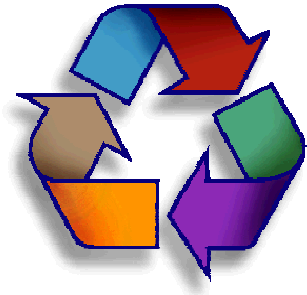


Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (“EPP”)



What is "environmentally preferable?" It is products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. Such products or services may include, but are not limited to, those that contain recycled content, minimize waste, conserve energy or water, reduce the amount of toxics disposed or consumed, and contain plant-based materials.

Why purchase environmentally preferable products and services?

Did you know that the United States consumes approximately 25% of the world's resources with only 5% of the world's population?

The purchase and use of environmentally preferable products can have a profound impact – and not just on the environment. Some tangible benefits are:

- Buying less-hazardous products can reduce regulatory liability, improve worker safety, and lower disposal costs.
- Using energy-efficient and water-conserving products can save money.
- Products that are reusable, refillable, more durable, or repairable create less waste and are more cost-effective in the long run than disposable or single-use products.
- Buying recycled products keeps our home and workplace recycling programs going and saves natural resources.
- Improved ability to meet existing environmental goals
- Improved worker safety and health
- Reduced liabilities
- Reduced health and disposal costs

Questions to ask before purchasing a product include:

- What is the public policy of the Department or of your unit regarding purchasing environmentally preferred products or services?
- Is the product less hazardous?
- Is it reusable or more durable?
- Is it made from recycled materials? Do we really need to buy a virgin product when the recycled version is just as good?
- What happens to the product at the end of its life? Can it be recycled? Will the manufacturer take the product back? Will it need special disposal?
- Does it conserve energy or water?
- Is it made from plant-based raw materials?
- If there is an increased cost, does the increased cost exceed the benefit of purchasing the environmentally preferred product?

State and Federal laws support environmentally preferable purchasing

The Federal government has several Executive Orders and regulations (FARs) requiring environmentally preferred purchasing. The State of Colorado has a proposed bill (HB 07-1220) to encourage environmentally preferred purchasing. The Procurement and Contract Services (“PCS”) unit is monitoring this bill and, if enacted, will disseminate information to the Divisions for implementation. However, we do not have to wait until the State Legislature passes a law regarding environmentally preferred purchasing. We can start the analysis now on all items we purchase to determine if the product we buy should be environmentally preferred. To do this, please contact your PCS Purchasing Agent to begin these discussions.