EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT), Data Gathering and Analysis Division (DGAD), Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Branch (SPPB)

Sustainable Marketplace

Defining Green. Buying Green. Measuring Green. www.epa.gov/greenerproducts

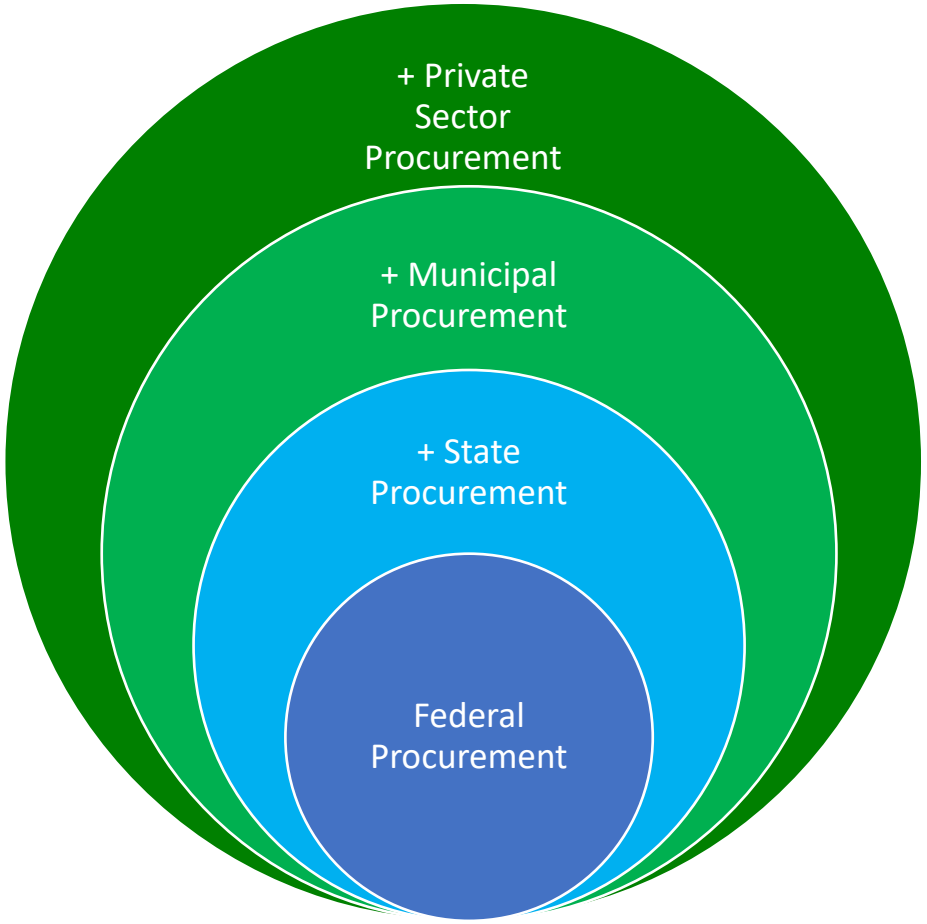
- Take a lifecycle, multi-attribute approach to defining “environmentally preferable”
- Engage in the development or update of private sector product & service sustainability standards & ecolabels
- Assess and recommended standards and ecolabels for federal purchasers
- Assist feds (and others) in buying environmentally preferable products and services
- Assist small businesses in selling their greener products and services to the federal government
- Measure compliance and benefits of buying green

Large Federal Footprint = Opportunity for Feds to Lead by Example and Influence the Sustainable Products Market

The U.S. Federal government:

- Is the single largest purchaser in the world spending **~$650 billion annually** on goods and services
- Procurements represent roughly **2.5% of USGDP** and influence much more
- Manages over **350,000 buildings**, **600,000 vehicles**, and nearly **1 of every 5 acres** in the U.S.
- Spends **~$90 billion annually** on IT equipment and services
- Is the largest energy consumer in the nation, spending **~$18 billion annually**
- Uses **renewable energy** to power 8.6% of its facility electric energy needs

