

# Value definitions

The value ranking system used on this website is intended as a rough prioritization guide. Values are based on order-of-magnitude estimates of the potential value of implementing a best practice to its full extent and applicable scope. The actual value realized by an organization from implementing a best practice will vary widely due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, size of the organization, number and scale of projects, nature of activities or operations, geographic region, and best practice implementation extent and scope. If you have experience that indicates any of the assigned values would benefit from recalibration, please [contact us](#) so that we may refine the value(s) in question.

## Size of organization definitions

- Large organization: 1000+ employees
- Mid-sized organization: 100 to 999 employees
- Small organization: 1 to 99 employees

## Value definitions

- **Environmental value:** Annual avoided emissions, waste, water use, liquid effluent (direct emissions are primary, with embodied loosely considered). For equipment or vehicles, this would be across the potential installed base of applicable equipment. For new built structures, (applicable to, for example, architects, or Engineering, Procurement and Construction firms) this would be across the portfolio of structures built in a year. For office or facility operational footprints (e.g. building electricity use, office activities), this would be across the portfolio of owned or leased office space/facilities. For environmentally preferable materials, this applies to the volume of material deployed. If there are multiple environmental benefits associated with implementation of a best practice, value is assigned based on the leading benefit.
- **Operational/maintenance value:** A count of benefits from following list: Longer asset life, compliance/risk control, improved moral/productivity, less labor hours (operations and/or maintenance), avoided nuisance, avoided project delays, better for health/safety, improved technical performance.
- **Financial value:** Cost savings values are based on total cost of ownership estimates, and revenue-related value is given as annual estimate. Financial value can also refer to potential annual fine avoidance or avoided project delay costs. Intangible financial value in the form of brand or enterprise value is also considered in value assignments.
- **Implementation ease:** Level of effort in hours, cross functional coordination, and/or behavioral changes needed to implement a best practice.

## Which value tables to use

- Organizations with no/low activity outside an office (e.g. consulting, staff augmentation), or with low environmental interaction in the field (e.g. millwright, electrician, quantity surveyor).
  - Use Table 1
- Organizations that design and/or build constructed entities (e.g. architects, engineers, engineering/procurement/construction, construction, interior design/build), or that deliver services mostly in the field that can have an interaction with the environment (e.g. facilities management, general contracting, vegetation management).
  - Use Table 2 for primary services/activities
  - Use Table 1 for office building-related, or administrative activities.
- Organizations with operations and/or supply chain spends that can represent a significant (direct or indirect) physical footprint or interaction with the environment (e.g. freight/shipping, waste management, major manufacturing, utility (supply chain context only)).
  - Use Table 3 for primary services/activities
  - Use Table 1 for office building-related, or administrative activities.

**Table 1:**

| Value                        | Environmental value   | Operational/maintenance value | Financial value                           | Implementation ease                      |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Large organization</b>    |   |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list               | 3+                            | \$1,000,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available | 2                             | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value   | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000s gallons   | 1                             | \$10,000s                                 | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: 1-10 tons<br>Waste: 10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons   | 0                             | \$1,000s                                  | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Mid-size organization</b> |   |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                    | 3+                            | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value.  | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available    | 2                             | \$10,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value.   | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 1-10 tons<br>Waste: 10 Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons  | 1                             | \$1,000s                                  | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: <1 ton<br>Waste: <10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10s gallon   | 0                             | \$100s                                    | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Small organization</b>    |   |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                       | 3+                            | \$10,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value.   | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 1 - 10 tons<br>Waste: 10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available    | 2                             | \$1,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value.    | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: <1 ton<br>Waste: 1-10 Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10s gallon   | 1                             | \$100s                                    | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: -<br>Waste: <1 Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: <10 gallon  | 0                             | \$10s                                     | High effort and/or complexity            |

**Table 2:**

| Value                        | Environmental value  | Operational/maintenance value | Financial value                             | Implementation ease                      |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Large organization</b>    |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 10,000s + tons<br>Waste: 100,000s + Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000,000 gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list             | 3+                            | \$10,000,000s+<br>Or enterprise/brand value | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available | 2                             | \$1,000,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value   | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons   | 1                             | \$100,000s                                  | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: 10s<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons   | 0                             | \$10,000s                                   | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Mid-size organization</b> |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                    | 3+                            | \$1,000,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value   | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available      | 2                             | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value     | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 10s<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000s gallons   | 1                             | \$10,000s                                   | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: 1 - 10 tons<br>Waste: 10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons  | 0                             | \$1,000s                                    | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Small organization</b>    |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                         | 3+                            | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value     | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available         | 2                             | \$10,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value      | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 1 - 10 tons<br>Waste: 10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons  | 1                             | \$1,000s                                    | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: <1 ton<br>Waste: <10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10s gallon  | 0                             | \$100s                                      | High effort and/or complexity            |

**Table 3:**

| Value                        | Environmental value  | Operational/maintenance value | Financial value                                       | Implementation ease                      |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Large organization</b>    |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 100,000s + tons<br>Waste: 1,000,000s + Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1,000,000s + gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list         | 3+                            | \$10,000,000s +<br>Direct or in enterprise value      | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 10,000s tons<br>Waste: 100,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available | 2                             | \$1,000,000s<br>Direct or in enterprise value         | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons   | 1                             | \$100,000s<br>Direct or in enterprise value           | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1000s gallons   | 0                             | \$10,000s or neutral<br>Direct or in enterprise value | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Mid-size organization</b> |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 10,000s tons<br>Waste: 100,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100,000 gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                     | 3+                            | \$1,000,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value             | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available    | 2                             | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value.              | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1000s gallons   | 1                             | \$10,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value                | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons  | 0                             | \$1,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value                 | High effort and/or complexity            |
| <b>Small organization</b>    |  |                               |   |  |
| <b>Gold</b>                  | Emissions: 1,000s tons<br>Waste: 10,000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10,000s gallons<br>On a Chemicals of Concern list                       | 3+                            | \$100,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value               | Negligible effort and/or complexity      |
| <b>High</b>                  | Emissions: 100s tons<br>Waste: 1000s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 1000s gallons<br>Environ. preferable and safer chemicals available          | 2                             | \$10,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value                | Some effort, but not complex             |
| <b>Medium</b>                | Emissions: 10s tons<br>Waste: 100s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 100s gallons  | 1                             | \$1,000s<br>Or enterprise/brand value                 | Higher effort, maybe a little complexity |
| <b>Low</b>                   | Emissions: <10 tons<br>Waste: 10s Lbs.<br>Water/liquid waste: 10s gallons  | 0                             | \$100s<br>Or enterprise/brand value                   | High effort and/or complexity            |

