

# Raw Eco Score

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The Raw Eco Score is our unique **Eco Forward Ranking System** for each product which looks at Environmental, Social and Economic criteria to generate a **Raw Eco Score**.



THE RAW ECO SCORE RANKS PRODUCTS FROM 0-5  
STARS. ONLY 7% OF PRODUCTS CURATED MEET  
OUR HIGHEST STANDARDS OF 5 STARS



## *How We Stack Up*

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We reviewed and curated more than 120,000 office products from hundreds of manufacturers. The Raw Eco Score provides full transparency on the eco friendliness of the products you may buy from us.

## *Selecting Manufacturers*

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IN ADDITION TO HAVING HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES, ALL MANUFACTURERS MUST ADHERE TO OUR CODE OF CONDUCT IN ORDER FOR US TO INCLUDE THEM IN OUR PRODUCT CATALOG.

At Raw Office we believe in our core values. We expect our manufacturers to hold similar values and adhere to a high-degree of environmental awareness. We felt that this should be clearly reflected within our sustainability criteria. Not only do we ensure that we carry the most eco forward products available — but that we are also careful in selecting manufacturers which ensure a verifiable commitment to reducing environmental impact. It is these companies that have intent to pursue the three pillars of sustainability: from an environmental; economical; and a social perspective.

## Code of Conduct

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- 1. Forced Labor:** Suppliers shall not use forced labor, whether in the form of prison labor, indentured labor, bonded labor, or otherwise. Suppliers must allow employees to keep their own identification documents and to resign from their positions at any time.
- 2. Child Labor:** Suppliers shall not employ people younger than 15, or the minimum age for the completion of compulsory education, or the minimum age of employment required by law in the country of manufacture, whichever is highest.
- 3. Harassment and Abuse:** Suppliers shall treat every employee with respect and dignity, and shall not subject any employee to physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal harassment or abuse.
- 4. Nondiscrimination:** Suppliers shall not subject any person to discrimination in employment (including hiring, salary benefits, advancement, discipline, termination, or retirement) on the basis of gender, marital status, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, political opinion, social or ethnic origin or any other condition that could give rise to discrimination.
- 5. Health and Safety:** Suppliers shall provide a safe and healthy environment to prevent accidents and injury to health from occurring and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Suppliers shall identify, assess and minimize the impact of emergency situations by implementing emergency plans and response procedures. These plans and procedures must include the following: emergency exits are accessible and fully functional at all times, fire extinguishers must be visible, accessible, present and charged, evacuation plans must be posted and drills must be conducted annually. Supplier shall identify, evaluate and control exposure to hazards and ensure the use of any applicable personal protective equipment.
- 6. Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining:** Suppliers shall recognize and respect the right of employees to freedom of association and collective bargaining. Management is encouraged to engage in direct communication with employees.
- 7. Wages and Benefits:** Suppliers shall pay employees at least the minimum wage required by local law, or the prevailing industry wage if no minimum wage law applies, and shall provide legally mandated benefits.
- 8. Hours of Work Compensation:** Employees should not be required to work more than 60 hours a week, or the maximum number of work hours per week permitted in the applicable country of manufacture, whichever is less, except in extraordinary business circumstances. Employees should

be granted at least one day off in every seven-day period. In addition to their compensation for regular hours of work, suppliers shall compensate employees for overtime hours at the applicable premium rate in their country. In countries that have not established premium overtime rates, suppliers shall not pay employees less than their regular hourly rate for overtime hours.

9. **Ethical Standards:** Suppliers are held to the highest standards of integrity. Corruption, bribery and extortion are strictly prohibited. Suppliers must respect all intellectual property rights and applicable regulatory requirements of the countries from and to which they ship.
10. **Environmental Impact:** Suppliers must meet all applicable environmental laws and regulations in their country to manage hazardous materials and all waste and emissions materials. In addition, Suppliers are encouraged to have environmental policies, and environmental management systems containing goals with targets that are focused on the continuous improvement of overall environmental performance.
11. **Animal Testing:** We do not do any testing on animals. We also encourage all of the manufacturers and distributors that we feature on Raw Office website to also not do any animal testing and to treat all animals in a cruelty free humane way.
12. **Waste Management at Raw Office:** All Raw Office internal staff & contracted team members (Staff & Contractors) must use best efforts to minimize and eliminate Raw Office related waste going to landfills, and pollution going into the water stream, and atmosphere. To accomplish this, all Staff & Contractors must set up and utilize recycling, composting and e-waste bins at all company and home office locations. Staff & Contractors shall use best efforts to operate with a paperless office utilizing cloud and SaaS technologies instead. Staff & Contractors must use best efforts to reduce water usage with low flow toilets and timed faucets when and where possible. Staff & Contractors must use biodegradable non toxic soaps and cleaner suppliers at all company and home office locations that have a Raw Eco Score of at least 4 stars.

