

# Shopping Better For the Environment

The products you choose to buy will make a big difference to the environment and the world markets. If you choose to buy products from recycled materials the demand for our raw materials will lower. Using too much of the earth's raw materials may mean they will run out. Huge amounts of green house gasses are being released into the atmosphere, which is the main cause of green house gasses. This fact sheet has been written to help you be aware of the products you can buy that are more environmentally friendly.

## Green Labels

These have been introduced for consumers that want to buy products that are less harmful to the environment. The labels all have different meanings and can be hard to understand what exactly they mean. This sheet has examples of the most common labels. The government has produced an official green labels code to explain to the public what they mean. The green labels code can be found on the DEFRA website in the consumer products section.

**Food Labels:** Below are two food label examples, these two focus on the environmental aspects of food production. The LEAF Marque (Linking Environment And Farming) shows that the farmers who produced the certificated food are committed to improving the environment for the benefit of wildlife and the countryside.

The second label is from the Marine Stewardship Council. They have set standards for sustainable and well managed fisheries. They are focused on healthy fish stocks and marine environment. Their logo appears on seafood in supermarkets and in restaurants.



**Organic Labels:** Organic food is regulated by the law - all organic food has to reach a certain level of standard. The most well known characteristic of organic food is that it strictly limits the amounts of pesticides and chemical fertilisers. To produce organic food farmers and processors must be certified by an approved organisation. The full list of certified organisations can be found on the DEFRA website. These organic standards also apply to non food production, industries like textiles, cosmetics, wood products and composting. Below are two organisations for certificating organic products.



**Timber Products:** there are a lot of schemes for timber to help sustain the earth's forests. The following two examples are commonly known in Britain. The trademark of the Forest Stewardship Council indicates the wood was sourced from well managed forests. The forests that are used are individually inspected and evaluated to check they are kept to the highest standards. The PEFC Council is an independent organisation whose logo provides an assurance that its certified wood and paper products have been audited as coming from sustainable managed forests.

