



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSURANCE**

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

LN: CHC-2008

Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc

Standard:
GECA 11-2005 – Recycled Paper Products

Conformance Declaration Date:
12th June 2008



**Environmental
Assurance**

*“ensuring accurate environmental
testing and verification of
conformance”*

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*“setting Australia’s product environmental
standards”*

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EPD

accurate
simplified
environmental
performance
information on
Environmental Choice
Australia Mark
Certified Products



environmental solutions for sustainable markets in Australia

The Environmental Choice Australia Mark ecolabelling program is the national product life cycle environmental declaration based on internationally recognized standard setting and assessment methodology.

The national program is managed by two distinct organisations:

Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd. is the standard setting and sustainable consumption market promotions body which develops and declares the ecolabelling standards defining product environmental preference in conformance to ISO 14 024 – International Standard for Third Party Environmental Labelling and Declaration (www.geca.org.au). GECA is an independent non-profit environmental research and ecolabeling standard setting organisation recognised as the Australian member of an international network of ecolabelling schemes under the Global Ecolabelling Network.

Environmental Assurance (also trading as Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd) is the auditing and certification body with responsibility for product assessment, certification and licensing of products against the declared standards (www.eassurance.com.au). GECS is the assessment body for this Program with expertise specific to quality product environmental performance auditing following the principles of ISO 14 010 and ISO 14 024 in it's audit and certification services.

Following an independent audit against the recognition requirements of the Australian Program this declaration outlines key environmental performance attributes of products that have been awarded the "Environmental Choice Australia" label for the Australian market. The Ecolabel is awarded to those products that meet or exceed voluntary standards of environmental performance.

The objectives of the program are to:

- a) Provide incentives for suppliers to reduce the environmental impacts of products sold in Australia;
- b) Provide a clear, credible and independent guide to consumers wishing to take account of environmental factors in their purchasing decisions;
- c) Encourage consumers to purchase products which have lower environmental impacts;
- d) Recognize genuine moves by companies to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of their products;
- e) Aim ultimately to improve the quality of the environment and to encourage the sustainable management of resources.

DISCLAIMER:

This report has been prepared by Good Environmental Choice Services Pty Ltd (Environmental Assurance) in respect of a Client's assessment results for product conformity to the requirements of the respective Good Environmental Choice Australia Ltd (GECA) standard. The purpose of this public report is to present summary evidence and overview of the Client's product conformity with the standards or other criteria specified. The content of this report applies only to matters which were evident to Environmental Assurance at the time of the audit within the audit scope. Environmental Assurance does not warrant or otherwise comment upon the suitability of the contents of the report or the certificate for any particular purpose or use. Environmental Assurance accepts no liability whatsoever for consequences to, or actions taken by, third parties as a result of or in reliance upon information contained in this report.



CERTIFICATION FINDINGS

This range of products manufactured by Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc has been assessed against the GECA 11-2005 Recycled Paper Products Standard, and awarded the Environmental Choice Australia Eco-Label.

1. MANUFACTURER DESCRIPTION

Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc

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Coffs Challenge is an Australian Disability Enterprise contracted to the Commonwealth Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to provide supported employment for people with a disability. Coffs Challenge is also contracted to the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care to provide Transition to Work programs for school leavers.

EcoCover® mulch mat is produced primarily from waste paper removed directly from the landfill waste stream, and has a number of unique product attributes that richly benefit the plant, soil and environment. The mat is manufactured by Coffs Harbour Challenge and has been certified organic to IFOAM standards.



Companies leading
Australia's environmental
response at work.



2: REGISTERED PRODUCTS

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The following Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc products have been awarded the Environmental Choice Australia Declaration:

PRODUCT NAME	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
EcoCover® Mulch Mat	Plant mulching mat
EcoCrop® Mulch Mat	Crop mulching mat

**EcoCover® and EcoCrop®
 Mulch Mats**

- Organic
- 100% Compostable
- 100% Biodegradable
- Builds soil carbon
- Sequesters CO2
- Water conservation
- Weed control
- Gardens and landscaping, orchards, forestry, nurseries and other weed problem areas
- Promotes plant growth
- Moderates soil temperature fluctuations
- Erosion control
- Herbicide reduction or elimination
- Reduces plant mortality
- Helps move toward zero waste objective



Products with a distinctive environmental edge.



3. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE FINDINGS

The key environmental performance criteria against which the Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc products were assessed, and the findings by Environmental Assurance, are provided below.

Criterion	Core Environmental Performance Characteristics
Fitness for Purpose	Although Ecocover products are not applicable under any Australian standard, University studies have been performed upon the product showing this product is fit for purpose. This product readily meets consumer and market expectations as is seen on their website.
Recycled Content	This product is comprised of 97% recycled content exceeding the requirements of this criterion.
Recyclability Requirements	This product is a combination of pre and post consumer recycled paper that is not coated or treated in any way that would prohibit its recycling.
Fibre Sources	The fibre in this product is predominately sourced from shredded paper. The outer layer is sourced from Australian paper fibre originating from FSC plantations.
Emission Requirements	There are no water emissions from the production process of this Coffs Harbour Challenge product as the production process is mechanical only.
Hazardous Substances	GECS has confirmed that no hazardous or prohibited substances are used or added to this product during manufacturing.
Packaging Requirements	This nominated product range is shipped on re-useable pallets and shrink wrapped in adverse weather conditions. This shrink wrap is not halogenated or chlorinated and is recyclable.
Compliance to Environmental Requirements	Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc. does not require an environmental licence to operate. Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc. adheres to the relevant environmental legislation and has not been prosecuted for violations to Environmental regulations in the past 24 months.
Compliance to Labour, Anti-Discrimination and Safety Regulations	Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc. is in conformance with relevant social requirements and workplace regulations. The company has not been prosecuted for violations to labour, anti-discrimination or safety regulations in the past 24 months.

Quantifying key criteria for assurance to the market.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A detailed verification report is supplied to verified manufacturers regarding the findings of environmental characteristics of their products and evidence of compliance. The verification report can be made available at the sole discretion of the manufacturer.

This EPD has been made available for green purchasing officers, specifiers, and every day Australians seeking to purchase products and services on the basis of functional and overall environmental and human health performance.



Contact Us:

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FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WEB

The Australian Ecolabel Program is the national environmental product life cycle labelling program for Australia. Further details of the Australian Ecolabel Program are available from www.envassurance.com and www.geca.org.au.