

Sustainable Purchasing Program

The City of Hurst encourages staff to purchase sustainable/recycled/environmentally preferable products when feasible and practical.

What is a Sustainable or Environmentally Preferable Product?

Although Sustainable Products can focus on different environmental attributes and pursue sustainable features with varying levels of aggressiveness, SPs tend to contain some combination of the following characteristics:

- Contain recycled materials – recycled or re-manufactured materials or parts, such as 100% recycled paper
- Minimize waste – minimal packaging or packaging that is recyclable or reusable (including take-back provisions)
- Conserve energy, water, or other natural resources made from sustainable resources
- Prevent pollution – minimize emissions such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Contain fewer toxic substances or reduce the amount of toxic substances disposed or consumed
- Protect open-space
- Encourage environmentally positive practices such as energy-efficient hot/cold water fountains, composting, recycling containers, engine block heaters, etc.
- Uses energy alternatives to fossil fuel

Environmental Benefits

- **Lower toxicity** – products using fewer toxic ingredients minimize the hazardous health impacts on our water and air, reduce the damage caused through accidental spills and improper disposal, and reduce health risks to building occupants and people who handle products
- **Energy efficiency** – energy efficient products help limit energy consumption and lessen our carbon footprint
- **Recycled content** – products made with a percentage of post-consumer recycled content instead of pure virgin content reduce the need to extract raw materials such as petroleum, trees, or metals, in general use less energy and water, and reduce demand on our overstressed landfills
- **Water efficiency** – products such as plumbing devices, cooling systems, appliances, and water treatment technologies can be designed to reuse or reduce the demand for water
- **Renewable energy** – utilizing renewable energy and clean technologies works toward reducing our dependency on foreign petroleum, stimulating economic development for innovative

technologies, reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and meeting goals for clean energy production

Cost Savings

- Green purchasing can help reduce liabilities and gain competitive advantage when applying for funding opportunities. It is also an excellent way of finding products with a high price-performance ratio and with improved use rates.
- Green purchasing programs based on life-cycle costs can help identify and reduce hidden costs and develop cost reduction strategies for the entire organization. Some examples of cost savings opportunities include reduced:
 - hazardous management costs through the use of less toxic products
 - operational costs through energy savings from more efficient equipment
 - disposal costs of hazardous and solid waste
 - repair and replacement costs when using more durable and repairable equipment
 - reduced employee safety and health concerns
 - material and energy consumption
- Many sustainable products such as carpet cleaning products, janitorial paper products, remanufactured antifreeze and traffic cones, energy efficient lighting, equipment, and appliances are equal or comparable in cost, and in addition, through the use of recycled materials these products offer the added value of reduced toxic use and waste reduction.
- Some segments of sustainable products may cost more at the time of purchase, but often have a short “payback period,” after which the non-sustainable products represent a significant ongoing cost savings in the maintenance, operation, or disposal of the product (*e.g.*, compact fluorescent light bulbs, plastic lumber, and integrated pest management).



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