

Eco-label guide



Understanding labels and claims found on everyday products will help you make informed decisions to reduce your environmental footprint. Below are some certified eco-labels to look for on your sustainable shopping trips.



B.C. CERTIFIED ORGANIC

B.C. Certified Organic is a voluntary agri-food quality program sanctioned by the government of British Columbia through the Organic Agricultural Products Certification Regulation. Agencies accredited by the Certified Organic Associations of B.C. inspect and certify organic farms and facilities in the province.

certifiedorganic.bc.ca



BIO QUÉBEC

Products have been certified according to the Québec Organic Reference Standards, a set of requirements developed for Québec businesses that guarantees the products contain at least 95 per cent organic ingredients.

cartvquebec.com



BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) has developed a 100 per cent organic shade-grown coffee certification. The logo is verified by a third party for coffee that has been grown using shade management practices that provide good bird habitats.

nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/



CANADA ORGANIC

Food products certified as meeting the revised Canadian standard for organic production must contain at least 95 per cent organic ingredients. New regulations apply to domestic and imported products.

inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml



CRADLE TO CRADLE®

Certification examines the entire life cycle of products, from desks and chairs to dish soap. The materials and manufacturing practices of each product are assessed in five categories: material health, material reutilization, renewable energy use, water stewardship, and social responsibility.

c2ccertified.com



ECOLOGO™ ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM

Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada but now recognized worldwide, EcoLogo is North America's oldest and most widely known environmental leadership standard. EcoLogo contains 120 environmental standards and almost 7,000 certified products.

ecologo.org



ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Products in more than 50 different categories are eligible for the ENERGY STAR. They use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment.

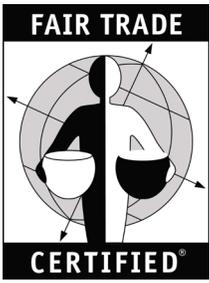
energystar.gov (USA)



FAIRTRADE INTERNATIONAL

A group of 25 organizations owns the FAIRTRADE logo, which certifies international Fairtrade standards have been met. Their mission is to connect disadvantaged producers and consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower producers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives. This logo can be found on coffee, chocolate, spices, fruit, sugar, flowers, and even soccer balls.

fairtrade.net



FAIR TRADE USA

Fair Trade USA is the leading third-party certifier of Fair Trade products in the United States. It uses a market-based approach that gives farmers fair prices, workers safe conditions, and entire communities resources for fair, healthy and sustainable lives. You'll find this logo on similar products as Fairtrade International.

fairtradeusa.org



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC) CERTIFIED LUMBER

An international certification and labelling system that guarantees that the forest products you purchase come from responsibly managed forests and verified recycled sources. Fibre from certified forests is tracked from the forest to the consumer through the chain of custody certification system. The logo can be found on products ranging from paper to tissue to lumber.

fsc.canada.org



GREEN-E

This independent consumer protection program for the sale of renewable energy and greenhouse gas reductions in the retail market. You'll find the logo on food and beverages, paper and packaging, and even events.

green-e.org



GREEN SEAL

Green Seal standards provide leadership criteria for the development of many products, from home cleaning products to paints. Certification guarantees that products perform as well as conventional products. Ingredients are biodegradable and do not contain phthalates, heavy metals, or optical brighteners.

greenseal.org



GREENGUARD

Green Guard focuses exclusively on indoor air-quality issues and certifies products and materials with low emissions. Certified products exist for more than 15 categories, many of which focus on building materials, including adhesives, furniture, and flooring.

greenguard.org



LEAPING BUNNY

The Coalition for Consumer Information on Cosmetics (CCIC) administers this cruelty-free standard. The internationally recognized Leaping Bunny logo appears on personal care and household products. They assure that no new animal testing is used in any phase of product development by the company, its laboratories, or its suppliers.

leapingbunny.org



PROCESSED CHLORINE FREE

PCF is found on paper products with a minimum of 30 per cent recycled paper content. Certified by the Chlorine Free Products Association, mills also do not use old growth forests for the virgin pulp, and papers have not been rebleached with chlorine-containing compounds.

chlorinefreeproducts.org



QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERNATIONAL

This independent, third-party certification of organic food systems has been the foundation of domestic and international organic food trade. Every step of the organic production chain is considered, from the land and the producers to the processing and handling facilities.

qai-inc.com



SEA CHOICE

Focusing on solutions for healthy oceans, five internationally respected Canadian organizations form SeaChoice. It's Canada's most comprehensive sustainable seafood program, helping Canadians take an active role in supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Download the wallet-sized SeaChoice guide or iPhone application.

seachoice.org



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The USDA designed a fixed set of standards in December 2000, after 10 years of research and development. "Organic" means that antibiotics, genetic engineering, and most synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are not allowed. It also means that animals must eat 100 per cent organic feed with no growth hormones, and they must have access to the outdoors (except for chickens).

usda.gov

For more information, go to queenofgreen.ca.