



CSWD ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of Chittenden Solid Waste District's Environmental Purchasing Guidelines is to encourage CSWD departments and contractors to purchase products and services that have less impact on the environment and human health when compared to other products and services that serve the same purpose. CSWD's Environmental Purchasing Guidelines provide recommendations for buying environmentally preferred products (EPP). These products have been shown to reduce toxicity, increase energy efficiency, and/or reduce impacts on ecosystems in one or more phases of the product's life cycle (raw materials used, manufacturing, packaging, transportation, product use, and disposal).

Responsibilities of All CSWD Departments

Departments should give preference to:

- reusable products
- non-toxic or reduced toxicity products
- recycled, recyclable, and biodegradable packaging
- recycled-content products
- energy-efficient products
- products made locally

Each CSWD department should:

- 1) Use the Environmentally Preferred Products list to determine the criteria for purchasing products used by the department.
- 2) Purchase products using the purchasing criteria descriptions when EPP products are available and otherwise comparable in quality.
- 3) Purchase products with the highest recycled content and the highest post-consumer content available whenever possible.
- 4) Choose products made by Vermont companies when available and otherwise comparable in quality to products made elsewhere.
- 5) Require duplex printing whenever possible in printing and copying jobs.
- 6) Ensure that contracts and requests for bids and proposals issued by CSWD:
 - a) give preference to environmentally preferable products,
 - b) require contractors to use recycled-content paper on CSWD projects when possible, and
 - c) require contractors to use duplex printing and copying in proposals and project documents when possible.

Costs

CSWD recognizes that some EPP may cost more than competing products and that some (or all) of this cost has the potential to be offset by an overall increase in reduce/reuse/recycle/less toxic habits in the workplace. For example, using reusable cloth rags instead of paper towels for cleaning can save purchasing costs, disposal costs, and natural resources. As demand for EPP increases, the prices for these products will go down. CSWD is committed to purchasing EPP whenever possible. EPPs are recommended for purchase when they cost up to 110% of substitute products.