



Section: Procurement Guidelines

Subject: Green Purchasing – Environmentally Preferred Sourcing

I. Purpose

To establish Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) guidelines to increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable green products and services by selecting such products based on their impact on the environment and human health.

The Division of Strategic Sourcing is dedicated to applying EPP guidelines to all major, strategic, and critical purchasing decisions to promote the use of sustainable products and services. The Division, supported by the Jackson Health System and Service Employees International Union (SEIU 1991) Climate Committee and end users, will evaluate environmental impacts in order to select products and services that minimize damage to health and the environment. Vendors and manufacturers are expected to continuously develop price competitive quality products that conform to EPP guidelines and specifications as defined in this document.

II. Procedure

A. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP)

1. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing refers to the procurement of products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to competing products or services that serve the same purpose.
2. This comparison can consider:
 - a. Raw materials,
 - b. Production,
 - c. Manufacturing,
 - d. Packaging,
 - e. Distribution,
 - f. Reuse,
 - g. Operation,
 - h. Maintenance, and
 - i. Disposal of the product or service.
3. Three factors to consider:
 - a. **Life-Cycle Perspective:** Consider the environmental impact of a product or service over its lifetime (raw material extraction, manufacturing, packaging, transport energy, consumption, maintenance, disposal).
 - b. **Pollution Prevention:** Processes and practices that prevent the creation of pollution and waste, rather than managing these after they have been created.
 - c. **Resource Efficiency:** Giving preference to reusable content and recycled materials over virgin materials, as well as conserving water and energy.
4. EPP includes identifying or sourcing the following:
 - a. Greater energy-efficient products and services.
 - b. Materials and products with higher recycled content, and containing materials harvested through organic agricultural practices.
 - c. Materials and products associated with lower content and emissions of:
 - i. Hazardous materials,
 - ii. Greenhouse gases,
 - iii. Bio-accumulative pollutants,
 - iv. Ozone-depleting substances and
 - v. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



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- d. Materials and products with longer lifespans.
- e. Materials and products with preferable end-of-life options for reclamation, remanufacturing, and/or disposal.
- f. Methods to reduce water consumption or contamination onsite and offsite.
- g. Suppliers with environmentally preferable technologies and practices.
- h. Environmentally sustainable or preferable alternatives for commodities.
- i. Opportunities to collaborate with suppliers on green initiatives, such as:
 - i. Reducing or changing packaging of goods,
 - ii. Reusing packaging, and/or
 - iii. Reducing pollution.

B. Key Objectives

1. Use “**safer chemicals**” - chemicals that are inherently less hazardous than alternative chemicals and release minimal byproducts during their lifecycle.
2. Promote the use of **renewable materials** by increasing the use of sustainable, bio-based materials, and reducing the use of fossil fuel-based materials.
3. Support **healthy food systems** by sourcing food products that are local, seasonal, nutritious, and produced in a way that minimizes degradation to human and environmental health and vitality.
4. Promote **land stewardship** by cultivating healthy ecosystems and protecting natural resources.
5. Promote **sustainable energy** by using renewable energy sources and reducing energy use.
6. Protect **clean air** by minimizing pollutants.
7. Contribute to the availability of **clean water** by minimizing water use and pollution and by avoiding bottled water products where not clinically necessary.
8. **Minimize waste** by using products that are reusable or recyclable and made of recyclable materials.
9. Use **environmentally sound waste disposal** technologies when reuse, reduction and recycling cannot be achieved.

C. Suppliers and Manufacturers Responsibilities

1. Design products to contain high post-consumer recycled content.
2. Design products to be readily recycled, reprocessed, reused, and/or composted.
3. Manufacture products that reduce total cost of ownership and improve end of life responsibility.
4. Manufacture products without harmful chemicals and materials and in accordance with national and international chemical and material standards.
5. Implement programs to ensure products do not contain restricted or banned materials.
6. Manufacture products that use minimal resources (e.g. energy, water) during normal operations, in order to reduce their environmental impacts.
7. Transport and package units in minimal packaging that is recyclable, non- toxic, and/or bio-based.
8. Improve transport and production methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Prevent accidental spills and releases of hazardous materials into the environment and reduce adverse environmental impacts on the local community.
10. Develop due diligence frameworks and management systems to monitor, enforce, and enhance the sustainability of their own supply chain.
11. Provide third party certification that product(s) was independently tested and found to meet criteria which reduces its negative health and environmental impact.



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III. References

JHS Policy No. 248 - Procurement Regulation

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guideline Program
(<https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>)

Responsible Party: Senior Vice President, Chief Procurement Officer
Strategic Sourcing, Jackson Health System

Reviewing Committee(s): JHS Policies & Procedure Committee

Authorization: Department Head