

Common Products Purchased on Campus and How to Meet LEED Purchasing Criteria

The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Green Building Standard offers some basic guidelines for sustainable purchasing. When you purchase items, they are considered “sustainable” or “green” if they meet at least one of the criteria or carry one of the labels listed below.

| Product Type | LEED Criteria | Labels to Look For | Further Guidance |
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| Paper and Paper Goods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled Content – 10% or greater post-consumer content OR 20% or greater pre-consumer content Rapidly renewable resources (like cotton) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified—made of 50% or greater FSC certified paper. Ecologo Green Seal | Corporate Express carries a wide variety of paper products that meet LEED guidelines. Check the individual product description to ensure compliance with at least 1 criteria or label. |
| Toner Cartridges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remanufactured Vendor will take back spent cartridges | | Corporate Express carries a variety of remanufactured toner cartridges – a simple search for “remanufactured” turns up a list. Visit recycle.tulane.edu for information on recycling cartridges that cannot be returned to the vendor. |
| Other Office Supplies (pens, binders, et cetera) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled Content – 10% or greater post-consumer content OR 20% or greater pre-consumer content Rapidly renewable resources (like bamboo or cotton) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Stewardship Council Certified Green Seal Certified | Corporate Express carries a wide variety of environmentally friendly products under their “ecoffice” program. Check individual product descriptions to ensure compliance. |
| Office Equipment | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENERGY STAR EPEAT | All electronic office equipment is subject to Tulane’s Energy Star Purchasing Policy. |
| Office or Dorm Furniture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycled Content – 10% or greater post-consumer content OR 20% or greater pre-consumer content Salvaged Materials Reused Furniture Rapidly Renewable Resources (like bamboo, rattan, or straw) Regional extraction and manufacture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Stewardship Council Certified wood Green Seal Ecologo | Tulane’s Moveable Property Management office stores used furniture from all campus departments for reuse. |

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| Lighting and Lamps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced mercury in fluorescent lamps | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENERGY STAR • NEMA | When purchasing lighting, Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) are always better than incandescent lights because of their significant energy savings; however, you should look for models with less mercury. ENERGY STAR labeled models are a good bet, or you can visit cfl-mercury.org to see a list of manufacturers who have committed to reducing mercury in their products. |
| Food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally harvested (within 100 miles of Tulane University) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Certified Organic • Food Alliance Certified • Rainforest Alliance Certified • Protected Harvest Certified • Fair Trade Certified • Marine Stewardship Council Blue Eco-label | The Crescent City Farmers Market, Whole Foods Market, Rouses, and LeGourmet all carry foods that meet the LEED criteria. |

Glossary:

- Pre-Consumer Content

Formerly referred to as “post-industrial content,” this is the percentage of material in a product that is recycled from manufacturing waste. Examples are sawdust, bagasse, trimmed materials, and print overruns. The materials that can be reclaimed within the same process that generated it, like scrap metal that can be re-melted.
- Post-Consumer Content

The percentage of material in a product that is recycled from consumer waste.
- Rapidly Renewable Materials

Materials that are planted and harvested in less than 10 years.
- Regionally Harvested or Extracted

Materials that are from within 500 miles of the end user.
- Locally Harvested

Materials that are from within 100 miles of the end user.