Sustainable Federal Procurement as a Force Multiplier



Authorities

*Not an exhaustive list

- **E.O. 14057 & Implementing Instructions**
- **Federal Sustainability Plan**
- **OMB Memo 22-06**

- Sets a Net-Zero Emissions Procurement Goal for the U.S. government by 2050.
- Purchasers must maximize the procurement of sustainable products and services identified or recommended by EPA.
- Directs federal purchasers to prioritize products and services that address multiple environmental impacts.
- Direct agencies to prioritize substitutes for products that contain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

EPP Supports Multiple Administration Priorities

Standards and ecolabels currently recommended and influenced by EPA incentivize:

Climate Change Impact Reductions:

- Renewable energy use and energy efficiency in supply chains
- Lower global warming potential process chemicals
- Greener transport/shipping

Chemical Safety

- Full material inventory and disclosure
- Chemical alternatives assessment
- Selection of safer alternatives
- Elimination or reduction of specific chemicals of concern:
  - Residing in the product (e.g., PFAS, flame retardants, plasticizers)
  - Used during manufacturing (e.g., Cleaning solvents)

Circular Economy:

- Recycling and reuse of critical minerals
- Reducing/eliminating single use plastics
- Design for ease of refurbishment & reuse

Environmental Justice:

- An increase in demand and therefore supply of sustainable products for all
- Increased protection of worker health due to incentivizing use of safer chemicals in the manufacturing process and in the product itself

The Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing (Recommendations)

Leveling the playing field & bringing clarity to the marketplace

Global Marketplace

460+ Standards/Ecolabels

1) Based on review and use by another federal agency

OR

2) Based on an assessment against the multi-stakeholder developed Framework for Environmental Performance Standards and Ecolabels

The Recommendations

34 product categories, 40+ private sector standards/ecolabels, 3 specifications

Recommended Private Sector Standards/Ecolabels

1st Choice Private Sector Standards/Ecolabels:

Multi-attribute with confirmed accredited or conforming certification body:

Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard[1,#]

Access standard. EXIT

Find products. EXIT

Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) Floor Coverings[1,*]

Access standard. EXIT

Find products. EXIT

Sample Carpet Category

Product Categories Covered by the Recommendations

*Standards/ecolabels in these categories were assessed against an earlier version of the Framework in 2016

Cafeteria

- Food Service Ware: Containers, Cutlery, Dishware
- Commercial Dishwasher Detergent

Construction

- Adhesives
- Carpet*
- Ceiling Tiles-Acoustical
- Fiberboard, Gypsum Panels, and Wallboard
- Flooring*
- Insulation
- Interior Latex Paint*
- Other Miscellaneous Building Finishes*

Electronics & Associated Services

- Computers
- Cloud Services
- Electronics Recycling Services
- Energy Savings Performance Contracts
- Imaging Equipment
- Mobile Phones
- Network Equipment
- Print Management Services
- Photovoltaic Modules and Inverters
- Power Purchase Agreements
- Seat Management Services
- Servers
- Televisions
- Wireless Services

Machine Shop Operations

- Parts Wash Solution

Custodial

- Cleaners: Carpet, Glass, Multipurpose
- Floor Care
- Hand Soap
- Bathroom Tissue
- Paper Towels
- Trash Bags

Grounds/Landscaping

- Deicer

Office/Furniture

- Copy Paper
- Furniture*

What is the Framework for the Assessment of Environmental Performance Standards and Ecolabels?

Section I: Standards development process

Section II: Effectiveness in addressing human and environmental health

Section III: Conformity assessment procedures

Section IV: Ecolabel program management

- Provides a transparent & consistent approach to assessing environmental performance standards & ecolabels for incorporation into the Recommendations.
- Developed through an interagency & multi-stakeholder, consensus-based process - including public comment and pilot testing.
- Aligned with USG standards policy (OMB A119, NTTAA) and relevant international guides and protocols
- Encourages best practices for environmental performance leadership standards & ecolabels.

