



**COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
POLICY MANUAL**

No. 11-08

ISSUE

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By

EFFECTIVE

SUBJECT

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

APPROVED

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POLICY STATEMENT

County employees will procure materials, products and services in a manner that integrates fiscal responsibility with environmental stewardship.

POLICY AMPLIFICATION

The types of products and services that the County of San Bernardino buys have environmental, human health and economic impacts, and the County should make procurement decisions that embody the County's commitment to the environment, while taking into consideration pricing, performance and availability. The County recognizes its responsibility to minimize potential negative impacts while supporting a prosperous community and economy.

San Bernardino County finds it desirable to adopt a procurement policy promoting reduction, reuse and recycling by San Bernardino County departments, consultants, contractors and other entities or organizations doing business with the County. This can stimulate demand for products that are environmentally friendly or have been diverted from the solid waste stream, and encourage service-providers to incorporate environmental factors into their operations or make a concerted effort to incorporate County environmental policies and practices into the scope of work for the County.

In August 2007, the Board of Supervisors launched *Green County San Bernardino* to promote environmental stewardship among residents, business owners and developers in the County. Additionally, *Green County San Bernardino* includes a public awareness component aimed at educating residents about steps they can take in their daily lives to conserve resources and protect the environment.

PURPOSE

This Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy is intended to:

- Communicate the County's commitment to environmentally-friendly operations
- Complement *Green County San Bernardino* goals and policies and programs relating to waste reduction, pollution control, fuel efficiency, recycling, water conservation, energy efficiency and green building
- Identify environmental and health factors that should be incorporated into procurement decisions, and provide implementation guidelines
- Promote the use of recycled, recyclable content, remanufactured, bio-based, energy efficient and non-toxic products and services by County departments and other entities, organizations, contractors or consultants doing business with the County
- Reduce environmental impacts of purchasing decisions by converting conventional product and service purchases to environmentally preferable choices when fiscally feasible
- Minimize the use of hazardous and toxic materials in County operations and the communities we serve
- Reduce materials that are put into landfills

- Designate product categories for environmentally preferable product purchases and encourage County departments to identify, test and purchase those products
- Encourage manufacturers and vendors to reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution systems
- Meet the requirements of local and state government codes, regulatory agencies, and state and federal laws or mandates that encourage or require the use of environmentally preferable products and services
- Reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions and overall carbon footprint

RELATED POLICY, PROGRAMS, ORDINANCES AND CODE (as of October 27, 2009)

1. Legislation

- Public Contract Code sections 12150-12320 - State Assistance for Recycling Markets
- Public Contract Code sections 12400-12404 - Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Public Resources Code sections 40000 et seq - California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989

2. Policy

- 08-20: LEED Silver Certification for New/Renovated County Buildings
- 11-04/11-05: Testing and Evaluation of Products, Best Value Evaluation
- 11-12: Local Preference

3. Programs

- San Bernardino Green Building Program adopted by the Board on August 28, 2007 as a voluntary incentive program for residential construction including energy and conservation features; amended on June 16, 2009 to expand the program to include alternative methods for builders to earn designations.
- Board waived building permit fees in Fiscal Year 2007-08 for installation of energy-efficient mechanical systems on August 28, 2007.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan funded by the Board on December 11, 2007 to develop the Plan by March 2010 to mitigate the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from land use decisions.
- County of San Bernardino Energy Efficiency Partnership Program with Southern California Edison approved by the Board on November 18, 2008 to qualify the County for financing to fund its energy efficiency programs and utilize incentives available through the partnership.
- Household Hazardous Waste Program.
- California Friendly Landscaping Project/Demonstration Garden initiated July 7, 2008.

4. Ordinances

- Ordinance No. 4065 adopted by the Board on December 16, 2008 (Ref. County Code section 83.01: General Performance Standards relative to Diesel Exhaust Emissions and air quality)

EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

Nothing in this policy will be construed as requiring a department or contractor to procure products or services that do not meet functionality and quality standards, exclude competition, or are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable time period.

This policy will not preclude the application of Local Preference as described in Policy 11-12.