

Why it Makes Sense

Purchasing environmentally preferable products makes sense because it translates into real environmental and economic benefits. Remember, the advantages of “green” purchasing include:

- *an improved ability to meet existing environmental requirements and laws*
- *improved worker health and safety*
- *reduced health and disposal costs*
- *reduced insurance costs*
- *more jobs*
- *and a stronger economy*



Green purchasing is our first line of defense against pollution and waste.

Kansas can experience these benefits by incorporating environmental purchasing considerations into state purchasing programs. For more information about environmentally preferable procurement, visit the EPA website at www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp.



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KDHE

Using Government Resources Efficiently

A Guide to Environmentally Responsible Procurement.



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Bureau of Waste Management

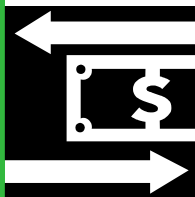
Environmentally Preferable Procurement

What is Environmentally Preferable Procurement?

Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP) is the practice of purchasing products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services. These life cycle comparisons take into account raw materials, production and manufacturing processes, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance and disposal.

Environmentally preferable products include: products made from recycled materials, such as recycled paper; energy conserving products, such as fluorescent lights; less toxic products, such as water-based cleaners; and bio-based products, such as ethanol fuel.

Environmentally Preferable Services include pest control services that avoid the use of pesticides and janitorial services that avoid the use of toxic cleaners.



EPP means more than just buying recycled content products.

Why Use EPP Products?

There are many reasons to “buy green.” Environmentally preferable procurement can improve worker health and safety and reduce operating, maintenance and insurance costs. It is also a way to minimize adverse environmental impacts including: a reduced need for new landfills; a reduction in the 28 million pounds of toxic chemicals released each year in Kansas; and conservation of energy and other natural resources.

Consider the Facts...

- 100 percent recycled paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and 600 pounds of air pollution per ton.
- 100 Energy Star computers & monitors can save \$10,000 in energy costs in 5 years.
- Less toxic cleaning products reduce health risks to janitorial staff and building occupants while protecting the environment.
- The sorting and processing of recyclables alone sustains 10 times more jobs than land filling or incineration.

What About Cost and Quality?

Purchasing environmentally preferable products does not require purchasing sub-standard or more expensive products. Many EPPs are priced competitively with non-EPPs. Most are certified to meet the same quality specifications. In addition, when maintenance, replacement, disposal, and insurance costs are added into the equation, environmentally preferable procurement can actually save money.

Put the Purchasing Power of the State to Good Use.

Kansas can join the many other states and local governments that have resolved to use government purchasing power to protect the environment and improve the economy. By incorporating environmental concerns into purchasing considerations, Kansas has the power to help improve markets for environmentally preferable products and to set an example for both the private sector and the public sectors.

Greater demand will increase supply and help reduce prices. One change in our purchasing specifications can change the product that many, many people use. Kansas can also use its purchasing power to support recycling in our communities by ensuring that collected materials are re-used in the manufacturing of new products.



State and local governments put together buy more than the federal government does.

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