



ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING POLICY

1.0 STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of UWLSU to:

- Institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness;
- 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;

Where reasonably practicable.

2.0 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

3.0 STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- I. Institute practices that reduce waste, encourage reuse, and result in the purchase of fewer products.
- II. Consider short-term and long-term costs in comparing product alternatives. This includes evaluation of total costs expected during the time a product is owned, including, but not limited to, acquisition, extended warranties, operation, supplies, maintenance and replacement parts, disposal costs and expected lifetime compared to other alternatives.
- III. Purchase products that are durable, long lasting, reusable or refillable and avoid purchasing one-time use or disposable products.
- IV. 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.
- V. Specify a preference for packaging that is reusable, recyclable or compostable, when suitable uses and programs exist.
- VI. Encourage vendors to take back and reuse pallets and other shipping materials.
- VII. Promote electronic distribution of documents rather than printing or copying.
- VIII. When producing paper documents, print and copy all documents on both sides to reduce the use and purchase of paper.

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