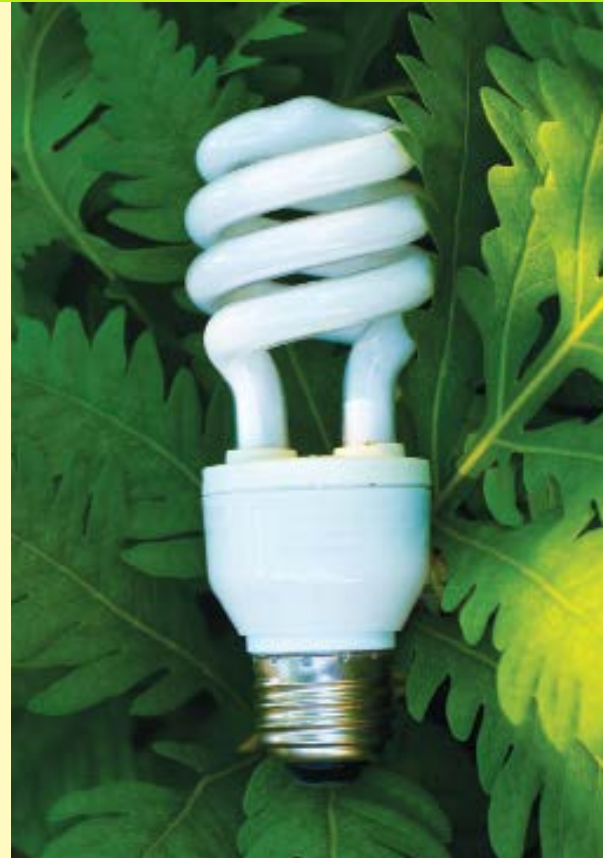# Green Product Resource Guide

Snohomish County

Resources for environmentally preferable purchasing and production utilization

May 22, 2013

The Green Product Resource Guide

Snohomish County's Green Product Resource Guide (Resource Guide) is a resource developed to help staff comply with our new environmentally preferable purchasing and utilization policy (EPP), which took effect on February 18th, 2013. This Resource Guide is meant to be a tool to help employees make informed decisions when purchasing environmentally preferable products. It will be a useful tool in the assessment and acquisition of environmentally preferable products and services that meet your needs, the County's sustainability goals, and EPP requirements.

How do I use the Green Product Resource Guide?

The Green Product Resource Guide is split into three different sections: (1) Standards and Specifications, (2) Third Party Certifications, and (3) Additional Research Tools for Green Products and Building Materials.

1. Standards and Specifications

Organized by product type, this section provides information on the recommended minimum environmental standards or specifications to consider when purchasing a product or service. A wide variety of products are included in this Resource Guide, such as:

- Office supplies
- Computers and monitors
- Building materials and equipment
- Paint
- Vehicular projects
- Parks and recreation products
- And more...

The environmental standards and specifications for product types listed in this guide are from a variety of sources, namely the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) , Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN), and third party certifications.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) website is a great resource for:

- Policy language for a particular product or service that can be used in bids, specifications, RFPs, RFQs, etc.
- Finding and evaluating green products and services
- Hands-on-tools for green purchasing

The EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines provide minimum recommended recycled content standards for product types in the following categories:

- Construction Products
- Landscaping Products
- Nonpaper Office Products
- Paper and Paper Products
- Park and Recreation Products
- Transportation Products
- Vehicular Products
- Miscellaneous Products

The Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) is a useful tool to identify the minimum green standards that should be met when purchasing a specific product. The County is a member of RPN, which gives us access to a database of green products, model policies, model bids, model specifications to acquire green products and services, and a host of other green purchasing tools. In order to have full access to all of RPN's resources, County employees are encouraged to set-up their own login and password using the link provided with the County's RPN membership.

2. Third Party Certifications

There are products on the market that claim to be 'green' or 'natural' when in reality they are not, which is typically called 'greenwashing'. Greenwashing can make it difficult to know what products or services are a truly enviornmentally preferable. One of the best ways to verify whether a product is truly environmentally preferable is to look for the label of a third party certifier. Third party certifications are one of the most trusted forms of environmental conformance verification, because they require products to meet specific and rigorous environmental standards in order to receive certification. This section of the resource guide provides a list of some of the most trusted and recognized third party certification programs for green purchasing.

3. Additional Research Tools for Green Purchasing and Building Materials

This section provides a variety of research tools to assist in the evaluation of environmentally preferable building and construction materials. Several of the research tools listed in this guide are free, while others provide trial memberships before requiring a paid subscription. These tools are helpful to evaluate the toxicity of building materials or products, such as counter tops, carpet, wood framing, etc. Several of these tools also allow you to conduct a life cycle assessment on a particular product to evaluate its environmental, economic, and social impacts from inception, manufacturing and use, to product disposal. Employees are encouraged to test out these different research tools and provide feedback to the Purchasing Division or Office of Energy and Sustainability.