New Webpage:
How EPA's Recommended Standards and Ecolabels Address PFAS

Navigate to: epa.gov/greenerproducts → Recent Highlights box

Name of Standard/Ecolabel that addresses PFAS

Product Category Where EPA Recommends the Standard/Ecolabel

Does the Standard/Ecolabel Cover Additional Product Categories? (includes link to product registry)

Summary of Criterion Language

Required or Optional

Standard/Ecolabel	Product Category Where EPA Recommends the Standard/Ecolabel	Does the Standard/Ecolabel Cover Additional Product Categories?	Summary of Criterion Language	Required or Optional
Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)	• Food Service Ware: Containers, Cutlery, Dishware • Trash Bags	Yes Find Products EXIT	As of January 1, 2020 1) The product formula must not have fluorinated chemicals — as evidenced by a technical review of safety data sheets for all ingredients. 2) Test results from a BPI-approved lab showing a maximum of 100ppm total fluorine. 3) A statement of no intentionally added fluorinated chemicals, signed by the manufacturer. Read More EXIT	Required
Cradle to Cradle Certified® Product Standard	• Adhesives • Carpet • Ceiling Tiles - Acoustical • Fiberboard, Gypsum Panels, Wallboard • Flooring • Furniture • Insulation • Interior Latex Paint • Other Miscellaneous Building Finishes	Yes Find Products EXIT	Under Version 4.0 of the Standard, **PFAS** are prohibited in certified products at all certification levels. If present as an impurity or minor additive, the level must be <1000ppm or <100 ppm in any homogeneous material by weight for products certified at Bronze and Gold levels, respectively. Some exemptions apply for specific materials or parts. Additional restrictions for PFOS C-8 (10 ppm or less) and PFOA (25 ppm or less).	Required
Living Product Challenge 2.0	• Carpet • Flooring • Furniture • Interior Latex Paint • Other Miscellaneous Building Finishes	Yes Find Products EXIT	Certified products and product packaging must not contain **Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)** or **Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs)**.	Required

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Expansion of the Recommendations

Goal: Leverage private sector standards and ecolabels to support EO 14057 building and procurement goals.

Consider specifications, standards, and ecolabels that can support federal net-zero emissions as well as other Administration priorities in these sectors:

- Buildings/Construction
- Infrastructure
- Landscaping
- Food and cafeteria services
- Uniforms / Clothing
- Professional Services
- Laboratories & Healthcare

