



We care about our backyard.

OMNIGREEN

Omni's family and their families live grow and prosper in the streets, playgrounds and backyards around us. It is our responsibility to protect the environment and deliver future generations with an opportunity not a liability. To underpin this understanding of our responsibility and cement our position as a first in class, learning and developing organization Omni Facility Services Canada Limited embarked on an intensive process of implementing systems and processes which comply with the internationally recognized Environmental Management Systems Standard ISO 14001:2004, Omni Facility Services Canada Limited GTA Branch underwent certification audit late in December 2007 and was certified early in January 2008.

THE CERTIFICATES AND LOGOS

There are a multitude of Green or Environmental programs, logos, claims and certificates, which have been developed by individual companies, local, regional, state/provincial, national or international organizations with varying agenda and levels of objectivity. So how do you know what they mean? The answer possibly lies in 2 key thoughts;

- A product, company or building may be an asset to the environment regardless of a logo or certificate. Organizations go through the various levels of scrutiny, ranging from none at all to intensive, in order to add validity to their claims.
- The bottom line is caveat emptor! (let the buyer beware). Or perhaps let the buyer feel good; any move toward green and environmental care is probably a good thing no matter how small or large.

Here is a few of the more common logos and certificates which have some recognized basis.

Generally logos/certifications can be split into 3 categories:

1. **Environmental management systems:** Relates to the policy, procedures, activities, inputs, outputs, measurements, objectives and controls of an organization. To the level of detail or standard specified by the particular certification program. The 'Scope' defines, the locations and activities covered by the certification.
2. **Building:** Relates to the aspects of the construction and materials, mechanical systems, and activities/services that are applied to a particular building, to the level of detail or standard specified by the particular certification program.
3. **Product:** Relates to the ingredients and characteristics of a specific product, to the level of detail or standard specified by the particular certification program.





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EMS Environmental Management Systems Certifications

ISO 14001:2004



The International Organization for standardization (ISO) is a non government, non profit organization with representatives of the national standards institutes of 157 countries. ISO develops and promulgates commercial and industrial standards on a particular topic (currently over 1300 standards) with the intention of enabling international standardization on that topic.



14001:2004 is ISO's Environmental management systems standard. This standard has been adopted without modification as CSA Standard CAN/CSA – ISO 14001:04, which has been approved as a National Standard of Canada by the Standards Council of Canada.



In order to achieve certification an organization must be thoroughly audited by a certified third party certification company, who is intern certified and holds an internationally recognized registration for both the company and the specific auditor(s).

The audit undergone by Omni Facility Services Canada Limited GTA Branch verifies that both our policy and procedures comply with the requirements of the ISO 14001:2004 standards and goes further to include site audits to ensure that the policy, procedure and commitment is implemented and understood by all levels of the organization.

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Green Seal is based in Washington DC and is a non-profit organization devoted to environmental standard setting, product certification, and public education.

Green Seal operates under the international guidelines for environmental labeling programs, ISO 14020 and 14024, set by the International Organization for Standardization. Green Seal is also a founding member of the Global Eco- Labeling Network.

Green Seal develops standards, mostly relating to specific product types with some related to specific services. Green Seal also carry out their certification audits.

Green Seal have developed a standard which relates specifically to the cleaning industry; GS – 42.





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Building Certifications

USGBC LEED

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a non-profit organization committed to expanding sustainable building practices. USGBC is composed of more than 13,500 organizations from across the building industry that are working to advance structures that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a voluntary, consensus-based national rating system for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Developed by USGBC, LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality.

USGBC have LEED rating systems for various applications, eg. New Construction, Existing Buildings, Commercial Interiors etc.

Under the applicable rating system points or credits are earned for the satisfaction of criteria. There is a minimum number of points required to achieve certification, from there Silver, Gold or Platinum status can be achieved depending on the number of points earned.

LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance for example, addresses building exterior and site maintenance programs, efficient and optimized use of energy and water, the purchase of environmental products and food, waste stream management and ongoing indoor environmental air quality. It also provides sustainability guidelines for whole-building cleaning and maintenance, recycling programs and system upgrades to improve energy performance, water consumption, indoor environmental quality and materials use.

BOMA GO GREEN

BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) - Go Green is a national (Canadian) environmental recognition and certification program for existing commercial buildings, with over 500 certified buildings.



The program is about much more than just certification: the application process helps assess how well a building is performing and includes suggestions for tangible ways to improve environmental practices.

Designed for buildings of all sizes, BOMA Go Green touches on all aspects of building management and operation, including:

- Resource Consumption
- Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Building Materials
- Interior Environment
- Tenant Awareness

The Go Green program comprises two elements in which buildings and firms can choose to participate. While **Go Green** is a “best practices” model, **Go Green Plus** adds a more in-depth benchmarking tool, for firms and buildings requiring or desiring this type of program. Certification is valid for three years and Go Green recognition materials are provided for display at the building.





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Product Certifications

Environmental Choice – Eco-Logo



Canada's "Environmental Choice" Eco-Logo symbol of certification features three stylized doves intertwined to form a maple leaf, representing consumers, industry and government working together to improve Canada's environment. Established in 1988, the program helps consumers identify products and services that are less harmful to the environment.

Product manufacturers, importers or purveyors of services may apply for a license to use the Eco-Logo once a guideline containing criteria relevant to the product or service type has been approved.

Environmental Choice is part of the Global Eco-Labeling Network. Environmental Choice has more than 1400 approved products, with 119 licensees and 29 guidelines under which companies may be licensed and their products certified.

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Green Seal have developed a number of standards relating to specific product types.

USEPA Design for Environment



The USEPA recognized the need to develop a cleaner, safer technologies program to work with industry to design products, processes, and technologies that are competitive but environmentally preferable. Several non-regulatory, voluntary initiatives merged to create the EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) Program.

The DfE Program forms voluntary partnerships with industry sectors, usually through industry leaders, and trade or technical associations.

The DfE logo on a product it means that the DfE scientific review team has screened each ingredient for potential human health and environmental effects and that—based on currently available information, EPA predictive models, and expert judgment—the product contains only those ingredients that pose the least concern among chemicals in their class.

The bottom line

"An endless discussion on which certificate or logo is the best is possibly nothing more than distraction from the productive path of understanding and improvement. The bottom line on which certificate or logo is the best is caveat emptor! (let the buyer beware). Or perhaps, let the buyer feel good; any move toward green and environmental care is probably a good thing no matter how small or large." Ross Manley, VP Corporate Development, Omni Facility Services Canada Ltd.

