

The Environmental Stewardship Program
FACT SHEET

Headquarters: 1899 Preston White Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Corporate Data: Launched 2006
Administered by the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturer's Association

Who We Are: The Environmental Stewardship Program encourages industry policies and practices that benefit the environment and society. The voluntary certification program provides a tangible way for cabinet manufacturers to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

ESP goes beyond other environmental programs by taking a holistic approach to certification, holding the industry to higher standards and requiring third party verification for many of its criteria. After meeting the rigorous certification requirements companies are awarded the ESP seal to display on their products.

Statement of Beliefs: ESP confirms and expands upon the following beliefs:

- The forests not only provide outstanding environmental benefits, but also provide an array of renewable wood products and derivatives.
- We encourage the continued and expanded use of forest products.
- We are committed to promoting conservation and the intelligent use of our natural resources.
- We support and encourage responsible forest management practices that promote sustainability and result in long-term economic and environmental benefits.
- We are committed to educating our members and customers in the global wood products community about environmental and forestry issues.

Certification Criteria: Manufacturers must earn points based on compliance with stringent criteria to be awarded ESP certification. These criteria include, but are not limited to:

- 75% of particleboard, plywood and medium density fiberboard used in the cabinets must be certified to meet lowest formaldehyde emission standards
- 75% of particleboard and medium density fiberboard used in the cabinets must contain 100% recycled or recovered fiber content
- Hardwoods must be certified through an independent and credible sustainable forestry program
- A documented energy conservation program must be in place
- A written Environmental Management System must be available and enforced
- An active recycling program for process wastes must be in place
- All federal, state and local environmental requirements must be observed
- The manufacturer must demonstrate community involvement and leadership through service or charitable organizations

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Members:

Eighty-seven plants and brands have met the certification requirements. Please visit www.greencabinetsource.org/certifiedcompanies for the most up-to-date listing of KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program certified cabinet manufacturers.

Web site:

www.greencabinetsource.org

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A REPUTABLE, INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC PROGRAM

- ESP is the only environmental certification program that specifically focuses on kitchen and bath cabinets, giving the industry an outlet to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability.
- KCMA applied its 40+ years of experience in developing and maintaining the industry's quality performance standard program, ANSI/KCMA A161.1, to construct its Environmental Stewardship Program.
- Certification is awarded based on compliance in five categories: air quality, product resource management, process management, environmental stewardship and community relations.

MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- ESP holds the industry to higher standards than other environmental programs due to its holistic approach to manufacturing, examining the process from growth and harvesting of raw materials to processes involved in manufacturing the end product.
- ESP rewards manufacturers for using low formaldehyde-emitting wood products
- Certification requirements are based on currently available materials and will be reviewed to incorporate new materials and processes as they are developed. This built-in continuous improvement mechanism makes the program sustainable for the long-term.
- Modeled after the Environmental Protection Agency's standards program and endorsed by the NAHB, ESP certification also requires third party verification for many of its criteria.

WOOD -- THE RESPONSIBLE, RENEWABLE CHOICE FOR KITCHEN AND BATH CABINETS

- Wood is a sensible, environmentally-friendly choice for cabinets as it replenishes itself naturally.
- Due to sustainable forestry practices, more than two trees are planted for every one that is harvested today in the U.S.
- KCMA cares about maintaining and rebuilding our forests and, therefore, supports intelligent, responsible practices. These practices promote sustainability and result in long-term human, economic and environmental benefits.
- ESP encourages ongoing education and outreach by awarding certification points to manufacturers that educate suppliers and promote community involvement.

For more information, please visit our Web site at www.greencabinetsource.org

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The Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association, headquartered in Reston, VA, is the principal trade association in the United States for manufacturers of kitchen cabinets, bath vanities, decorative laminate products and suppliers to the industry. The KCMA is committed to excellence in manufacturing through continued quality, advocacy and leadership.



How the Program Works

The KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program is modeled after the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Green Home Guidelines program established in January 2005 and is administered similar to the existing industry quality performance standard developed and maintained by the KCMA. Any manufacturer of pre-finished, factory-engineered cabinets may participate. ESP certification is awarded annually and based on compliance in five categories. These categories contain 18 different criteria with a total of 105 possible points. To be certified, a manufacturer must score a minimum of 80 points. The breakdown of required points by category is as follows:

CATEGORY	POINTS
Air quality	30
Product resource management	30
Process resource management	20
Environmental stewardship	15
Community relations	10

ESP goes beyond other environmental programs to not only look at raw material sourcing and management, but to also set standards for manufacturing and product processes in regards to air quality and formaldehyde use. Applicants must provide testing reports, copies of written policies, proof of purchase and similar credible documentation/records to substantiate claimed points.

