



Going Green Makes Sen\$e

Getting Started With Buying Green Environmentally Preferable Purchasing



Buying Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs) refers to items that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

These green products may contain recycled content, minimize waste, conserve energy or water, protect natural resources, and reduce the use and release of toxic chemicals.

Businesses, government agencies and households are purchasing environmentally preferable products and services to protect their health and provide a safer, less toxic workplace, potentially reduce the amount of regulation they are subjected to, reduce liabilities, and protect the environment.

Your agency probably already buys some green products or services such as recycled content paper and cleaners, both required by statute or regulation. Here are some ideas about how to go beyond the required green items:

- Create a Green Purchasing Policy for your agency or office. Include goals, product attributes, where employees can get more information. Communicate it widely throughout your agency.
- Example of product characteristics that DEEP has in their Green Purchasing Policy:
 - high recycled content; can be recycled, are reusable or contain reusable parts (e.g., rechargeable batteries); less toxic to human health and the environment; minimal packaging; are multifunctional (e.g., scanner/copier/printers, multi-purpose cleaners) to decrease the total number of products purchased; reduce air, land, and/or water pollution; reduce greenhouse gas emissions or are made with renewable energy (e.g., ENERGY STAR computers, hybrid cars).
- Find out what office supplies are ordered most often. Make a list of environmentally preferable alternatives to the most ordered items. Ask staff to only buy the environmentally preferable products. Provide information on the greener products to purchasing and other key staff.
- Consider buying green for bigger items as well—paint, furniture, other building materials.
- Work with purchasing or business staff as well as DAS to help you identify further opportunities to buy less toxic, more recycled content, products.
- Start a Reuse Center and stock it with supplies that staff might otherwise recycle (manila folders) or trash (extra pens and pencils).
- Measure your green purchasing results. DAS can help you to track improvements in purchasing targeted products.
- Learn more at the DAS Procurement – Environmentally Preferred Purchasing, <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=132>

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