## *Raw Eco Score Math*

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Our Raw Eco Score assessment process looks at sustainability factors on a company level and then on a product level: where implementation of company standards occurs. There are five main focuses that we consider important in defining these factors: raw materials, natural systems; manufacturing, credible verification, and social impact.

Raw Office advisory team generated a proprietary scientific algorithm to assign a ranking between 0-5 stars. It's based on eco forward certifications, labels, and claims: and determines an overall sustainability factor for each product listed on Raw Office catalog. This is the product's Raw Eco Score.

For each product: we gather information on the multitude of certifications, labels: and claims described above and we compile them into our proprietary eco database.

The categories these claims belong to are categorized based on FTC, guidelines and their points are weighted accordingly. Products receive the attributed points per category only once.

A total value across all categories is calculated — and this value translates into the number of stars making up the Raw Score of each product with a maximum of 30 points and 5 stars.

- 0.5 stars - 2.0 points
- 1.0 stars - 4.0 points
- 1.5 stars - 6.0 points
- 2.0 stars - 8.0 points
- 2.5 stars - 10.0 points
- 3.0 stars - 12.0 points
- 3.5 stars - 14.0 points
- 4.0 stars - 20.0 points
- 4.5 stars - 25.0 points
- 5.0 stars - 30.0 points

You'll find exact details on the claims in each category and how many points these categories are worth: directly above in the Raw Scoring Categories section.

## Methodology

We developed an extensive and comprehensive Raw Eco Scoring system to ensure that all of the products on Raw Office are eco forward. We dug up every environmental claim; label; and certification on the 120,000 products that we curated for possible inclusion in Raw Office catalog.

In classifying these based on impact, we developed a point system to rank the products on the following Metrics:

1. Recycled content percentage - Maximum 20 points (prorated based on %)
2. Agricultural Fiber content percentage - Maximum 20 points (prorated based on %)
3. Remanufactured content percentage – Maximum 10 points (prorated based on %)
4. Self declared environmental claims – 8 points
5. Third party environmental certifications –16 points
6. Made in a local factory – 6 points

Total points available 30 points, equalling 5 stars.

## *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:*

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At [Raw Office](#), we are committed to using business as a force for good. We believe that taking a leadership and ownership position to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is necessary and important.

As such, we are excited to share that we have embarked on an industry first initiative to ensure that the products we sell contribute more benefit to the environment than they cause harm. We have looked at the emissions from the 120,000+ products that we offer, to do a life cycle assessment of the greenhouse gas carbon emissions throughout our value chain.

We are extra excited to report that at no cost to our clients, we have taken full responsibility for our greenhouse gas emissions by offsetting the emissions associated with every product that we sell. We're even purchasing more carbon credits than we need to make sure we are reducing more greenhouse gas than our sales and distribution create—making us, and your products carbon positive!

Now, every time you make a purchase through Raw Office, we not only purchase enough carbon credits to offset the carbon emissions of your order, but we are also reducing emissions beyond this measure to guarantee we are reducing emissions as a company more than we create them. Best of all it's at no cost to our customers.

The Raw Eco Score is separate and distinct from the Greenhouse Gas calculations as we are offsetting 100% of all products that we sell to be carbon neutral. As such, when you combine the Raw Eco Score and the Greenhouse gas emissions on a product you will see the complete full picture on the impact of that product.



