

# Environmentally Preferred Sourcing Program

Boost your products' visibility to help members choose products best suited for their needs

## Introduction

The Vizient Environmentally Preferred Sourcing (EPS) Program provides a framework for our members to implement and maintain an environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) program that supports their organization's overall sustainability objectives. Vizient encourages all of our awarded suppliers to support these goals by becoming a part of the broadest, most cost-effective environmentally preferred product portfolio in the industry.

The Vizient portfolio currently has more than 575 contracts with more than 535,000 products and more than 3.4 million EPS attribute data points.



## Environmentally preferred attributes

Vizient strives to provide members with the environmentally preferred attributes that enable purchasing managers to select products that reduce harmful environmental and human health impacts while maintaining quality and affordability.

To that end, Vizient asks all suppliers to provide SKU-level environmentally preferred attribute data for awarded products. We share this information with members via Vizient Catalog to help them select products that support their EPP objectives. These attributes, combined with our analytical tools such as DataLynx and the EPP dashboard, help members determine their EPP spend and identify opportunities to change their purchasing to cleaner and safer products.

In addition to the 23 standard attributes, Vizient has specific attributes for food, food service disposables, chemicals, equipment and more; so suppliers may submit attribute data appropriate for your product category. Our national bid process for competitive procurements includes language about attribute collection. Suppliers are encouraged to proactively submit EP attributes for product additions at any time by completing and emailing the template found on [vizientinc.com/suppliers](http://vizientinc.com/suppliers).

## Setting an industry standard

Vizient is encouraging the health care industry to standardize to a common list of 23 attributes, which were developed in conjunction with a leading member health care organization. Mapping reporting activity to the same attribute language improves the efficiency and accuracy of data reporting and streamlines the reconciliation process for all stakeholders.

We are facilitating a discussion with the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative (HGPII) to standardize the 23 attributes among GPOs, and we request that members as well as suppliers adopt the same 23 standard attributes in their own bid process in order to move closer to one industry standard. In 2019, Vizient received the **Supplier Leadership Award** from the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council for leading this standardization effort across the health care sector.

### Added visibility for members

When you provide a response that meets the requirement of the attribute, we visually highlight your safer and/or healthier product in Vizient Catalog. Members see a bright green “EP” icon next to each product with EPS attributes.



We also provide suppliers the opportunity to showcase your organization’s sustainability standards through an EPS brief. These PDF documents are accessible to members through Vizient Catalog; contact the EPS team to request our document template.

### EPS Designated Supplier

Vizient offers suppliers who meet certain criteria the opportunity to be considered an EPS Designated Supplier. The requirements include:

- Provide a list of products that meet predefined environmentally preferred criteria
- Provide proof of third-party certification for environmental standards or scientific documentation to verify the product or service has no adverse effect on human and environmental health. Vizient reserves the right to evaluate and approve additional certifications or standards.
- Report EPS spend separately from conventional spend through Vizient required financial reporting channels

A supplier who meets each of these criteria is identified in Vizient Catalog as an “EPS Designated Supplier” for applicable contracts. These suppliers are also entitled to use our “Environmentally Preferred Awarded Supplier” logo in their promotional materials.

### Analytics

Environmentally preferred attribute information is available for members to download through our analytical tools. We also offer members EPS analysis based on their purchases through our EPP dashboard.

### Resources

To learn more about our Environmentally Preferred Sourcing Program, refer to [vizientinc.com/EPS](https://vizientinc.com/EPS) for general information, or to the [Supplier Dashboard](#) website for awarded supplier-exclusive materials (login required); or contact the program team at [EPS@vizientinc.com](mailto:EPS@vizientinc.com).

**At Vizient, we are pleased to work with environmentally responsible suppliers and appreciate your leadership, commitment and support of our members’ environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts.**



To learn more, please contact the Environmentally Preferred Sourcing team at [EPS@vizientinc.com](mailto:EPS@vizientinc.com).

As the nation’s largest member-driven health care performance improvement company, Vizient provides network-powered insights in the critical areas of clinical, operational, and supply chain performance and empowers members to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care.