

JARGON BUSTER

RECYCLED CONTENT

Contains material that is on its second life (meaning it was previously recycled). Having recycled content does not necessarily mean that this item is recyclable.

RECYCLABLE

A material that is technically capable of being recycled at its end of life. But, this isn't regulated and it doesn't mean that it is actually recyclable in your area. Check local recycling regulations, or third party website, like Earth 911.

BIODEGRADABLE

Anything that breaks down naturally into water, carbon dioxide, and soil.

COMPOSTABLE

Material that can break down through a biodegradation pathway under controlled conditions. Many compostable items are only suitable for industrial, not backyard composting. Look for the BPI or TUV Austria labels.

BIO-BASED

Use of a grown crop to make the material.

ORGANIC

Use of a crop grown under specific conditions, such as no pesticides. Look for the USDA Organic or the EU Organic labels.

CARBON NEUTRAL

Indicates that the total amount of greenhouse gases (GG) emitted by a company/making a product are equal to zero. This usually means that GG emissions are offset by carbon credits, which are projects that sequester carbon dioxide through things such as reforestation.