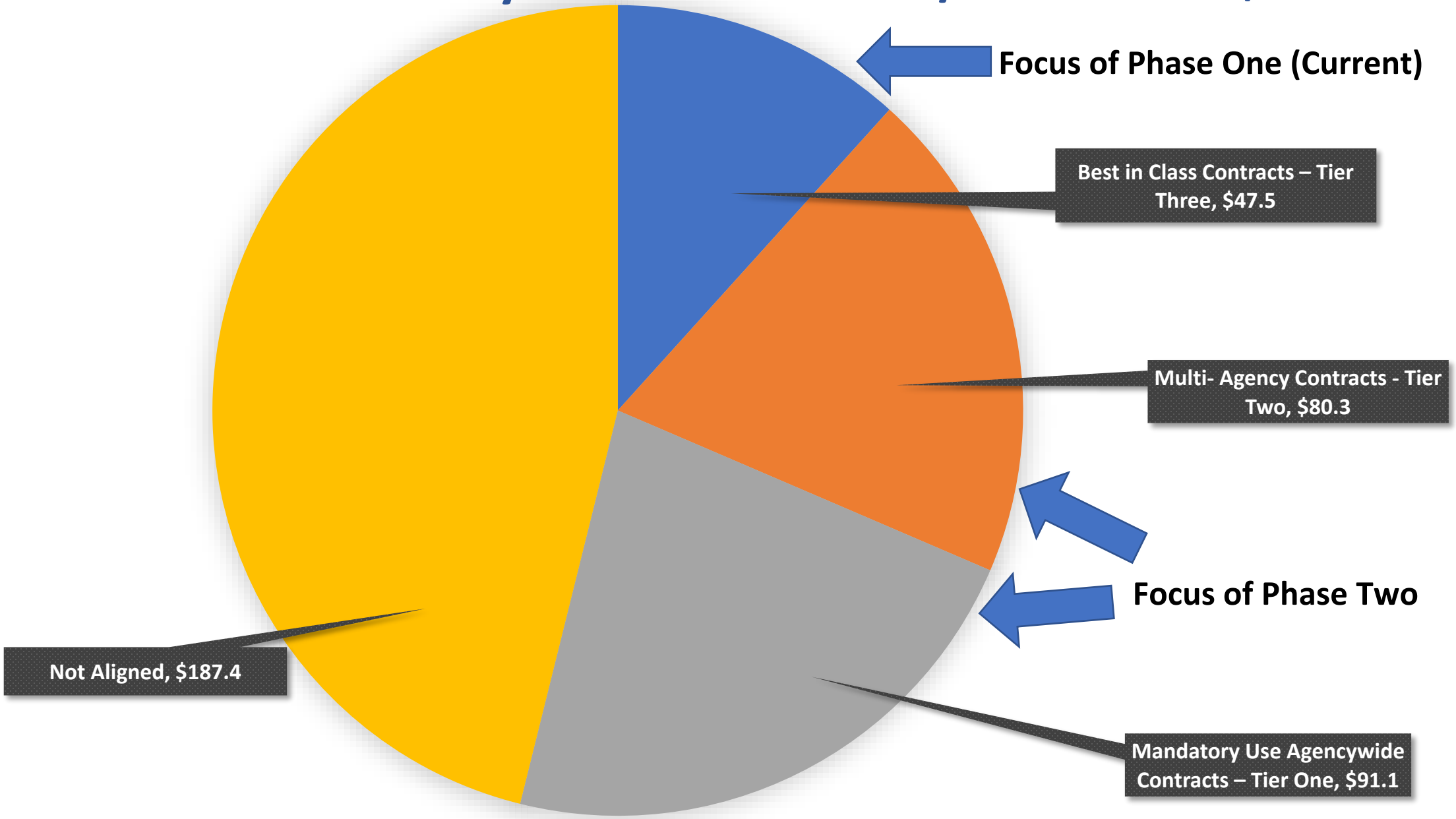
Consider certifications that can support manufacturer claims of and federal procurement of products that **do not contain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).**

Sustainability Check Initiative

- Effort lead by the Category Management Leadership Council (CMLC)
- Collaborating with Category Management Teams to advance federal sustainable procurement by:
  - Increasing compliance with federal sustainable procurement requirements in major contract vehicles
  - Encouraging innovative sustainability approaches to be taken in contracts - going beyond compliance

- **Current focus**: Best In Class (BIC) contracts (IT, Facilities & Construction, Industrial Products & Services, Office Management, Professional Services)

FY21 USG Commonly Purchased Goods/Services - ~ $400B



Incorporation into GSA Procurement Tools

- Green Procurement Compilation (GPC)
- SFTool Product Search
- GSAAdvantage!

GSA's Green Procurement Compilation (GPC)

Paint

Last Updated: 09/01/22

Click to see brand name products that meet these requirements

Interior Paints and Coatings -- Latex

Statutory Requirements

FP BioPreferred Program - Federal Purchasing *

(20% minimum biobased content)

CPG *

(See Reprocessed latex paint listings for recycled content recommendations)

Other Federal Programs

BioPreferred Program - USDA Certified Biobased

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels**

Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels

Cradle to Cradle Certified (C2C)

