



Update: Environmental Symbols on GSA Advantage

In March 2011, the General Services Administration (GSA) revised the symbols used to identify environmentally sustainable products on *GSA Advantage!*®, *GSA Global Supply*™, and other ordering platforms. The revision aligned the symbols with current sustainable purchasing requirements for federal purchasers and identified additional green products on GSA contract vehicles.

Icons for several environmental programs or environmental attributes were added even though the programs were not specifically designated for federal purchase by statute or Executive Order. GSA subsequently received complaints that the inclusion of these programs was unfair since there are other programs that are equally effective. In response to these complaints, GSA intends to remove the environmental programs that are not designated for federal purchase by statute or Executive Order. The following symbols will be removed:

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- GreenGuard
- Green Seal
- Biodegradable

GSA is participating in an inter-agency workgroup that is developing guidelines that can be used by federal agencies to identify environmental standards and eco-labels that are appropriate for consideration in federal procurement. GSA intends to use the guidance from this workgroup to inform its methodology for selecting additional environmental programs or attributes for use on *GSA Advantage!*®. It is possible that the environmental programs will be added at a later date if they are determined to meet the recommended guidelines.

No action is required by GSA contractors to effect this change. GSA apologizes for any inconvenience resulting from this action.

Please note that the remaining environmental programs and environmental attributes still support the 95% green purchasing requirement in Executive Order 13514.

The symbols that will be removed are displayed below:

