

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

COUNCIL POLICY

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Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy	1 of 4	4-6
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BACKGROUND

The mission statement of the Environmental and Utility Services City Service Area (CSA) reflects a commitment to provide environmental leadership through policy development and program design.

By incorporating environmental considerations in public purchasing, the City of San José can serve this commitment by reducing its burden on the local and global environment, removing unnecessary hazards from its operations, protecting public health, reducing costs and liabilities, and potentially improving the environmental quality of the region. This policy is an effective way to direct the City’s effort in procuring environmentally preferable products and services.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this policy is to minimize negative environmental impacts of the City’s activities by ensuring the procurement of services and products that:

- reduce toxicity;
- conserve natural resources, materials, and energy;
- maximize recyclability and recycled content.

A collateral purpose is to support markets for recycled goods and other environmentally preferable products and services.

DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the assigned definitions for all purposes under this policy:

- A. **City of San José** means the City of San José elected officials, staff, and agencies.

- B. **Environmentally Preferable Products and Services** means products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product.
- C. **Life Cycle Cost** means the amortized annual cost of a product, including capital costs, installation costs, operating costs, maintenance costs, and disposal costs discounted over the lifetime of the product.
- D. **Practicable** means sufficient in performance and available at a reasonable price.
- E. **Recyclable Product** means a product which, after its intended end use, can demonstrably be diverted from the City of San José's solid waste stream for use as a raw material in the manufacture of another product.
- F. **Recycled Material** means material and byproducts that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, and have been utilized in place of raw or virgin material in manufacturing a product. It is derived from post-consumer recycled material, manufacturing waste, industrial scrap, agricultural waste, and other waste material, but does not include material or byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.
- G. **Virgin Material** means any material occurring in its natural form. Virgin Material is used in the form of raw material in the manufacture of new products.

POLICY

The City of San José commits to:

1. Procure environmentally preferable products and services where criteria have been established by governmental or other widely recognized authorities (e.g. Energy Star, EPA Eco Purchasing Guidelines).
2. Integrate environmental factors into the City's buying decisions where external authorities have not established criteria. Examples:
 - replacing disposables with reusables or recyclables;
 - supporting eco-labelling practices by buying products bearing such labels in preference to others, where they are available and provide value for money
 - taking into account life cycle costs and benefits;
 - evaluating, as appropriate, the environmental performance of vendors in providing products and services;

3. Raise staff awareness on the environmental issues affecting procurement by providing relevant information and training;
4. Encourage suppliers and contractors to offer environmentally preferable products and services at competitive prices;
5. Encourage providers of services to consider environmental impacts of service delivery.
6. Comply with all environmental legislative and regulatory requirements in the procurement of products and services.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring a department, agency or contractor to procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use or are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.

Procedures and Guidelines may be established as necessary to ensure the continuation of a strong Environmental Procurement Program.

Responsibility

All City of San José departments, offices and agencies shall identify and purchase the most environmentally responsible products and services that are available for the intended purpose and that meet the performance requirements. Factors that should be considered when determining the environmentally preferable good or service include, but are not limited to:

- Minimization of virgin material use in product or service life cycle
- Maximization of recycled products used in product or service life cycle
- Environmental cost of entire product or service life cycle
- Reuse of existing products or materials in product or service life cycle
- Recyclability of product
- Minimization of packaging
- Reduction of energy/water consumption
- Toxicity reduction or elimination
- Elimination of uncertified hardwoods in product or service life cycle
- Durability and maintenance requirements
- Ultimate disposal of the product

Purchasing Division Responsibilities:

1. Develop and maintain information about environmentally preferable products and recycled products containing the maximum practicable amount of recycled materials, to be purchased by departments, agencies, consultants and contractors whenever possible.

2. Inform departments, agencies and contractors of their responsibilities under this policy and provide implementation assistance.
3. Institute product testing and trial service to evaluate environmentally responsible alternatives pursuant to established testing guidelines.
4. Require the use of recycled materials and recycled products by incorporating them in bid specifications where practicable;
5. Disseminate information on recycled and environmentally preferable product procurement requirements, specifications, and performance to assist vendors with procurement opportunities with the City.
6. Establish guidelines governing the review and approval of specifications for the procurement of selected materials based on considerations of recycling, energy and water conservation, life cycle costing and other environmental considerations.
7. Submit reports of policy impacts on an annual basis.

Environmental Services Department Responsibilities:

1. Support Purchasing in its implementation of this policy by providing training, information when requested, and assistance in the evaluation of the EPP status of a product or service.
2. Support departments and agencies in evaluation and analysis of products and services for EPP criteria.
3. Help establish and promote needed environmental procurement legislation.

Department and Agency Responsibilities:

1. Evaluate each requested product and service to determine the extent to which the specifications could include an environmentally preferable option.
2. Ensure that contracts issued by the departments and agencies include environmentally preferable products and recycled products wherever practicable;
3. Determine standard at which products are considered environmentally preferable and use in selective criteria.
4. Expand the awareness and use of environmentally preferable products.

Document Review

This policy must be reviewed every three years.