*For 3rd party certification, one of the following is required:*

EPA  
Design for the Environment (DfE)  
SFI  
CRI Green Label  
Green Seal  
EcoLogo  
LEED  
FSC  
GREENGUARD  
Green-e  
SCS Indoor Advantage Gold  
SCS  
ENERGY STAR  
RoHS  
Cradle to Cradle (C2C) Silver  
WEEE  
ECF  
Rainforest Alliance  
GREENGUARD Gold  
REACH  
CARB  
Carbon Neutral  
PCF  
Carbon Neutral Plus  
EPEAT Silver  
Blue Angel  
No  
EPEAT Gold  
CECP  
IT Eco Declaration  
TCO '03  
Taiwan Green Mark

Korea Eco-Label  
Cradle to Cradle (C2C)  
Japan PC Green Label  
ISO 14001  
FAIRTRADE  
PEFC  
CRI Green Label Plus  
ULE Gold  
CARB II  
EPEAT Bronze  
ENERGY STAR 1.2  
Ecolabel  
OHSAS  
ENERGY STAR 5.0  
TCO Displays 5.0  
ErP  
China Energy Label (CEL)  
TCO Certified Displays 5.1  
TÜV  
EU Ecolabel  
ENERGY STAR 2.0  
Blue Angel RAL-UZ 171  
MAS Certified Green  
EU RoHS  
ErP Lot 6  
EU WEEE  
ISO 14021  
ECO  
TCO Certified Displays  
CO2 Neutral  
NF Environment  
Nordic Ecolabel

TCO Certified Displays 6.0  
GS  
CARB 93120 Phase 2  
SmartWay  
TCO 1999-2018  
ENERGY STAR 7.0  
MEPS  
SCS Indoor Advantage  
LEED-CI  
TÜV-GS  
GreenSpec  
Green Restaurant  
EPEAT  
TÜV Rheinland  
EuP  
VDE GS  
ASTM D6868 compliant  
BPI certified  
B Corporation  
1% for the Planet  
Done Good  
Green America  
Fair Trade Usa  
Fair Trade Canada  
Organic  
Non GMO  
Rain Forest Alliance  
Blue Angel  
EU Eco Label  
Compostable  
A Greener World

## Common Certifications in more detail:

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### FSC

FSC certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits. The FSC Principles and Criteria provide a foundation for all forest management standards globally, including the FSC US National Standard.

<https://fsc.org/en/about-us>



### GREEN-E

Green-e® certified renewable energy meets the highest standards in North America: it must be generated from new facilities that meet rigorous standards for environmental quality, marketed with complete transparency and accuracy, and delivered to the purchaser, who has sole title.

<https://www.green-e.org/>



### ASTM INTERNATIONAL

ASTM International is one of the largest voluntary standards developing organizations in the world. We are a not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for the development and publication of international voluntary consensus standards for materials, products, systems and services.

<https://about.astm.org/>



### IEPA/ EPA

EPA manages several programs that certify technicians, service locations, laboratories or products. The page contains an automatically-generated list of EPA webpages that include the word “certification” in the title. Entries are listed with the most recently updated pages at the top.

<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-certifications>



### DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (part of EPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/design-environment-pesticides>

## SCS & SCS Gold

SCS has been a pioneer and leader in the field of sustainability standards and third-party certification, working across the economy in the natural resources, built environment, food and agriculture, consumer products and climate sectors. Partnering with companies, government agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders, we are striving to advance sustainable development goals through independent assessment, the application of sound science, and innovative solutions.

<https://www.scsglobalservices.com/about/company>



## Green Guard

UL provides the expertise, insights and services necessary to solve critical business challenges. We help our customers achieve their safety, security and sustainability goals, meet quality and performance expectations, manage risk and achieve regulatory compliance.

<https://www.ul.com/about>



## Energy Star

ENERGY STAR certified buildings save energy, save money, and help protect the environment by generating fewer greenhouse gas emissions than typical buildings. To be certified as ENERGY STAR, a building must meet strict energy performance standards set by EPA.

[https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/building\\_recognition/building\\_certification](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/building_recognition/building_certification)



## CRI Seal

CRI's Seal of Approval (SOA) program is all about cleaning efficacy and constant improvement. We wanted to know how well vacuums, extractors, and cleaning solutions worked to clean carpet, so we developed the carpet industry's only scientific program to test and measure the effectiveness of cleaning products and equipment. The program helps consumers make informed decisions and manufacturers improve their products.

