

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Environmentally Preferable Procurement

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**Purpose**

To reduce the Environmental Impact of goods and services procured by the County of San Diego, its contractors, and its grantees.

**Background**

The County is committed to a sustainable environment and environmental stewardship. The County's environmental stewardship priorities include reducing or diverting solid waste, reducing electricity and water usage, reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, reducing stormwater pollution, and reducing the use of Hazardous substances.

As part of this commitment, the County is establishing a procurement program that appropriately considers and reduces the Environmental Impact of procured goods and services through practices such as the use of Environmentally Preferable Products and considers the potential Environmental Impact of procurements when developing requirements and awarding contracts.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. All County departments and agencies shall utilize, to the extent practical, Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs) in their operations.
2. When establishing requirements for the procurement of products or services, departments and agencies shall appropriately consider the Environmental Impact of those requirements, specifying or encouraging EPPs when practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition.
3. Procurement evaluations shall appropriately consider any Environmental Impact of the products provided (including EPPs) and delivery of services in a manner consistent with the procurement process, practicable, and consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition.
4. Consultants, contractors and grantees are encouraged to support this policy and consider establishing Environmentally Preferable Procurement policy, and shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental requirements related to EPPs.

**EPPs Definitions**

1. Environmental Impact: The environmental consequences of an activity or action.
2. Environmentally Preferable Products (EPPs): Products that have a lesser impact on human health and the environment, when compared to competing products that serve the same purpose. Attributes of environmental preferable products include:

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- a. Products made with recycled or reclaimed materials, including, as applicable, recovered materials as defined in 40 CFR part 247.3.
- b. Products designed to be recycled, composted, re-used, or otherwise diverted from landfill disposal.
- c. Products with an extended useful life, including products designed to be repairable.
- d. Products containing less-Hazardous substances, including water-based, low emission, or green certified products, or that use less-Hazardous substances for operations and maintenance.
- e. Products that minimize Greenhouse Gas Emissions in their manufacture, transport, use, or disposition.
- f. Products designed to minimize water use or water pollution (including stormwater pollution).
- g. Products using less packaging or packaging made from environmentally preferable materials.
- h. Hazardous: Containing chemical hazards or toxic substances that can cause harm.

**Responsible Departments**

1. Department of Purchasing and Contracting
2. Department of Public Works

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-2024.

**References**

Board Action  
3/17/92 (15)  
4/4/95 (28)  
3/12/2002 (10)  
04-07-09 (7)  
12/15/15 (21)  
11/14/17 (16)