GECA Paints & Coatings

Green Seal 11

Green Seal 43

MPI Extreme Green

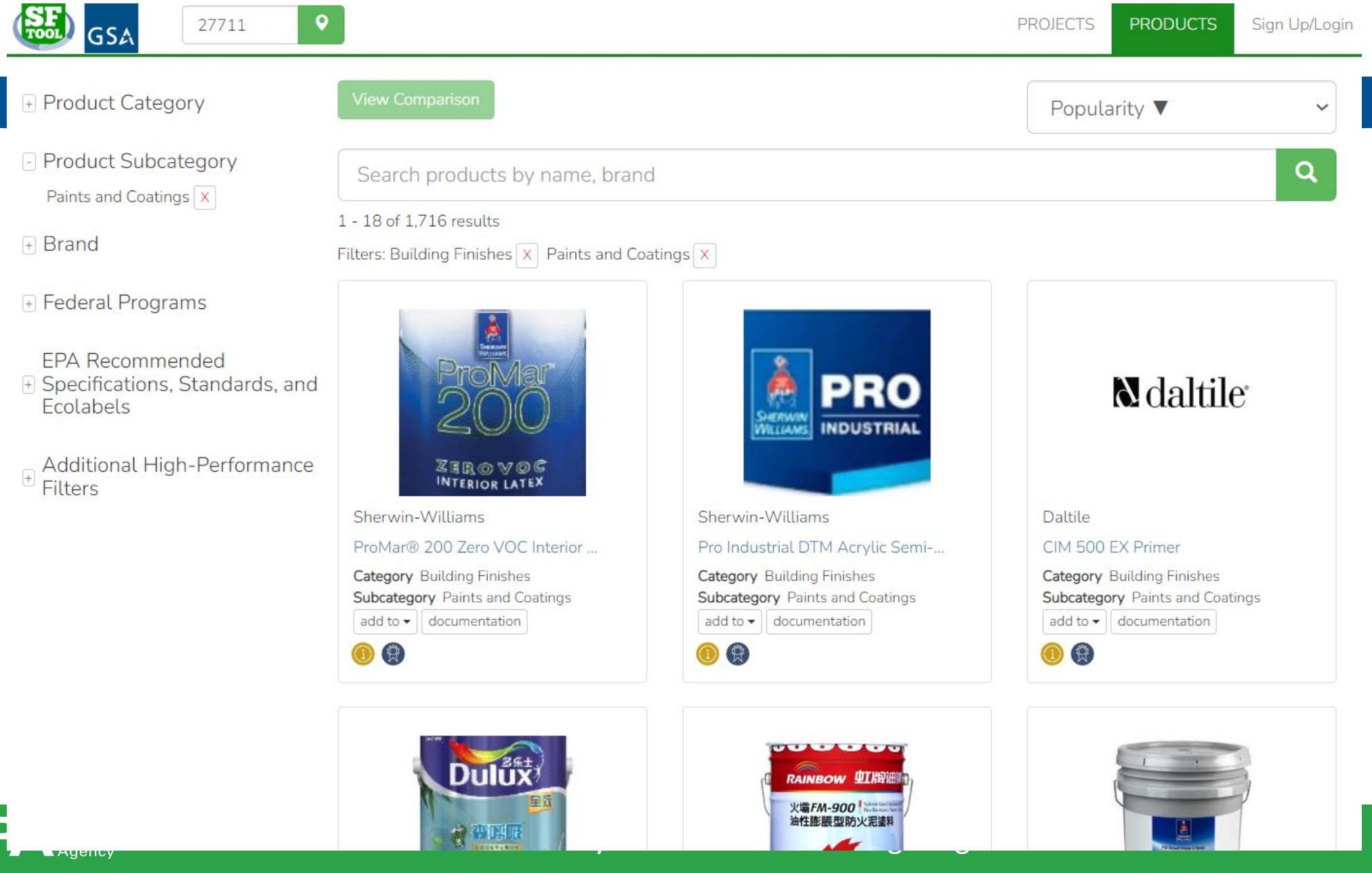
If the above are not available:

