

Environmental Purchasing

Policy Objective

This policy seeks to ensure that the environmental and lifecycle impacts of goods or services are assessed prior to procurement and that the most environmentally preferable option is considered favourable.

Policy Statement

“Environmentally preferable” means products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

The acceptable premium cost for environmentally preferable or sustainable products or services is generally set at 15% above the cost of equivalent non-preferable (non-certified or generic) products or services.

Environmentally preferable or sustainable products or services therefore shall be –

- Certified under a recognised scheme as containing certified products in recycled content or derived from sustainable sources; or
- Demonstrated to provide significant environmental performance outcomes in addressing resource and energy use (i.e. greater energy efficiency, water saving properties); or
- Demonstrated to reduce overall environmental impact, including use of raw materials, embedded energy and disposal requirements.

The above specifications are to apply to the below nominated goods and services, irrespective of pricing premium:

- Non-recyclable/non-biodegradable single use straws, cups, takeaway containers and cutlery
- Paper-based stationary and other paper-based products
- Photocopiers
- Water fixtures and fittings
- Lighting

Policy Detail

Purchasing decisions will be considered in the context of the hierarchy for waste management with a view to reduce the overall environmental impact of the good or service.

Purchases should only be made once it has been determined that goods or services are necessary.

Reduce

- Purchases that reduce the use of materials, reduce the impact on raw materials and reduce environmental impact will be favoured. For example, bulk purchases that reduce packaging, transport or material use.

Reuse

- Items purchased are durable, have a long service life and are easy to maintain and upgraded, prolonging their asset/useful life.
- Using the same item more than once and extending the useful life of products and equipment by ensuring appropriate maintenance and repairs where appropriate.

Recycle

- Where practical, purchase products that are recycled or re-manufactured, contain recycled materials or can be recycled at the end of use.

Recover

- Consider products that result in conversion of waste into resources (ie. electricity, heat, compost and fuel).

1. Other considerations in environmentally preferable goods and services

The following should be considered in the procurement process and for the assessment of a good or services impact on the natural environment.

- a) The energy and water rating and efficiency features are the best available for the price.
- b) The lifecycle requirements of a product (production, transportation and eventual disposal) is considered in addition to operational performance.
- c) Where possible, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and consider renewable or lower polluting alternatives.
- d) Consider the total cost of a product over its lifetime so that operational energy and water costs are considered along with the purchase price.
- e) If possible, avoid the purchase of products that threaten the preservation of biodiversity.
- f) Purchase products materials and services that have minimal potential to pollute water, land or air at any stage of its life cycle.
- g) Avoid the purchase of materials containing ozone-depleting substances.
- h) Where possible, purchase materials and products that are free of toxic or polluting materials.

2. Item/ product Specification and Continuous Improvement

Single use plastic items

- a) The City is committed to progressively reduce or phase out single use disposable plastics in City-occupied buildings and for events. This involves the use of alternative items including, but not limited to, straws, cups, takeaway containers, and cutlery.

Paper based products

- b) All copy paper (A3 and A4) purchased shall be made in Australia from –
 - (i) Virgin fibre, certified to either the Forest Stewardship Scheme (including FSC Mix) or Program for the Endorsement of Forestry Certifications (PEFC) standards; or
 - (ii) Post-consumer recycled certified to a recycled content standard and Processed Chlorine Free.
- c) Papers made from virgin fibre shall be either Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF), ECF Light, or Totally Chlorine Free (TCF).

All other paper

- d) All other paper-based products will, at a minimum, be virgin fibre from a source certified to the Forest Stewardship Scheme (including FSC Mix) or the Program for the Endorsement of Forestry Certifications standards.

Copiers

- e) All copiers will be capable of printing double sided, from a supplier with a ‘No landfill’ policy i.e. recyclable at end of life and will accept use of recycled paper (i.e. without voiding warranty).

Water and lighting fixtures and fittings

- f) All new water fixtures and fittings installed shall have a “better than” 3 WELS rating.
- g) Where appropriate, all new light fittings shall be LED or an alternative with equal/ higher energy efficiency.
- h) When water or energy using devices reach the end of their working life replace with a higher rated device to ensure continuous improvement in the level of efficiency.

Reference/Associated Documents

Policy 29 - Purchasing

Policy 46 - Environment and Sustainability

Reference to Internal Procedure

None.

Definitions

LED means Light Emitting Diode

WELS means Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Scheme

This Policy is supported by:

Policy No:	CP45
Strategic Community Plan:	<p>Goal 3: Natural Belmont Strategy: 3.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment Strategy: 3.5 Promote energy and water efficiency, renewable energy sources, and reduce emissions and waste Goal 5: Responsible Belmont Strategy: 5.2 Manage the City's assets and financial resources in a responsible manner and provide the best possible services for the community</p>
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Policy Stakeholder:	Coordinator Environment

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