

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment - Practice Greenhealth

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment is an organization that released a document titled "10 Step Guide to Green Cleaning Implementation" that outlines steps hospitals can take to green their operations. As healthcare must focus on maintaining infection control standards and high levels of hygiene (and there are no green certified disinfectants), Hospitals for a healthy Environment promotes the use of green certified products in other areas such as glass cleaners, floor strippers, vacuum cleaners and filters and other products that do not deal with the areas of disinfection or infection control.

Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP)

The Institute of Packaging Professionals is dedicated to creating networking and educational opportunities that help packaging professionals succeed. IoPP is dedicated to the proposition that packaging is a positive, environmentally responsible and economically efficient force, operating in a modern economic society for the benefit and improved well-being of its people. IoPP includes a Sustainable Packaging Technical Committee focused on being the industry lead in providing information on sustainable packaging materials.

Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI)

The trade association representing the U.S. plastics industry which established the resin identification coding system including the triangle shaped chasing arrow symbol commonly appearing on PET, PVC, HDPE, LDPE, PP, PS and other plastic packaging. The FTC Guides specify that if the SPI chasing arrow symbol is prominently placed on the front of the package as opposed to its normal and less conspicuous location on the bottom of the package that it is making a claim of recyclability and therefore could require some qualifying remarks about the availability of recycling facilities if facilities for the container are not available to a substantial majority of consumers or communities.

Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC)

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition is an industry working group inspired by cradle to cradle principles and dedicated to transforming packaging into a system that encourages economic prosperity and a sustainable flow of materials.

Non-Profit Organizations 501-C3 you may hear of (not all inclusive):

Green Restaurant Association, Sierra Club, World Environmental Organization, Heal the Bay, Greenstar, Forest Stewardship Council, Global Forest & Trade Network, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), World Wildlife Fund, Society for Organizational Learning (SOL), Surfrider Foundation

Guide to

Green

Disposables



What does it mean?

Key Terms and Definitions



Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability: The U.S. Foodservice Approach

U.S. Foodservice strives to be a responsible and sustainable company. We continue to improve the quality of life for our customers and stakeholders now and in the future. Our goal is to continuously transform the environmental and social performance of the foodservice industry while enhancing competitiveness and profitability for U.S. Foodservice and its key business trading partners.



ASTM 6400

This specification covers plastics and products made from plastics that are designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities. It is intended to establish the requirements for labeling of materials and products, including packaging made from plastics, as "compostable in municipal and industrial composting facilities."

ASTM 6868

This specification covers biodegradable plastics and products (including packaging), where plastic film or sheet is attached (either through lamination or extrusion directly onto the paper) to substrates and the entire product or package is designed to be composted in municipal and industrial aerobic composting facilities. It is intended to establish the requirements for labeling of materials and products, including packaging, using coatings of biodegradable plastics, as "compostable in municipal and industrial composting facilities". The properties in this specification are those required to determine if products (including packaging) using plastic films or sheet will compost satisfactorily, including biodegrading at a rate comparable to known compostable materials.

EcoLogo

EcoLogo was founded in 1988 by the Canadian government and now operates as part of the environmental marketing firm Terra Choice. EcoLogo sets environmental criteria and Terra Choice helps market products with the EcoLogo. EcoLogo is North America's most widely recognized and respected certification of environmental leadership. By setting standards and certifying products in more than 120 categories, EcoLogo helps you identify, trust, buy, and sell environmentally preferable "green" goods and services.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

An agency of the federal government that develops and enforces environmental regulations which supports protecting human health, and with safeguarding the natural environment: air, water and land.

Environmentally Preferred Rating (EPR)

Environmentally Preferred Rating is a pilot program developed by the California Film Extruders and Converters Association. It is the first environmental accreditation for the plastics industry and focuses on the operations of plastic processor facilities. Environmentally Preferred Rating uses an oversight committee made up of members from printing, colorants/additives, recycled resins, technology, manufacturing and science/academia sectors. The committee establishes standards, revises their program and discusses issues during the auditing process.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forest. FSC sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way.

Green Seal™ Certified

Green Seal™ is a 20 year old independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Green Seal™ guarantees that a product or service has been tested according to science-based procedures, that it works as well or better than others in its class, and that it has been evaluated without bias or conflict of interest. The Green "Seal of Approval" has come to stand for reliability, fairness, and integrity. They are the largest ecolabeling organization in the country.

Refillable

A package is considered refillable if a system is provided for the collection, refill and return of the package, or refill of the package by consumers can be accomplished with product subsequently sold in another package. An unqualified claim of refillable would be deceptive if it would be up to the consumer to find new ways to refill the package.

Renewable Resource

A resource that is replenished at a rate comparable or faster than its rate of consumption. Therefore the resource will continue to be available for future generations

Starch / Limestone Composite

Made from Renewable Resources, the raw material for this product comes mainly from potato starch, some corn starch and limestone dust. The finished product typically incorporates a compostable polymer film that acts as a moisture barrier. The main substrate on its own is moisture sensitive and will break down when moisture is introduced to the non coated side of the finished ware.

Sustainability

Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the natural environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future. Simply put, meeting the needs of the present without compromising future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable Forest Management

The stewardship and use of forests and forest land in a way and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels and does not cause damage to other ecosystems.



American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

One of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world and a trusted source for technical standards for materials, products, systems, and services. Known for their high technical quality and market relevancy, ASTM International standards have an important role in the information infrastructure that guides design, manufacturing and trade in the global economy. The two standards the are most applicable to Sustainability are D4600 and D6868 which test and quantify biodegradability and compostability.

Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)

The Biodegradable Products Institute is a multi-stakeholder association of key individuals and groups from government, industry and academia, which promotes the use, and recycling of biodegradable polymeric materials (via composting). The BPI is open to any materials and products that demonstrate they meet the requirements in ASTM 6400 or ASTM 6868 based on testing in a approved laboratory.



Green generally refers to products that are environmentally preferable. Overall, “green” products have a reduced impact on the environment when compared to like products that serve the same purpose. When we talk about green for disposables, we include products that address the most important environmental concerns related to these products.

Our green list products may be:

- made from an annually renewable resource, agricultural waste product, or recycled material,
- biodegradable or compostable, and/or
- non-toxic to the environment and human health

These products are designed to:

- reduce waste,
- reduce our impact on the climate,
- ensure an availability of natural resources for future generations, and
- protect public health

Please keep in mind though that the exact definition of “Green” varies depending on whom you ask. It’s important that you understand and ask questions of your customers so that you can address their needs appropriately.

Bagasse Made from Renewable Resources, bagasse by definition is the fibrous residue of sugar cane after the extraction of the sugar juice. The fibers or "pulp" is cleaned and molded to form a variety of durable and functional paper-like products including clam shell style to-go boxes, plates, bowls, trays, etc.

Bamboo Made from Renewable Resources of the bamboo plant, a rapidly renewable substitute for traditional wood and wood fiber. A substitute for non- environmentally friendly products such as styrofoam and plastic.

Biodegradable A material that will decompose into naturally occurring, harmless components over time with exposure to air, sunlight and/or moisture.

Bioplastic Bioplastics are a form of plastics derived from renewable biomass sources, such as vegetable oil, corn starch, pea starch, or microbiota, rather than traditional plastic which are derived from petroleum. See PLA and PSM for examples.

Carbon Footprint A measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide. It is meant to be a useful measure for individuals and organizations to conceptualize their personal (or organizational) impact in contributing to global warming.

Compostable A material that biodegrades substantially under composting conditions into carbon dioxide, methane, water and compost biomass. Compostable is a subset of biodegradable. The size of the material is a factor in determining compostability because it affects the rate of decomposition. A product that is "compostable" is one that can be placed into a composition of decaying biodegradable materials, and eventually turns into a nutrient-rich material. Compostability test protocols (ASTM 6400 & 6868) have been established by the American Society for Testing & Material which both have test protocols to measure compostability.

Environmental Marketing Claim An environmental claim made about a product in labeling, advertising, promotional materials or any other form of marketing (website), express or by implication, through words, symbols, emblems, logos, depictions, product brand names, or through other means, digitally or in print. For claims not be considered an unfair method of competition they must be reasonably substantiated and should conform to the FTC Environmental Marketing Claim Guides.

Environmental Policy A course of action deliberately taken (or not taken) to manage activities with a view to prevent, reduce or mitigate harmful effects on nature and natural resources. In context, environment refers to ecosystems (ecological concerns), society (quality of life) and economics (resource management). Policies generally address issues including air and water pollution, waste management, ecosystem management, biodiversity protection, and the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species.

Greenwashing A term used to describe the act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service.

Molded Pulp/Fiber Made from Renewable Resources, Molded Pulp is a packaging material, typically made from 100% recycled corrugated fiberboard or newspaper. Typical uses include end caps, trays and clamshell containers.

Non-Toxic According to the FTC, claims of non-toxic would likely be interpreted by consumers as applying not only to human health effects but also to the product's environmental effects. The claim would also convey to consumers that the product does not pose any risk to humans or the environment which would be deceptive if the substance in fact poses a significant risk to humans or the environment.

PLA Made from Renewable Resources, PLA (polylactic acid) is made from agricultural crops such as corn (in the US) or sugar cane (rest of the world). It is typically fully biodegradable and compostable. The standard version is clear and not designed for use with hot foods (eg. over 100°F).

PSM Plant Starch Material is a vegetable-based polymer that contains non-GMO cornstarch. Durable and compostable, it is an excellent alternative to traditional plastic used to make disposable products.

Recyclable A product or package that can be collected, separated, or otherwise recovered from the solid waste stream for reuse, or in the manufacture or assembly of another package or products, through an established recycling program. For products or packages that are made of both recyclable and non-recyclable components, the recyclable claim must be adequately qualified to avoid consumer deception about which portions or components of the products or package are recyclable. For plastic see Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI). Typically recycled - Products are considered typically recycled if the infrastructure exists within a community to allow the material to be routinely broken down (melted or pulped) into a basic substance from which a new product can be formed. A product or package that is made from recyclable material, but because of its shape, size or some other attribute, is not accepted in recycling programs for such material, should not be marketed as recyclable.

Recycled Content Materials that have been recovered or otherwise diverted from the solid waste stream either during the manufacturing process (pre-consumer) or after consumer use (post-consumer). To the extent the source of recycled content includes pre-consumer material, the manufacturer or advertiser must have substantiation for concluding that the pre-consumer material would otherwise have entered the solid waste stream. In asserting a recycled content claim, distinctions may be made between pre-consumer and post-consumer materials, with substantiation. For products or packages that are only partially made of recycled material, a recycled claim must be adequately qualified to avoid consumer deception about the amount, by weight, of recycled content in finished product or package, unless it would be clear to consumers from the context that a product's recycled content consists of used, reconditioned or remanufactured.