

OP 13: Cleaning and Janitorial Purchasing

1 point available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that purchase green cleaning and janitorial products. By switching to non-toxic cleaning products, institutions reduce exposure impacts for all building occupants and the environment, thereby promoting clean and healthy work, living, and learning spaces.

Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

Criteria

Institution's main cleaning or housekeeping department(s) and/or contractor(s) purchase cleaning and janitorial paper products that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Blue Angel labeled (German Federal Environment Agency)
- Cradle to Cradle Certified
- ECOLOGO certified (UL Environment)
- EU Ecolabel
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified
- Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) certified
- Green Seal certified
- Nordic Swan labeled (Nordic Ecolabelling Board)
- U.S. EPA Safer Choice labeled
- Other multi-criteria sustainability standards and *ISO Type 1 ecolabels* developed/administered by Global Ecolabelling Network and/or ISEAL Alliance member organizations

Cleaning products include general purpose bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners; degreasing agents; biologically-active cleaning products (enzymatic and microbial products); floor-care products (e.g., floor finish and floor finish strippers); hand soaps and hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and metal polish and other specialty cleaning products. Janitorial paper products include toilet tissue, tissue paper, paper towels, hand towels, and napkins.

Other cleaning and janitorial products and materials (e.g., cleaning devices that use only ionized water or electrolyzed water) should be excluded from both total expenditures and expenditures on environmentally preferable products to the extent feasible.

Scoring

An institution earns the maximum of 1 point available for this credit by purchasing exclusively certified green cleaning and janitorial paper products. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of expenditures on cleaning and janitorial products that meet the credit criteria. For example, if 50 percent of cleaning product expenditures were on Green Seal certified products and half were on conventional products, an institution would earn 0.5 points (half of the points available).

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Annual expenditures on certified green cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total annual expenditures on cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total points earned
1	×	_____	÷	_____	=	Up to 1

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Total annual expenditures on cleaning products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on certified green cleaning products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Total annual expenditures on janitorial paper products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Annual expenditures on certified green janitorial paper products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ A brief description of the time period on which the figures reported above are based (e.g., one-year time period or representative sample)

Optional

- ☐ Website URL where information about the institution's cleaning and janitorial purchasing is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Measurement

Timeframe

Report the most recent data available from within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

Institutions may track purchases over a full one-year time period, report average annual expenditures over a two or three year period, or estimate annual expenditures based on a representative sample. When using a sample, institutions should strive to ensure that the sample recognizes seasonal and other variations that influence purchasing behavior.

At a minimum, the figures provided must include purchases made by all major housekeeping or cleaning departments, including outsourced or contracted service providers. Other expenditures on cleaning and janitorial products may be excluded at the institution's discretion to simplify reporting.

Cleaning and janitorial products for which no certified alternatives are available may be excluded, as long as they are excluded from both the numerator (certified products) and the denominator (total purchases).

Standards and Terms

ISO Type 1 ecolabel

The International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) has identified three broad types of voluntary labels, with ecolabelling fitting under the strongest Type 1 designation. Consistent with the Global Ecolabelling Network, a Type 1 ecolabel is a “voluntary, multiple-criteria based, third party program that awards a license that authorises the use of environmental labels on products indicating overall environmental preferability of a product within a particular product category based on life cycle considerations”.