

Green Purchasing Programs

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Sustainable Office Operations
NW Michigan Sustainable Business Forum



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presentation contents

- What is Green Purchasing?
- Why purchase “Green”
- Getting started
- Example programs

Delta Institute

- **501 (C)(3) nonprofit organization**
- **Improving environmental quality and promoting community and economic development in Great Lakes region.**
- **Programs**
 - **Pollution prevention and energy efficiency**
 - **Green development**
 - **Brownfields**
 - **Community development**

what is green purchasing?

Using purchasing power and supply chain management to purchase products that have a reduced effect on the environment and human health while meeting the purchasing standards of performance, price, availability, and regulatory status.

A set of policies and tools that allow an organization to make the most efficient use of materials, produce a minimum of waste and pollution, and stimulate the use of post-consumer materials.

From the Center for the New American Dream Eco-SAT

Public Perception and Market Demand

- **Public increasingly interested in green**
 - **Products**
 - **Cars**
 - **Houses**
 - **Companies**
- **Environmental stewardship tied to brands**
- **Shareholder value**
- **ISO 14000 Environmental Management Systems**
- **Public and worker health**

corporate goals



Private Sector Examples

SC Johnson

- Policy Objectives: Waste reduction through eco-efficiency. Create shareholder and stakeholder value while decreasing footprint along the value chain. Implement Greenlist to phase in materials that reduce footprint.
- Criteria: Biodegradability, aquatic toxicity, human toxicity, EU environmental classifications, meet highest standards world wide.

Private Sector Examples

Consortia

- Policy objectives: Identify environmentally preferable alternatives and evaluate the quality, functionality, and price.

- Criteria: public health, supplier commitment to waste minimization, quality, functionality, availability, cost effective.

Elements of a Green Purchasing Program

- Management support
- Policy and clear objectives
- Understanding footprint
- Criteria -- what is green?
- Technical support for implementation
- Communication with suppliers

Chicago Green Purchasing Program

- City of Chicago
 - Pilot projects
 - Ordinance
 - Technical Support

- National Association of Purchasing Managers
 - Pilot projects
 - Building a Green Purchasing Network

**Purchasing is an environmental
management program**

Grand Rapids Green Purchasing Consortium

Ecosystem Based Environmental Management System	WATER								AIR		LAND	OTHER		
	Poor Fish and Macroinvertebrate Communities	Fish Consumption Advisory	Pathogens	Nutrient Enrichment	Sedimentation	Loss of Habitat	Invasive Species	Hydrologic Flow	Ambient Air	Chemicals (2003 TRI)	Greenhouse Gases	Hazardous Waste (2003 LQG)	Lake Michigan LaMP Priority Pollutants	Binational Toxic Strategy
Impairment priority assigned from the Lower Grand River Management Plan														
			High	Low/Med	High	Med	Med	Low		Low				
Source Contributions														
Industrial Source Emissions		P			P						P	P	P	P
Area Source Emissions		P			P						P	P	P	P
Mobile Source Emissions									P		P		P	P
Atmospheric Deposition		X											P	P
Faulty Septic Systems	P		X	P										
Stormwater Runoff	P	X		P	P								P	P
Urban / Suburban Land Use	P				P	P		P						
Untreated Sewage Discharge	P		X	P										
Agricultural Land Use	P		X	X	P	P		X			P		P	P
Water Quality Indicators														
Dissolved Oxygen	P			P										
Ammonia									X					
E-coli			P											
Nutrients (Phosphorus and Nitrates)	X			X									X	

Grand Rapids Green Purchasing Consortium

Program Elements

- Voluntary
- Web-based contract for Best In Class Green Purchasing
 - Toxics
 - Resource Efficiency
 - Waste Minimization
- Purchase fee to support consortium work

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Initial Priorities

- Cleaning products
- Office supplies
- Paint
- Automotive supplies
- Lighting
- Local sourcing

Costs

- Purchased costs versus life cycle costs -- how much does it really cost to purchase, handle, and dispose?
- Many “green” products are costs-competitive
- Energy savings



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