



King County Environmental Purchasing Program

Paper, Recycled

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Introduction

Paper and paper products have been manufactured using recycled fibers since the invention of paper, but in the last century plentiful forest products have fostered a paper industry whose primary feedstock has been "virgin" wood pulp. Resource-depletion and other issues have diminished the supply of forest products and increased the cost of virgin pulp in recent years. The paper industry has responded by developing the capacity to use recycled fiber for pulp, and paper manufactured with recycled fiber is playing an increasingly important role in the paper industry.

Federal, state, and local governments, recognizing that citizens benefit from strong recycled paper industries, have provided impetus for the manufacture of recycled paper through government purchasing and other market-development efforts. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains standards and terminology for recycled paper and other recycled products. The 1998 [Federal Executive Order \(13101\)](#) requires the purchase of copy paper with 30% post consumer recycled content by Federal agencies.

Recycled paper can be manufactured to the same quality standards as paper from virgin pulp. This has not always been true. Recycled paper manufacturing technologies were formerly employed principally as stop-gap measures in times of fiber shortage. Recycled fiber was simply substituted for virgin fiber without re-engineering the manufacturing processes and some of the papers manufactured under these 'emergency' conditions did not perform as well as the virgin paper. Under these conditions, demand for recycled paper did not justify the expense of converting high-quality, high-capacity paper machines to use recycled pulp, but the market has evolved. Many manufacturers are now producing high-quality, economical recycled paper and more plan to do so.

The paper marketplace has always offered buyers thousands of choices among virgin papers in different cost and quality ranges and now it offers a similar range of products in recycled papers. The ambiguities created by rapidly changing technologies, highly volatile paper and recycled-material markets, and competing market interests have resulted in a

bewildering array of options and concerns for purchasers.

There are no simple rules-of-thumb to allow buyers to select paper products that will satisfy their individual needs. Buyers must either create specifications to quantify specific requirements or, more often, simply go into the marketplace and learn which products perform adequately in their unique circumstances. Fortunately, paper distributors maintain knowledgeable customer-service staffs and are able to provide good information about their products.

Usage History and Experience

King County purchases most printing and office supply paper through centrally administered term-supply contracts, which enable agencies to purchase hundreds of paper products at low and consistent prices. Recycled paper is specified whenever practicable.

King County agencies purchased recycled paper goods valued at over three million dollars in 2006. These purchases fall into three general categories:

Copy and Bond Paper

County agencies purchase recycled processed chlorine-free (PCF) copy paper with 30% postconsumer content. The post-consumer content level meets the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) established by Federal Executive Order 13101. County purchases of recycled paper totaled almost 20,000 cases at a cost of \$570,000 in the last year, which represents 99% of total copy paper purchases.

Printing Paper

Printing performed by the county Printshop and through contracts administered by Procurement and Contract Services Section for various King County agencies is required to use recycled paper whenever practicable, which is over 90% of the time. This includes all printing, from business cards to tax and court forms, reports and bus timetables. The recycled content of this paper varies from 20% to 100%. During 2006, estimated recycled paper expenditures, exclusive of printing costs, totaled 1.75 million dollars.

Paper Products

In addition to recycled copy and printing papers, the county also maintains several contracts that allow agencies to purchase various recycled paper products. These include office supplies, such as envelopes, boxes, folders and notepads; and janitorial products, such as paper towels and tissues. The recycled content of this paper varies from 10% to 100% depending on the manufacturer and product type. Recycled content purchases totaled \$465,000 in 2006.

Bid and Contract Specifications

This section contains contract provisions from King County's contract for recycled copy paper

King County Supply Contracts

King County agencies purchase recycled paper through term-contracts with local vendors. This section contains excerpts from the provisions of the Invitation-To-Bid that resulted in these contracts.

Technical Specifications

Recycled Copy Paper-Cut Stock:

- A. The paper brand names listed indicate the minimum acceptable standard of quality required by King County. Brands of equal quality and performance may be considered. To be considered as an approved equal, the bidder shall specify the brand name and provide the technical specifications for that brand. King County will be the sole judge for approving other brands as approved equals to those brands listed.
- B. The County reserves the right to reject or accept alternates to these specifications in accordance with King County's best interest.
- C. The County will be the sole judge of the bidder's' ability to supply the recycled copy paper-cut stock required.
- D. The recycled copy paper-cut stock bid shall function properly work in all County Copiers, Fax Machines, Laser Printers and Ink Jet printers without jamming.

MINIMUM Paper specifications for all Schedules

- A. Case Size

8-1/2" X 11" & 8-1/2" X 14" size paper is 5000 sheets.

11 X 17" size paper is 2500 sheets.

- B. Colored stock includes: Blue, Buff, Canary, Cherry, Goldenrod, Gray, Green, Ivory, Lilac, Pink, Tan, Peach, Cream, and Salmon or like colors.
- C. Approved brands: Eureka, Weyerhaeuser, and Husky Xerocopy d.p. or approved equal

SCHEDULES 1 THRU 6

Schedule 1 8-1/2" X 11" WHITE

Schedule 2 8-1/2" X 11" COLOR

Schedule 3 8-1/2" X 14" WHITE

Schedule 4 8-1/2" X 14" COLOR

Schedule 5 11" X 17" WHITE

Schedule 6 8-1/2" X 11" 3 HOLE –PUNCHED-WHITE

Substance Weight:..... 20#
Brightness:..... 92 or greater
Opacity:..... 88 or greater
Moisture Content:..... 4.5%
Smoothness, Sheffield Units:..... 140
Post-consumer Recycled Fiber:..... 30% or greater

Bidders shall state specifications of paper offered:

Brand of Paper Offered:..... _____
Substance Weight:..... _____
Brightness:..... _____
Opacity:..... _____
Moisture Content:..... _____ %
Smoothness, Sheffield Units:..... _____
Post consumer Recycled Fiber:..... _____ %
Colors Offered..... _____

Attach additional sheets as required.

SCHEDULE 7

Schedule 7 8-1/2" x 11" Processed Chlorine Free (PCF) , 100% Post Consumer Content, Recycled

Shall be Processed Chlorine Free (PCF)

Processed chlorine free refers to paper in which the recycled content is unbleached without chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Any virgin material portion of the paper must be totally chlorine free (virgin paper that is unbleached or processed with a sequence that includes no chlorine or chlorine derivatives).

Substance Weight:..... 20#
Brightness:..... 84 or greater

Opacity:..... 87 or greater

Post-consumer Recycled Fiber:..... 100%

Bidders shall state specifications of paper offered:

Brand of Paper Offered:..... _____

Substance Weight:..... _____

Brightness:..... _____

Opacity:..... _____

Post consumer Recycled Fiber:..... _____%

For More Information

[Northwest Paper Forum](#)

[Conservatree](#)

Further information may be available through the following main menu selections:

[King County Recycled Content Supply Contracts](#)

[Resources for Buyers](#)

[Standard Paragraphs for Contracts](#)

Vendor Information

King County's current paper supplier is:

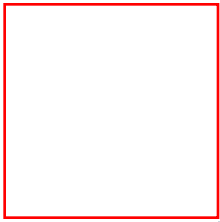
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[West Coast Paper](#)

Kent, Washington

1-800-451-2737

[Copy of the contract pricing](#)



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