Environmental Choice New Zealand: Paints

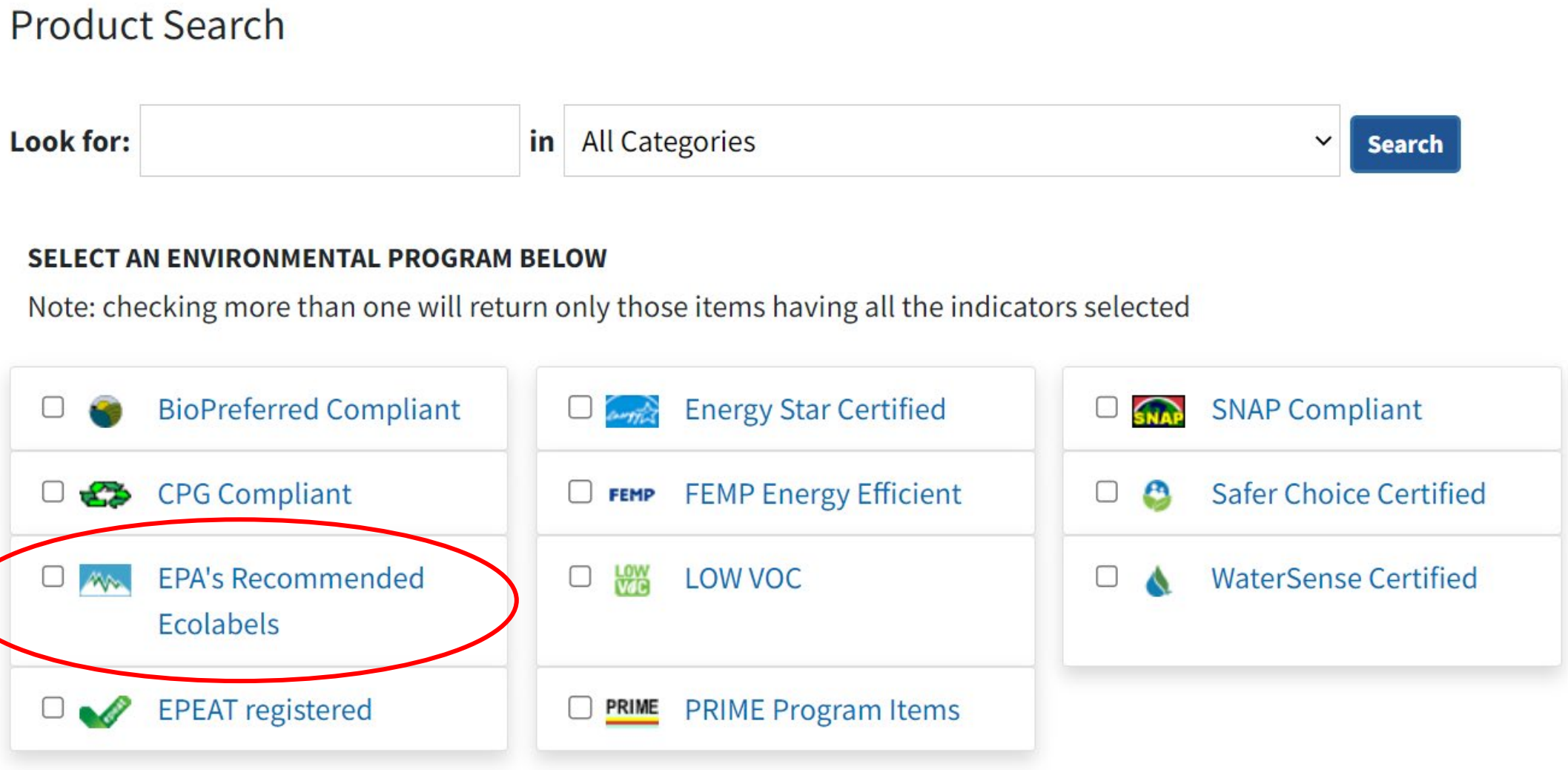
International Living Future Institute: Living Product Challenge 1.0

Sustainable Materials Rating Technology

GSA's SFTool Product Search



GSAAdvantage: Environmental Programs Aisle



Barriers

- Lack of sustainability standards or ecolabels in key purchase categories with significant environmental or human health impacts.
- Several sustainable purchasing requirements often apply to the same product/service category.
- Lack of automated tool(s) to incorporate sustainable purchasing requirements into RFPs and contracts.
- Lack of unified product data or existence of robust product registries.
- GSA Tools may need to be updated/improved to reflect latest sustainable purchasing requirements to make it easier to identify sustainable products.
- Need better integration between market research tools (SFTool) and procurement tools.
- Lack of tools to track compliance with sustainable purchasing requirements and inability to measure environmental benefits from purchasing the product.

Questions?

- Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels
- Framework for the Assessment of Environmental Performance Standards and Ecolabels
- E.O. 14057 & Federal Sustainability Plan
- U.S. policy and information on standards
- Sign up for our listserv