

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	<i>Buying Smart; Experiences of Municipal Green Purchasing Pioneers</i>
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URL	http://www.calpsc.org/policies/docs/thru2008/05-05-08_GPI-Buying-Smart-report.pdf
Summary	<p>This report, presented by the Green Purchasing Institute, “highlights the experiences of cities and counties across the United States that have implemented environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policies and practices for their operations. It concludes that investments in an EPP program often yield both economic and environmental rewards. Recycled and remanufactured products, energy- and water-conserving equipment, and low-toxicity cleaning and maintenance supplies often pay for themselves – either initially or over a reasonably short time – and therefore can offer localities the “best value”. The report also describes how initiatives designed to reduce the ecological footprint of municipalities have simultaneously yielded other benefits such as improvements in indoor air quality and the creation of local jobs.”</p>
Key Findings	<p>There are four main obstacles to Green Purchasing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Lack of staff resources and technical expertise to implement green purchasing initiatives.” 2. “Lack of start-up costs for products that have low life-cycle costs but relatively high start-up costs.” 3. “Poor Product Performance” 4. “Inadequate data collection and tracking systems, without which it is difficult to monitor which products are being purchased, which need to be replaced, and once changes to contracts have been made, the impacts in terms of costs and benefits.”
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Hire new staff and focus initially on product categories that can save municipality money such as energy efficient computers, remanufactured items, and duplexing printers.” • “Designate existing staff within the purchasing department to undertake EPP coordinating responsibilities and utilize consultants who can quickly point purchasing staff to existing specifications and standards that have been effectively used by other government agencies that you can “recycle” or tailor to fit you needs, Provide technical support on an as-needed basis” • “Clearly delineate EPP goals to existing staff. Institutionalize environmental purchasing so that it is part of all purchasers’ job responsibility. Integrate EPP into standard procurement training. Form “user groups” in advance of bid specification development to discuss issues to address during the contract re-negotiation.” • “Look for opportunities for cooperative purchasing initiatives, including buying environmentally preferable products off state contracts or “piggy-backing” on contracts developed by other local governments.” • “Start with low-hanging fruit such as contracts for products for which reliable standards and certifications have already been developed or that have easily verifiable criteria.” • “Establish a “Lead by Example” fund, which can either be a grant or revolving loan.” • “Allow agencies to shift costs from maintenance to capital budget when maintenance savings are projected.” • “Look for creative financing mechanisms when internal funding is unavailable.” • “Seek out rebates and grant opportunities, particularly for innovative technologies.” • “Require green products to meet same performance standards.” • “Include specific performance requirements in bid specifications to make sure less-effective products do not qualify.” • “Performance test products in your facilities prior to purchasing. Develop a list of approved products that meet your environmental specifications and pass your performance tests.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Develop a “waiver” system for special circumstances where a less environmentally friendly product is needed.” • “Establish an internal website where end-users can post their experiences with various products they are performance testing.”
Definition of “Green”	None
Methodology	Literature Research
Data Sources Cited	Green Purchasing Institute
Report Geography	United States
Green Occupations Cited	None
Green Industries Cited	None
Keywords	Green goods and services;
Legislation Cited	New York Local Law 118, 121, 120, 38, 30, 123, 37; Seattle Executive Order 01-05 (Paper Waste Prevention);
Bibliography (Y/N)	N
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