
Environmental Purchasing Policy

The Burlingame City Council recently approved an Environmental Purchasing Policy to encourage City staff to purchase "green products" whenever reasonable – that is, when the difference in price is less than 5 percent.

The Environmental Purchasing Policy asks Burlingame staff to:

- Purchase products that include recycled content, are durable, conserve energy and water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions whenever practical and reasonable.
- Purchase remanufactured products such as toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts whenever practical without reducing safety and quality.
- Print and copy documents on both sides to reduce the use and purchase of paper whenever practical.
- Purchase paper products such as office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation and non-paper office products with the highest post-consumer content whenever practical and reasonable.
- Use recycled, reusable or reground materials for road construction products whenever practical and reasonable.
- Purchase equipment with the most current energy efficiency functions whenever practical. Products purchased by the City will meet "Energy Star" certification, when available and when practical.
- Replace inefficient exterior lighting, such as street lighting and traffic signal lights, with energy-efficient equipment whenever practical and cost-effective.
- Purchase water-saving products whenever practical including, but is not limited to, high-performance fixtures such as toilets, low-flow faucets and aerators, and upgraded high-efficiency irrigation systems.
- Assure that city workers and contractors providing landscape services employ sustainable landscape management techniques and use Bay Friendly Landscaping guidelines for design, construction and maintenance whenever possible, including, but not limited to, drip irrigation and composting.
- Choose plant species for purchase that are native and drought-tolerant or require minimal watering once established.
- Limit the amount of impervious surfaces in landscapes wherever practical.
- Request that janitorial contractors purchase and supply institutional cleaning products that meet Green Seal certification standards for environmental preferability and performance.
- Consider replacing vehicles with less-polluting alternatives such as compressed natural gas, bio-based fuels, hybrids, electric batteries, and fuel cells whenever practical and reasonable.

What does buying green mean for the environment?

Here is an example: *Buying 20 cases of 50 percent recycled content paper*

- *saves 17 trees*
- *390 gallons of oil*
- *7000 gallons of water*
- *4100 kwh of energy*
- *eliminates 60 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions*
- *and saves 8 cubic feet of landfill space.*

Burlingame encourages residents and businesses to buy green too, go to Recycleworks.org for more information on how to buy green!
