

Info for the Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy

The updated Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Policy helps eliminate the City's use of materials which are harmful to the environment. Purchasing environmentally responsibly can be simple and easy. An environmentally responsible product is less harmful to the environment than the next best alternative. When writing tender specifications consider the following characteristics:

Reduce waste and make efficient use of resources.

Select products that are more energy, fuel, or water efficient, or that uses less paper, ink, or other resources. Examples: energy-efficient lighting; photocopiers capable of double-sided photocopying; EnergyStar rated computers, photocopiers, refrigerators etc.

Product is reusable or contains reusable parts.

Select reusable products such as rechargeable batteries; laser printers with refillable toner cartridges, etc.

Products which are recyclable.

Choose products which can be recycled. Examples: paper; plastics; metals that can be sold for scrap; glass; etc.

Products which contain recycled materials.

An environmentally responsible product often contains post-consumer recycled content. Examples: paper products made from recycled post-consumer fibre; plastic created from recycled plastic; recycled asphalt; building materials with recycled content, etc.

Produce fewer polluting by-products and/or safety hazards during manufacture, use or disposal.

Select products that are non-hazardous and replace a hazardous product. Select low pollution products such as lawn mowers that reduce emissions; fuel efficient vehicles; paints with low amounts of VOC (volatile organic compounds); products with the least amount of wood preservatives used where possible; CFC, HCFC or Halon free products, etc.

Products have a long service-life and/or can be economically and effectively repaired or upgraded.

Choose products which are durable.

It is important that suppliers be asked to provide the environmental specifications of the products they are offering. Purchasers, in the same way, must clearly define their needs and requirements.

Resources:

<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/greening/Annual%20Greening%20Report%202004-05.pdf>

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/StateAgency/Buying.htm>

www.watoxics.org

<http://www.seattle.gov/sustainablebuilding/greenhome.htm>

