchasing decisions - do you really need to buy this product or service in the first place? There might be existing services or reuse options available through the Stationary Reuse Centre, Furniture Reuse Centre or university community networks like AdminNet.

Join with others to purchase sustainable products in bulk. This is almost always cheaper and reduces the impacts of delivery transport and excess packaging.

Use e-Procurement Purchase Orders

UNSW has adopted paperless e-Procurement Purchase Orders to reduce paper, data re-entry, transportation and delivery costs while at the same time more efficient. An electronic transaction can save over 2kg of greenhouse gas emissions compared to an average paper-based transaction. For further details contact Deleene Simpson, email: d.simpson@unsw.edu.au.

Reuse stationary boxes

As part of an arrangement with UNSW preferred stationary provider, Complete Office Supplies (COS) delivery drivers will take back the packaging boxes your stationary was delivered in if you flatten and stack them ready for collection at your next delivery. COS re-use these boxes as many times for as they are usable.