Questions or Comments?

Please contact the Purchasing Division at X3344 or the Office of Energy and Sustainability at X3965. Our goal is to make this an effective tool for employees, so we welcome your feedback.

Standards & Specifications
OFFICE

Computers, Monitors & Office Electronics

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Computers	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/computers/index.
Computers & Monitors	EPEAT Certification	http://www.epeat.net/
	EPA Energy Star Certification	http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_find_es_products
Office Electronics	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/office_electronics/index.php

Office Paper Products

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Copy Paper	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/paper.pdf
	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/copy_paper/

Non-Paper Office Products

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Office Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/nonpaper.pdf

Non-Paper Office Products

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Toner Cartridges	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/toner_cartridges/index.php
Bottled Water	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/bottled_water/index.php

General Product Procurement

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
• Construction • Landscaping • Paper Products • Non-Paper Products • Parks & Rec • Transportation • Vehicular • Miscellaneous	EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/index.htm
Carpet	NSF/ANSI Standard 140-2007	http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/green-building-and-the-environment/ansi-sustainability-standard.cfm
ASTM standards and specifications in 130 areas.	American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International	http://www.astm.org/index.shtml

VEHICULAR

Vehicular

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Light Duty Tires and Wheel Weights	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/tires/
Fleets	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/fleets/
Vehicular & Transportation Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/vehicle.pdf http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/transport.pdf

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Operations & Maintenance

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Cleaners	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/cleaners/index.php
Construction Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards) EPA Database of Products and Services	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/construct.pdf http://yosemite1.epa.gov/oppt/epp-stand2.nsf
Food Services	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/food_services/

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Operations & Maintenance

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Landscaping Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/landscape.pdf
Lighting	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/lighting/
Paint	Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN)	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/paint/index.
Parks and Recreation Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/parks.pdf
Energy and Water Efficient Products	Energy Star Certified Products	http://www.energystar.gov/

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS

Miscellaneous Products		
Product Type	**Organization**	**Website for Standards & Specifications**
Miscellaneous Products	EPA (Minimum Recycled Content Standards)	http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/ conserve/tools/cpg/pdf/miscell.pdf

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous Materials		
Product Type	**Organization**	**Website for Standards & Specifications**
Hazardous Materials	Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)	Request MSDS from manufacturer OSHA regulatory information: http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/ owadisp.show_document?p_ table=STANDARDS&p_ id=10099#1910.1200(g)

THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATIONS

The importance of using third party certifications is described in the above section "How to Use the Green Product Resource Guide". Below is a list of common, nationally recognized third party certification organizations. This is not an exhaustive list and employees are encouraged to contact Purchasing or the Office of Energy and Sustainability to add additional third party certifications to this list.

Third Party Certifications

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Certifies and promotes chlorine free products	Chlorine Free Products Association	http://www.chlorinefreeproducts.org/
Compostable food service items, resins, packaging, and bags	Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)	http://www.bpiworld.org/
EPA's label indicates that a product is "best in class" for human health, environmental impact, and performance	Design for the Environment	http://www.epa.gov/dfe/
Computers & monitors	EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment)	http://epeat.net/

Third Party Certifications

Product Type	Organization	Website for Standards & Specifications
Products in more than 120 categories	EcoLogo Program	http://www.ecologo.org/en/
Appliances, office equipment, lighting, electronics, and more	ENERGY STAR	http://www.energystar.gov/
Forest products (e.g. lumber, furniture, paper, etc.)	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	http://www.fscus.org/
Home product certification for high indoor air quality standards	GreenGuard	http://www.greenguard.org/en/index.aspx
Variety of products, services and companies	GreenSeal	http://www.greenseal.org/AboutGreenSeal.aspx
Appliances and products that use water (i.e. faucets, showerheads)	WaterSense	http://www.epa.gov/watersense/

Additional Research Tools for Green Products & Building Materials

In addition to the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) and NACo's County Green Purchasing Toolkit, described above in the Standards and Specifications section, the following is a list of additional resources for green products and building materials.

Additional Research Tools

Description of Research Tool	Organization	Website	Cost
Sustainable Products for the Construction Industry	Construction Specification Institute (CSI)	http://www.greenformat.com/	FREE
Cost-effective measurement tool for green building materials and products	Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES)	Free Download: http://www.wbdg.org/tools/bees.php BEES On-line: http://ws680.nist.gov/Bees/	FREE
List of building materials that cannot be used for a project to meet the 'Living Building Challenge'	Living Building Challenge 'Red List'	Page 28: https://ilbi.org/lbc/Standard-Documents/LBC2-0.	FREE
Software for environmental impact assessment of building materials	Environmental Resource Guide	http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/office_electronics/index.php	$275 for software

Additional Research Tools

Description of Research Tool	Organization	Website	Cost
Resource guide with detailed listings for more than 2,100 green building products.	GreenSpec (A Building Green.com site)	http://www. buildinggreen.com/ menus/	Minimal product search for free Fee for