

# Does your city have an Environmental Purchasing Policy (EPP)?

## WHAT?

An Environmental Purchasing Policy (EPP) is designed to promote the purchase and use of recycled or environmentally preferable products for your city and to encourage partnerships with others who follow the same methods. “Environmentally preferable products” are items that are made in a more sustainable manner and respect human health. EPPs focus on the entire lifespan of a product from materials acquisition, to production and packaging, to disposal. By reducing the impact of an item at any stage, these policies can help save your city money too!

## WHY?

There are several BENEFITS to your city when implementing EPPs:

- Meet legislative targets and your City Climate Action Plan goals
- Save money through lower upfront costs, lower maintenance costs, reduced replacement costs, and decreased disposal or cleanup costs.
- Decrease the negative health impacts in your community. Check out the 6 Classes Videos series; each 4 minute video covers each of the 6 classes of chemicals that are most harmful to our health and the environment. [www.SixClasses.org](http://www.SixClasses.org)
- Generate less waste material by reviewing how supplies, materials and equipment are manufactured, purchased, packaged, delivered, used, and disposed. Reduce your landfill contribution.
- Conserve resources through your support of recycled materials.
- Encourage other vendors, contractors, businesses and those that you work with to market and use recycled/recyclable materials as well.
- Serve as an example for other communities to follow- be recognized for your environmentally friendly practices!
- All CalRecycle grant applicants are required to have in place or develop, adopt and implement an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Practices (EPPP) Policy for their organizations. <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/funding/epppqanda>

## WHO?

WHO? Local city governments institute city wide policies. Businesses, agencies, schools, or organizations often write their own EPP as well. In the State of California, the Department of General Services (DGS), Procurement Division, serves as the lead agency for EPP. Existing and pending California Waste and Climate Legislation drives the need for local governments to buy green goods and services. Their Buying Green Guide acts as a single source of up-to-date green contracts, DGS purchasing standards, bid specifications, and buying tips. And highlight how cities can purchase green goods thru state contracts. <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/buyinggreen>

## WHERE?

- Alameda County uses various strategies to “green” key product and service categories, through purchasing offices and also in the context of decentralized purchasing. Through the Green Purchasing Roundtable website and Alameda County StopWaste.org, Alameda offers piggybacking, bid specifications and other resources to facilitate sustainable purchasing, with a focus on food, food service ware, and furniture. For resources related to green purchasing: <http://www.acsustain.org/what/purchasing/>
- Pleasant Hill recently implemented their own EPP.

## HOW?

Cities should not have to be detectives to find out what is in products; and spend a lot of money for buying “green” alternatives. The Center for Environmental Health works every day to protect us from toxic chemicals that cause reproductive difficulties,

cancer, learning disabilities and many other health problems. Local Government purchasing and contracts can go a long way to ensure the health of your employees, visitors and communities. Case study examples include purchase of city furniture and single use foodware purchasing choices. [www.ceh.org](http://www.ceh.org)

- USEPA's EPP program, includes purchasing ecolabels such as Energy Star, EPEAT, WaterSense, SNAP, Smart Way, and others! EPA worked with the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum and developed the Climate Friendly Purchasing Toolkit <https://westcoastclimateforum.com/>
- The state provides a collection of available tools and other resources to help individuals and organizations initiate or improve their EPP performance. <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/EPP/Resources/>
- The Responsible Purchasing Network features a variety of sample policies specifically addressing various product categories with a wide array of goods and services. [http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing\\_guides/all/index.php](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/all/index.php)
- Institute of Local Government provides links and resources [https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/resources\\_ILG\\_Sample\\_Climate\\_Friendly\\_Procurement\\_Policy\\_4.0\\_web\\_Updated\\_Format\\_8-8-11.pdf](https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/resources_ILG_Sample_Climate_Friendly_Procurement_Policy_4.0_web_Updated_Format_8-8-11.pdf)
- The national Association of Counties: Buying Green to Save Some Green <https://www.naco.org/blog/environmental-purchasing-programs-buying-green-save-some-green>
- Association of Bay Area Governments provides General Information on Responsible Purchasing.
- Alameda County and stopwaste.org resources: <http://www.stopwaste.org/faq/what-does-environmentally-preferable-purchasing-or-epp-mean>

#### Consider product specific Purchase opportunities

- Most of our Contra Costa Cities now have the power to change the amount of renewable energy that is put on the grid. When you select to purchase "Deep Green", *all* of the power your city buys comes from 100% non-polluting, Green-e Energy certified, wind and solar power produced in California. [mceCleanEnergy.org](http://mceCleanEnergy.org)
  - MCE Deep Green: <https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/100-renewable/>
  - MCE Feed In Tariff: <https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/feed-in-tariff/>
- **Healthier Furniture:** this includes an e-Guide for Purchasers that contains the tools and resources purchasers need and two shopping guides which identify healthier products that are compliant with the restrictions on the key chemicals of concern, and recordings of informativ webinars on this topic. <https://www.ceh.org/campaigns/flame-retardants/resources/>
- **Healthier Food and Foodware:** this includes a report on the presence of fluorinated chemicals (non-stick) used in single use foodware It also includes an extensive database of our testing results identifying healthier products, In December, we will post a report presenting our findings on the presence of Glyphosate (Roundup) contamination oi cereals purchased and served at K-12 schools. The report also offers suggested alternatives. The website also offers recordings of informative webinars on this topic. <https://www.ceh.org/campaigns/endocrine-disrupting-chemicals/edc-resources/>