

USEFUL DEFINITIONS RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Cradle to Cradle: Redesigning products so that the product at the end of one function can be used at the start of another function. For example, in nature decomposing leaves become soil for future food production.

Cradle to Grave: A product's life cycle from development to disposal.

Closed-Loop: Designing a product so all of the input materials can be completely recaptured and reused in the manufacturing of more products. For example, post consumer recycled aluminum beverage containers being used in the production of new aluminum beverage containers.

Deconstructable: Products that can be taken apart and their components reused or recycled to create new products.

Greenwashing: A term used to describe the practice of companies disingenuously spinning their products and policies as environmentally friendly. See Environmental Choice – [The Seven Sins of Greenwashing](#).

Life Cycle Costs: The costs incurred throughout a product's life cycle ("cradle to grave") including development, resource extraction, manufacturing, transportation, distribution, operations, maintenance, energy requirements, emissions, recycling and waste disposal.

Post-Consumer Recycled Content: Material that has been recovered after its use as a consumer product.

Pre-Consumer Recycled Content: Products that contain material that has been salvaged as waste during the manufacturing process. For example, plastic trimmings that are re-used in the production of more plastic products.

Total Cost of Ownership or Total Acquisition Cost: The purchase price plus cost of operation, maintenance and recycling/disposal.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): Compounds that are very reactive in the atmosphere and breakdown into simpler compounds that will eventually lead to the formation of ozone in polluted regions. For example, anthropogenic emissions of VOCs are closely tied to automobile emissions, vapors from paints and dry-cleaning solvents, and industrial processes.