What it Means to be ESP Certified

Manufacturers must demonstrate compliance with stringent criteria to be awarded ESP certification. These criteria include, but are not limited to:

- 75% of particleboard, plywood and MDF used in the cabinets must be certified to meet lowest formaldehyde emission standards
- 75% of particleboard and MDF used in the cabinets must contain 100% recycled or recovered fiber content
- Hardwoods must be certified through an independent and credible sustainable forestry program
- A documented energy conservation program must be in place
- A written Environmental Management System must be available and enforced
- An active recycling program for process wastes must be in place
- All federal, state and local environmental requirements must be observed
- The manufacturer must demonstrate community involvement and leadership through service or charitable organizations.

It is a rigorous process that helps guarantee that everyone is doing their part to provide you with sustainable cabinetry products.

A Strong History and Reputation of Advocacy and Leadership

Since 1955, the KCMA has represented the interests and goals of kitchen, bath and other residential cabinet manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. Since the beginning, the association has been committed to excellence in manufacturing through continued quality, advocacy and leadership. It developed the consensus U.S. industry performance standard and voluntary testing program for cabinets (ANSI/KCMA A161.1) that is maintained and updated regularly consistent with ANSI requirements. And now, KCMA is building on that experience with a voluntary environmental stewardship standard for cabinet manufacturers—the KCMA Environmental Stewardship Certification Program.



A complete list of ESP-certified companies and brands is available on the **Visitors and Consumers** section of the KCMA Web site at www.kcma.org.

Make Sure More Than Just Your Cabinets Last

With the help of industry partners, the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) has created the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) to encourage industry policies and practices that benefit the environment and society. This groundbreaking new program provides a tangible way for cabinet manufacturers and suppliers to show their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Since launching ESP at the 2006 International Woodworking Fair, the voluntary certification program has been enthusiastically received by cabinet manufacturers of all sizes. After meeting the certification requirements in areas such as air quality, resource management and environmental stewardship, ESP-certified companies can display the ESP seal on their products.

This seal is your assurance that you are doing your part to help preserve our environment. Ask your cabinetry supplier today if their products carry the ESP seal and encourage your customers to ask for it too.

Make it Your Business to Help Preserve the Environment

Look for the KCMA
Environmental Stewardship
Program (ESP) Seal on Your
Cabinets



Your copy goes here.

Your copy goes here.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the KCMA Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP)?

The Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) is a voluntary certification program, administered by KCMA, designed to encourage cabinet industry policies and practices that benefit and sustain the environment.

How do manufacturers qualify for certification?

Companies are rated on eighteen different criteria in 5 categories. To become certified, companies must attain 80 out of a possible 105 points on these criteria.

What are the primary criteria required for certification?

In order to be certified manufacturers must meet requirements in the categories of: air quality, product resource management, process resource management, environmental stewardship, and community relations. The criteria include provisions on indoor air quality and formaldehyde emissions, sustainable forestry, and resource conservation.

How many companies have been certified?

In the first year of ESP, almost 90 companies have been certified, and more companies are being reviewed.

How long does ESP certification last?

Members are reviewed annually. They must continually review and document their practices to safeguard the environment, track their achievements & continually seek new methods and materials.

What makes ESP certified cabinets desirable for people's homes?

Certification provides assurance that the cabinet manufacturer is committed to environmental responsibility. For example, the program encourages manufacturers to purchase wood through recognized sustainable forestry programs that help protect the forests. Furthermore, manufacturers earn points for maintaining an energy conservation program, an Environmental Management System and an active recycling program for process waste, all of which ensure resources are used wisely.

Where can I find ESP certified cabinets?

You can purchase ESP certified cabinets through local cabinetry dealers or kitchen showrooms, retailers and distributors like Home Depot and Lowe's, and directly through your builder. For a list of members and links to their Web sites go to www.GreenCabinetSource.org and click on "Getting ESP Cabinets."

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How are certified manufacturers recognized?

When certified, manufacturers are given the right to use the ESP seal on their cabinets.

When was this program introduced?

It was launched at the 2006 International Woodworking Fair.

Why did KCMA develop the Environmental Stewardship Program?

Prior to ESP, no national environmental program specific to the cabinet industry existed. ESP was designed to encourage the industry to achieve a high level of environmental responsibility.

How will ESP keep pace with industry developments?

ESP requirements will be reviewed by KCMA and strengthened as new, improved materials and processes become available.

How is KCMA ESP program administered?

Manufacturers must submit an application with proper documentation regarding material purchased, amount of recycling, low-emitting products, and the like, that is reviewed by KCMA. All information is checked and verified by KCMA's trained and experienced professionals.

What is KCMA's position on formaldehyde?

Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring chemical produced by the human body that is emitted by wood and other organic materials. It is not thought to be harmful to most people at the low levels typical of materials used to manufacture cabinetry.

Are there other "green" home programs?

Yes, there are many programs that provide guidelines for building and equipping an environmentally responsible home, including:

NAHB Green Building program – general guidelines for building a green home

EPA Energy Star program – energy efficient appliances

EPA Water Sense program – water efficient products

USGBC LEED program – guidelines for green home design and construction being developed.

Where can I get more information about KCMA's ESP?

www.kcma.org

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www.GreenCabinetSource.org

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