<https://carpet-rug.org/testing/seal-of-approval-program/>



## Examples of our Raw Eco Score on a few products:

### Business Source 1/3 Tab Cut Letter Recycled Top Tab File Folder

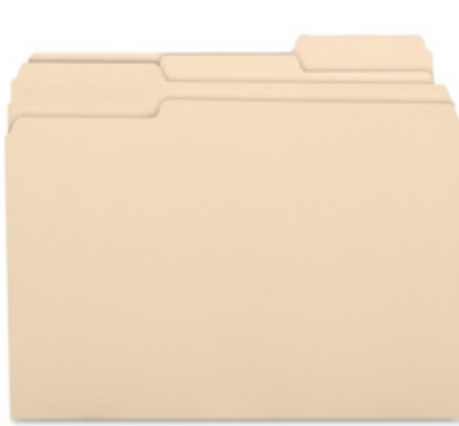
SKU: BSN17525

Raw Eco Score: ★★☆☆☆

Recycled Content: 10%

Greenhouse Gas Decrease: 175293 lbs of carbon

★★★★☆ 3 2 Reviews [Write a Review](#)

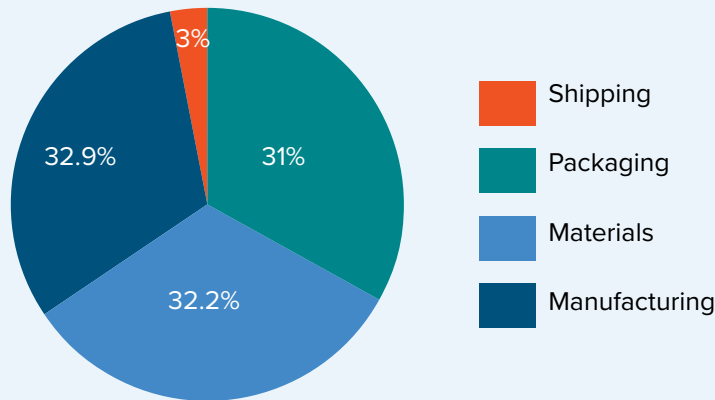


\$ 13.70

For best pricing, see your Curated List

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The Greenhouse Gas Carbon Emissions for this product is 17.5293 pounds and is comprised of 5% shipping, 47% packaging, 48% materials & 49% manufacturing.



### Genuine Joe Compostable Plates - 6" Diameter - 50/PK

SKU: GJO10216

Raw Eco Score: ★★★★★ ⓘ

Greenhouse Gas Decrease: 47.8454 lbs of carbon ⓘ

★★★★★ 0.0

No Reviews

[Write the First Review](#)



*8 pts* for the self-declared claim “compostable”  
*20 pts* for a) having the natural fibre “sugarcane” in the description with b) a total recycled content less than 100%

*28 points total = 4.5 stars*

### Green Works Manual Pot & Pan Dishwashing Liquid

SKU: CLO30381

Raw Eco Score: ★★★★★ ⓘ

Greenhouse Gas Decrease: 18.1434 lbs of carbon ⓘ

★★★★★ 0.0

No Reviews

[Write the First Review](#)



*16 pts* for the “Green Seal” certification  
*6 pts* for Unites States as the Country of Origin  
*8 pts* for the self-declared claim “naturally derived”

*30 points total = 5 stars*

## TOPS Second Nature Spiral Reporter/Steno Notebook

SKU: TOP74688

Raw Eco Score: ★★★★★ ⓘ

Recycled Content: 100% ♻️

Greenhouse Gas Decrease: 4.0519 lbs of carbon ⓘ

☆☆☆☆☆ 0.0 No Reviews [Write the First Review](#)



*6 pts* for the United States as the Country of Origin

*20 pts* for 100% recycled content

*26 points total = 4.5 stars*

## Raw Eco Score Methodology

We also look at whether the manufacturer has a recent (preferably annual) Sustainability Report. These are good overall indicators of a commitment to environmental improvement. Some of these reports are certified by the Global Reporting Initiative, which adds further transparency.

