
Policy Number 3.7 Sustainable Purchasing

The city encourages the use of recycled products in its purchasing of goods and services. All public purchases must prioritize health and safety and balance environmental impact with costs, quality and delivery concerns. Recycled copy paper with at least 30% post-consumer content and office/printing paper with at least 10% post-consumer content are specified by state law (Minn. Stat. § 16C.073). <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=16C.073> The Minnesota Department of Administration supports the federal standard of 30% post-consumer recycled paper, and strongly encourages state and local government purchasers to adopt the higher standard. A direct link to the environmentally preferred purchasing guide is <http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/envir.htm> ,

Policy on Purchasing Paper, Supplies, and Equipment/Appliances.

Where cost differences are negligible, the city will purchase:

- 1) At least 30% post-consumer recycled copy paper;
- 2) Energy Star certified equipment and appliances, when available;
- 3) Other sustainably sourced or recycled office products such as compostable cups, plates, cutlery, etc. whenever possible; and
- 4) In bulk, whenever practicable, to reduce packaging. Packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable is preferred, when suitable uses and programs exist.

Policy on Building Materials with Recycled Content

The purpose of this directive is to set forth a policy concerning the use of building products containing recycled materials in all city construction or remodeling projects.

1) Introduction

The use of Building Materials with Recycled Content Policy has been established with expectation that it will be considered by City departments and employees in all bid specifications and requests for proposals for construction and/or remodeling of city facilities.

2) Use of Building Materials with Recycled Content Statement

The following statement will appear on all bid specifications and requests for proposals from the Purchasing Department or any other city departments or agencies, after July 1, 1991:

The city requires that any contractor or subcontractor who bids any material for any part or parts of a project, MUST include in their bid products or constructions items made with recycled materials, whenever and wherever possible, practical and appropriate, so long as those materials meet all performance requirements;

state and local codes; and will not compromise the quality, health, safety, or the operation and integrity of the project.

Language that excludes the use of materials or products with recycled content shall be eliminated from any specifications unless the city operating department can reasonably demonstrate that the recycled product would be impractical, unproven, or would not achieve necessary performance or design standards.

If both recycled and non-recycled products are bid, the city may, after comparing quality, performance and cost, give preferential consideration to materials with recycled content.

3) Using Building Materials with Recycled Content Goal

To ensure, wherever practical and appropriate, that building materials and products with recycled content are used in the construction or remodeling of city facilities. To ensure, wherever possible, that specifications and request for bids never preclude the use of building materials or products with recycled content. To encourage the use of building materials or products with recycled content wherever practical, by asking for those materials in construction city facilities.

4) Why Use Building Materials with Recycled Content?

Using products and building materials having recycled content in building City facilities will expand the end-market demand for recyclables, completing the recycling circle. Using recyclables also saves natural resources and energy. Many building materials are already made with recycled content.

Examples include:

- polystyrene insulation (post-consumer collected plastic)
- cellulose insulations (newspaper)
- acoustical tile (newspaper)
- asphalt shingles (newspaper and/or mixed paper)
- carpeting (soda bottles)
- plastic lumber (mixed post-consumer plastic bottles)
- steel re-bar (recycled scrap metal)
- concrete and bituminous are ground up and used again

The Recycled Product Guide contains a listing of building materials made with recycled content and is available from Hennepin County.

Adopted by Resolution No. 91-9230

Meeting of June 24, 1991

Effective Date: July 1, 1991

Revised: April 2018