



ISLINGTON

Handout 2: Sustainability labelling

Many different sustainability labelling schemes exist. The criteria they consider and the level of rigour in awarding the labels varies, however they can be a useful rough guide in terms of a product's sustainability credentials. This leaflet outlines some resources that can help to guide you through the different schemes. For more information on sustainability, please refer to our 'Tips on Sustainability for Suppliers' guide.

DEFRA guidance:

A Shopper's Guide to Green Labels

A brief guide to some of the most common green labels, covering food, organic, timber products, fair trade, ecolabels, energy labels, vehicle labelling, some product specific labels such as paints and textiles and recycling. There are pictures of the main labels/logos.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/pdf/shoppers-guide.pdf>

Pitching Green – green labels and credentials: a guide to the options

A more in depth guide for businesses and other organisations on choosing and using environmental labels for products and services. It has an index of green labels (which does not have pictures but does contain links to websites which do show the labels/logos). Includes useful links on where to go for more information.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/glc/pdf/pitching-green-august08.pdf>

Office of Government Commerce's 'Quick Wins' guide to green purchasing:

A guide for procurers to a range of commonly purchased products/services such as stationery, office machinery, construction, furniture, electrical goods, etc. Products or services listed have not necessarily gone down the green labelling route; however they have been assessed by the Office of Government Commerce for their environmental / financial impact, scope for bringing about environmental improvement and political or example-setting function.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/index.htm>

Directgov's Greener Shopping and Products pages:

The 'Green labels and claims' section covers similar ground to the DEFRA guides above. Also contains broader information on other greener purchasing choices e.g. furniture, food, electrical goods etc.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Environmentandgreenerliving/Greenershopping/index.htm>

London Remade's database of recycled and sustainable products and services:

Islington's Environmental Performance team has access to London Remade's database of recycled and sustainable products and services. For more information on this or other sustainability labelling / sustainable procurement queries and support, contact Zoë Hatherly on 0207 527 8031 or zoe.hatherly@islington.gov.uk or Caroline Scott on 0207 527 3517 or caroline.scott@islington.gov.uk .