

# OP 13: Cleaning and Janitorial Purchasing

1 point available

## A. Credit 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.

## B. 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:

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified
- Green Seal certified
- UL ECOLOGO certified
- U.S. EPA Safer Choice labeled (formerly Design for the Environment)
- Local equivalents for institutions outside the U.S. and Canada

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 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.

## C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions.

## D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 1 point available for this credit by purchasing exclusively 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		Expenditures on certified green cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total expenditures on cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total points earned
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1	×	_____	÷	_____	=	Up to 1
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## E. Reporting Fields

### Required

- ☐ Total expenditures on cleaning products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Expenditures on cleaning products that are Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO certified and/or Safer Choice labeled (or local equivalents for institutions outside the U.S. and Canada) (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Total expenditures on janitorial paper products (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ Expenditures on janitorial paper products that are FSC, Green Seal, and/or UL ECOLOGO certified (or local equivalents for institutions outside the U.S. and Canada) (US/Canadian dollars)
- ☐ A brief description of the time period from which the figures reported above are drawn (i.e., one-year time period or representative sample)

### Optional

- ☐ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

## F. Measurement

### Timeframe

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

### Sampling and Data Standards

Include purchases made by all major housekeeping or cleaning departments, including outsourced or contracted service providers.

Institutions may track purchases over a one-year time period or take a representative sample to determine the percentage of expenditures on green cleaning and janitorial products. When using a sample, institutions should strive to ensure that the sample recognizes seasonal and other variations that influence purchasing behavior.

## G. Standards and Terms

### Forest Stewardship Council

The [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) is an independent, non-profit organization that protects forests for future generations. FSC Chain-of-Custody certification traces the path of products from forests through the supply chain, verifying that FSC-certified material is identified or kept separated from non-certified material throughout the chain. FSC Forest Management certification confirms that a specific area of forest is being managed in line with the [FSC Principles and Criteria](#).

### Green Seal

[Green Seal](#) is an 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 certification is based on multi-attribute environmental standards that meet the ISO 14024 standards for eco-labeling.

### Safer Choice label

Formerly known as Design for the Environment (DfE), the [Safer Choice label](#) is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s program to identify products with safer chemical ingredients.

### UL ECOLOGO

The [UL Environment ECOLOGO](#) program certifies products, services and packaging for reduced environmental impact. ECOLOGO Certifications are voluntary, multi-attribute, lifecycle based environmental certifications that meet the ISO 14024 standards for eco-labeling.

### Scoring Example: Cleaning and Janitorial Purchasing

Example Community College spent \$1,000 on cleaning and janitorial paper products last year. Of that, \$850 was spent on Green Seal certified products.

Factor		Expenditures on certified green cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total expenditures on cleaning and janitorial paper products		Total points earned
1	×	<u>850</u>	÷	<u>1,000</u>	=	<b>0.85</b>