

# Sustainability Along the Supply Chain

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# Drivers

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- Manufacturers – customer demand; corporate policy; cost savings
- Retailers – customer demand; marketing strategy; corporate policy
- Institutional purchasers – green purchasing laws and regulations; organizational policy

# Defining Green

- Multiple definitions, programs, and labels
  - single attribute vs multi-attribute
  - life cycle considerations
- Federal programs
  - Energy Star, Water Sense, CPG, DfE, BioPreferred

# Defining Green, cont.

- Private ecolabel programs
  - LEED, Green Seal, Greenguard, Cradle to Cradle, SCS EPP, FSC
- Voluntary consensus standards
  - IEEE EPEAT, NSF carpet, BIFMA office furniture, ASTM building products

# EPA Guidance

- EPA Acquisition Regulations 48 CFR chap. 15
- EPP Guiding Principles  
(<http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/guidance/finalguidance.htm>)
  - Life cycle approach, multiple environmental attributes

# Green Suppliers Network

- Collaboration among industry, EPA and NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)
- Lean & Clean on-site reviews
- Focused on small & mid-sized manufacturing suppliers
- Expands lean definition of waste to include environmental considerations
- Measurable business and environmental impacts

# Green Suppliers Network, cont.

- **Cost Savings identified in 100 reviews**

- Lean savings           \$31,903,515/yr
- Clean savings         \$20,262,184/yr
- Other savings         \$1,146,947/yr
- **Total savings       \$53,312,646/yr**

- **Environmental impacts identified in 100 reviews**

- Energy Conservation (MM Btu)   854,453,219
- Water Conservation (gallons)   42,410,058
- Air Emissions Reduction (lbs)   1,613,721
- Solid Waste Reduction (lbs)     6,038,844
- Hazardous Waste Reduced (lbs)  103,205

# Sustainable Products Network (SPN)

- Ad hoc group drawn from major EPA program offices and regions
- Follow-up to EPA Innovation Action Council report “Everyday Choices: Opportunities for Environmental Stewardship”
- Response to requests from manufacturers, retailers, institutional purchasers for greater EPA role in addressing marketplace confusion and greenwashing

# SPN Activities to Date

- Improved coordination of green product/service programs across the Agency
- Explore opportunities for “bundling” green product programs and tools
- Create opportunities for broader stakeholder dialogue, e.g. ANSI workshop
- Identify options for future EPA role in sustainable products

# Challenges in Greening the Supply Chain

- Proprietary data
- Cost, technical obstacles, esp. for small businesses
- Interpretation of green claims
- Overlapping, conflicting demands on suppliers, e.g. multiple scorecards

# Where to Find More Information

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[www.epa.gov/epp](http://www.epa.gov/epp)

[www.greensuppliers.gov](http://www.greensuppliers.gov)