Certain companies will be listed on the [Dow Jones Sustainability Index](#) — we take this into account as well. Other indices such as the [FTSE4GOOD](#), [ISO certifications](#), and voluntary disclosure programs are also highly recognizable accolades that we consider when selecting our manufacturers.

Credible verifications are easy to check. These represent life cycle studies: ISO Type I environmental labels, or ISO Type II environmental claims. These have all been backed up by sound scientific study and must adhere to either the [FTC](#) or [Canadian Competition Bureau](#) standards for environmental claims; which can be found on their respective sites.

These federal standards are constantly evolving due to the amount of environmental research presently being done. As such: we revise our standards annually in order to ensure a maximum compliance with current environmental findings. For example, we've had to revise the classification ranking attributed to products with biodegradable and compostable claims. The FTC has recently issued a warning that several companies were misleading in reporting the settings of their studies; and thus the validity of these self-declared claims is in question. For this reason we rank products with certified labels and studies much higher than products with self-declared claims made by the manufacturer.

## Raw Score Categories

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### THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATIONS— CATEGORY 1: ISO (OR SIMILAR) TYPE 1 LIFE CYCLE BASED ECO-LABELS

#### *ECOLOGO®, Green Seal*

These environmental characteristics fall into specific categories regulated by the FTC and Canadian Competition Bureau that are universally used to distinguish the importance of environmental labels and certifications. While most of these claims are backed by sound research, some are not - these claims, which have come into question in recent years, receive less weight than those properly vetted.

Products with ISO (or similar) life cycle based eco labels receive our highest accreditation. These include ECOLOGO® and Green Seal in North America, which take into account every aspect of a product's life cycle. Products with these labels are certified as having a reduced environmental impact and have undergone in-depth scientific testing, auditing (or both); to prove environmental, economic, and social performance standards. These labels are validated by the Underwriters Laboratory and hold a high-degree of reputability.

### THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATIONS— CATEGORY 2: ISO (OR SIMILAR) TYPE 1 SINGLE ISSUE LABELS

#### *FSC, Green-E, ACI vII, ASTM 640016868, I-IEPA, EPA, SCS, SCS Gold, ASTM, PMA: Green Guard, Energy Star, Designed for the Env., CRI Seal*

Our second-most important category deals with ISO (or similar) Type 1 claims. This category is comprised of Single Issue eco labels; Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Energy Star, and Design for the Environment; are just a few of the labels we take into consideration. Labels such as these denote a key single issue of their environmental footprint instead of considering the entire cycle. For example: guaranteeing responsible management of the forests (FSC), or setting a maximum level of energy consumption (Energy Star).

## CATEGORY 3: ISO (OR SIMILAR) TYPE 2 CLAIMS

*% Post consumer waste, Energy efficient, Non-toxic,  
Chlorine-free bleaching, Reduced chemical exposure,  
Responsible forestry, Anti-microbial*

Our third category deals with ISO (or similar) Type II self-declared environmental claims. Labels belonging to this group don't necessarily share the same characteristics as other third-party labels as an independent authority has not awarded them. These include general claims such as anti-microbial, energy efficient; and percentages of post-consumer waste— they refer directly to an environmental aspect of the product itself. "Green" claims, such as the following, must adhere to the FTC and Canadian Competition Bureau standards.

EARTH FRIENDLY, RECYCLABLE, RECYCLING SOLUTIONS, INDOOR AIR QUALITY, REMANUFACTURED, RENEWABLE ENERGY, REWRITABLE, RECHARGEABLE, ENVIRONMENTAL, BIODEGRADABLE, COMPOSTABLE AND MORE.

We also look self-declared environmental claims not certified by any authority. This category includes environmental claims that been called into question in recent years, such as products being labeled as "compostable" or "biodegradable", yet only meeting this claim under factory-controlled conditions. These claims are usually provided with data, but no specific study or research to back up these claims.

### *Disclaimer*

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Should you have any questions or concerns on the manufacturers, products, claims, labels, or processes discussed on our site, please feel free to contact us.

Do not take this as perfect sorting system for the world's sustainable products; use this as a tool to make informed decisions about the products in our store and to feel more environmentally aware.

It is our desire to continuously be improving and updating the Raw Eco Scoring system. We look forward to hearing your feedback





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