

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Mimosa Goods

STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Mimosa Goods to institute practices that reduce waste; purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety; purchase products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their production, shipping, use and discard; and purchase products that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, use unbleached or chlorine-free manufacturing processes, are lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably harvested forests.

PURPOSE

This Policy is adopted in order to:

- Conserve natural resources,
- Minimize environmental impacts such as pollution and use of water and energy,
- Eliminate or reduce toxics that create hazards to workers and our community,
- Support strong recycling markets,
- Reduce materials that are landfilled,
- Increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable products that protect the environment,
- Identify environmentally preferable products and distribution systems,
- Reward manufacturers and vendors that reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution systems or services, and
- Create a model for successfully purchasing environmentally preferable products that encourages the use of agricultural fibers, chlorine-free manufacturing processes, wood from sustainably harvested forests, and other environmentally friendly practices, and that encourages other purchasers in our community to adopt similar goals.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Source Reduction

Institute practices that reduce waste, encourage reuse, and result in the purchase of fewer products.

Purchase remanufactured products such as toner cartridges, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts.

Purchase products that are durable, long lasting, reusable or refillable and avoid purchasing one-time use or disposable products.

Request vendors eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection. Vendors shall be encouraged to take back packaging for reuse. A vendor's willingness to take back packaging will be used as part of the consideration in the bid process.

Specify a preference for packaging that is reusable, recyclable or compostable, when suitable uses and programs exist.

Encourage vendors to take back and reuse pallets and other shipping materials.

Encourage suppliers of electronic equipment, including but not limited to computers, monitors, printers, and copiers, to take back equipment for reuse or environmentally sound recycling when [the Organization] discards or replaces such equipment, whenever possible. Suppliers will be required to state their take back, reuse or recycling programs during the bidding process.

Consider provisions in contracts with suppliers of non-electronic equipment that require suppliers to take back equipment for reuse or environmentally sound recycling when [the Organization] discards or replaces such equipment, whenever possible. Suppliers will be required to state their take back, reuse or recycling programs during the bidding process.

Promote electronic distribution of documents rather than printing or copying.

When producing paper documents, print and copy all documents on both sides to reduce the use and purchase of paper. Printers and copiers shall be set to default to duplex.

Ensure all imaging equipment is installed with energy and resource-efficient settings set as default.

Recycled Content Products

Purchase products for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established minimum recycled content standard guidelines, such as those for printing paper, office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation, transportation, vehicles, miscellaneous, and non-paper office products, that contain the highest post-consumer content available, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.

Purchase multi-function devices, copiers and printers compatible with the use of recycled content and remanufactured products.

Energy Efficient and Water Saving Products

Replace inefficient interior lighting with energy-efficient equipment.

Replace inefficient exterior lighting. Minimize exterior lighting where possible to avoid unnecessary lighting of architectural and landscape features while providing adequate illumination for safety and accessibility.

Purchase U. S. EPA Energy Star certified products when available. When Energy Star labels are not available, choose energy-efficient products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program.

Purchase U.S. EPA WaterSense labeled water-saving products when available. This includes, but is not limited to, high-performance fixtures like toilets, low-flow faucets and aerators, and upgraded irrigation systems.

Toxics and Pollution Prevention Products and Practices

Manage pest problems through prevention and physical, mechanical and the least toxic biological controls.

Purchase paper, paper products, and janitorial paper products that are unbleached or are processed without chlorine or chlorine derivatives.

Prohibit the purchase of products that use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) such as, but not limited to, furniture and flooring.

Purchase products and equipment with no lead or mercury whenever possible. For products that contain lead or mercury, Mimosa Goods should give preference to those products with lower quantities of these metals and to vendors with established lead and mercury recovery programs. In addition, whenever lead- or mercury-containing products require disposal, Mimosa Goods will dispose of those products in the most environmentally safe manner possible. All fluorescent lamps and batteries will be recycled.

Purchase or specify personal computers, displays, imaging equipment and televisions that meet, at a minimum, all Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) environmental criteria designated as "required" as contained in the IEEE 1680 family of Environmental Assessment Standards.

Purchase or specify office furniture that meets the California Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BEARHFTI) and Department of Consumer Affairs standard Technical Bulletin 117-2013 for testing upholstered furniture flammability without the use of flame retardant chemicals.

Purchase or specify commercial carpeting that meets NSF/ANSI 140 Standard for Sustainable Carpet Assessment and require old carpet that is removed be recycled.

Purchase or specify non-carpet floor coverings that meet NSF/ANSI 332 Standard for Resilient Flooring including vinyl, linoleum and rubber flooring.

When replacing vehicles, consider less-polluting alternatives to diesel such as compressed natural gas, bio-based fuels, hybrids, electric batteries, and fuel cells, as available.

Bio-Based Products

Encourage the use of vehicle fuels made from non-wood, plant-based contents such as vegetable oils whenever practicable.

Use paper, and paper products made from non-wood, plant-based contents such as agricultural crops and residues.

Use bio-based plastic products that are biodegradable and compostable, such as bags, film, food and beverage containers, and cutlery.

Purchase compostable plastic products that meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards as found in ASTM D6400. Meet ASTM D6868 standards for biodegradable plastics used as coatings on paper and other compostable substrates.

Ask vendors to provide proof of compliance with ASTM standards for compostable, biodegradable and degradable plastic products upon request. One acceptable proof of compliance for compostable plastic products will be certification by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).

Forest Conservation Products

Do not procure wood products such as lumber and paper that originate from forests harvested in an environmentally unsustainable manner. Give preference to wood products that are certified to be sustainably harvested by a comprehensive, performance-based certification system. The certification system shall include independent third-party audits, with standards equivalent to, or stricter than, those of the Forest Stewardship Council certification.

Encourage the purchase or use of previously used or salvaged wood and wood products whenever practicable.

This policy shall take effect on May 27, 2022