

## **COOPERATIVE PURCHASING**

The City may increase savings from bulk discounts by making purchases jointly with one or more governmental units through joint powers agreements. Under these programs, several governmental units can enter into an agreement to authorize one party to solicit bids and provide for the purchase at the option of each participating governmental unit. Once the governmental units agree on the specifications of the item, one party may advertise for bids on behalf of all the parties that participate in the agreement. Rather than specify a specific number of items, the advertising participant will advertise for a range of quantities estimated for the entire group. Each participating unit can make the final decision on whether to purchase the items from the successful bidder.

## **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING**

The goal of this segment of the Purchasing Policy is to affirm and encourage the City of Dilworth's commitment to sustainability. Specifically, it promotes:

- Conserving natural resources;
- Minimizing environmental impacts, such as pollution;
- Supporting strong recycling markets;
- Increasing the use and availability of environmentally preferable products that protect the environment;
- Rewarding manufacturers and vendors that reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution systems;
- Creating a model for successfully purchasing environmentally preferable products that encourages other purchasers in our community to adopt similar goals
- Lowering overall costs by addressing full cost accounting (purchase, maintenance, disposal, staff time, and labor)
- Leveraging buying power

The following guidelines are to be followed by the City of Dilworth:

1. Recycled Paper Products and Recycled-Content Products. Per Minnesota Statute 16B.122 and per the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirements, the City of Dilworth will endeavor to purchase paper products containing the highest post-consumer content practicable, but no less than 30% recycled-content for copy paper (which is the minimum recycled content standard established by the EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)). The City should purchase other products made with recycled material whenever possible and economically feasible.

2. Waste Minimization. The City should buy in bulk whenever practicable to reduce packaging. Packaging that is reusable, recyclable or compostable is preferred, when suitable uses and programs exist.

3. Energy Saving Products. All appliances and products purchased by the City, for which the US EPA Energy Star certification is available, will meet Energy Star certification, provided such products are available and financially feasible ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)). This would include lighting systems, exhaust fans, water heaters, computers, exit signs, and appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and microwave ovens.

4. Water Saving Products. Water saving products purchased by the City will meet the WaterSense certification when such products are available and financially feasible ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)). This includes, but is not limited to, high-performing fixtures, such as toilets, waterless urinals, low-flow faucets and aerators, and upgraded irrigation systems.

5. Cleaning Products. Cleaning products purchased by the City will meet Green Seal, EcoLogo, and/or U.S. EPA Design for the Environment cleaning product standards, if such products are practicable, available, and perform to an acceptable standard.

6. Lighting. The City should purchase and install LED lighting on any new construction, retrofits, remodels or replacement projects, including street lighting. III. PROCEDURE When purchasing products and services for the City, staff will: Ensure that specifications support the use of reusable, recycled, or environmentally preferable products by following these guidelines; Evaluate environmentally preferable products to determine the extent to which they may be used by the department and its contractors; Facilitate data collection on purchases of designated environmentally preferable products by the department in order to determine the effectiveness of the products and services; Use a standard of accepting a 10% increased cost for these items.