

Green Purchasing and Practices Guide for Tribal Governments

Dear Tribal Environmental Directors,

Many of you have already started developing or are about to develop environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policies. For those of you who are new to EPP, it is a purchasing method that takes the life-cycle impacts of a product into account. This includes accounting for the resources and materials used to make the product and the cost of purchasing it, the costs, resources and environmental impacts associated with using the product; and the resources, environmental impacts and costs associated with final disposal. If you currently have an EPP program, we encourage you to build on your existing EPP practices, and if you do not yet have a program, we encourage you to begin. These practices serve to save resources, reduce risks, and support a greener supply chain.

We would like to hear about the goals you set and successes or barriers you encounter, so that we can share best practices and consider solutions to problems you encounter. To that end, we ask that you briefly describe your efforts in your quarterly and end of year grant reports.

We have compiled several resources to assist you in your efforts, which are listed below.

- ❖ **Purchase paper and other office products with recycled content.** Purchase paper with at least 30% post-consumer content (100% is available) (purchasing paper with recycled content is a grant condition). Post-consumer material is an end product that has completed its useful life as a consumer item and would normally be disposed. Post-consumer materials include recyclables collected in commercial and residential recycling programs, such as office paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics and metals. <http://www.epa.gov/epp> . Contact: Erica Yelensky; yelensky.eric@epa.gov; 415-972-3021, or Monika O’Sullivan; osullivan.monika@epa.gov; 415-972-3111.
- ❖ **Double-sided printing.** Set your printer and copier to do double-sided printing, purchase a duplexer, or when it’s time to purchase new equipment, purchase printers/copiers that automatically print double-sided. Contact: Monika O’Sullivan; osullivan.monika@epa.gov; 415-972-3111.
- ❖ **Purchase ‘green’ electronics and dispose of old electronics properly.** Purchase desktop computers, monitors, and laptops that are registered as Silver or Gold products with EPEAT, the Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool. Products registered with EPEAT use less energy (and are ENERGY STAR compliant), are easier to recycle, and can be more easily upgraded than non-registered products. See: <http://www.epeat.net/> . Contact: John Katz; katz.john@epa.gov . 415-947-3450.
- ❖ **Purchase energy efficient products.** EPA’s ENERGY STAR Program certifies and labels energy efficient products from ~ 2,000 manufacturers in more than 50 product categories. Use of these products is a powerful way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using less energy. See: <http://www.energystar.gov/>.

- ❖ **Purchase renewable energy.** EPA's Green Power Partnership Program provides resources and support for purchasing green power. See <http://www.epa.gov/grnpower/>. Contact Trina Martynowicz; martynowicz.trina@epa.gov; 415-972-3474.

- ❖ **Use clean diesel practices and purchasing for all on-road and off-road vehicles and equipment.** If you are cleaning up a dumpsite, please consider the following:
 - Reduce unnecessary idling through the use of auxiliary power units, electric equipment, and strict enforcement of idling limits.
 - Practice good engine maintenance to meet original standards, and properly train operators to run equipment efficiently.
 - Use cleaner fuels, such as ultra low sulfur diesel (ULDS), biodiesel, liquid petroleum gas, or compressed natural gas.
 - Use verified diesel emission control technology ("VDEC"), including verified diesel particulate filters ("DPFs") or diesel oxidation catalysts ("DOCs").
 - Replace older engines with newer, cleaner models.
 - See EPA's "Low Cost Ways to Reduce Emissions from Construction Equipment" is found at: http://www.epa.gov/ispd/pdf/emission_0307.pdf and
 - **EPA's Clean Construction** website provides model contracts, codes, laws, rules, and other measures for addressing diesel and other air quality issues from construction and other sources: <http://www.epa.gov/diesel/construction/contract-lang.htm>
Contact: Penny McDaniel; mcdaniel.penelope@epa.gov; 415-947-4203.

- ❖ **Water efficient products.** Purchase WaterSense certified products, which will conserve water and potentially save the tribe money. See: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/> . Contact: Charlotte Ely; ely.charlotte@epa.gov; 415-972-3731.

- ❖ **Contracts.** Consider requiring all contractors to follow the Tribe's environmentally preferable purchasing policy. Contact: Erica Yelensky; yelensky.eric@epa.gov .

Resources:

- ❖ EPA Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Program: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/tribal/waste-reduction/index.html> .
- ❖ The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) **Tribal Workgroup** works collaboratively with tribes throughout the United States to reduce the environmental and health risks associated with the generation of waste in tribal lands. See: <http://tribalp2.org/> .
- ❖ Earth911.com is a one-stop shop website with educational information on reducing your impact, reusing what you've got and recycling your trash. See: <http://earth911.com/> .

Sincerely,

The Tribal Program Office