

Sustainable Purchasing



Policy Number: 06.005	Responsible Office: Accounting & Finance	Governing Body: College Council	Last Review Date: 02/10/2014
Scope: This policy applies to all college entities that purchase goods for the college			

I. Introduction

Antioch's Sustainable Purchasing Policy demonstrates our commitment to environmental sustainability. By purchasing sustainable products, Antioch will lead the way in playing a significant role in the development of environmental sustainability on campus and in the local community.

A. Policy Statement

Antioch will strive to balance environmental and fiscal responsibilities in making Sustainable Purchasing decisions. We will promote the purchase of products with the highest percentage of recycled content available, provided that the products meet acceptable use and performance standards.

II. The Importance of Sustainable Purchasing

Sustainable development involves using the Earth's natural resources (i.e. both renewable and non-renewable resources) to fulfill our present needs without affecting the needs of next generations. "Sustainable Purchasing" is an important element to achieve sustainable development. Consequently, when one considers buying something, they should think about the adverse environmental impacts associated with the product during its full life-cycle.

However, environmentally preferable products are sometimes more expensive to purchase than alternative products. This circumstance can discourage Sustainable Purchasing by consumers seeking lower costing products without significant environmental benefits. Nevertheless, buying "greener products" doesn't necessarily mean paying more, especially when other cost factors are considered.

It is important to recognize and appreciate that proper and effective Sustainable Purchasing doesn't simply lead to environmental benefits, but also helps purchasers reduce full life-cycle costs and thus save money.

III. Sustainable Purchasing

Sustainable Purchasing is the practice of procuring goods and services that cause less harm to the environment, and the living beings that depend upon it for survival. Sustainable Products are those manufactured with more environmentally-friendly materials or which are produced with minimal impact to the environment.

Antioch will strive to purchase materials that are:

- A. Durable, as opposed to single use or disposable
- B. Non-toxic or minimally toxic, preferably biodegradable

- C. Highly energy-efficient
- D. Recyclable or safely disposable
- E. Made from raw materials obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
- F. Manufactured in an environmentally sound manner
- G. The cause of minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- H. Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and/or recyclable materials
- I. Products that meet the above criteria will be considered Sustainable Products.

IV. Initiatives

A. Computer Purchasing

Antioch College recognizes the impact that more energy-efficient computers and monitors can have on sustainability. By saving energy, reducing heat loads within buildings, and encouraging recycling and industry best practices, Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified products can further Antioch's sustainability goals while saving the institution money. Antioch College encourages the purchase of EPEAT Silver or higher computers and monitors, whenever possible.

B. Cleaning Product Purchasing

Antioch College acknowledges the important role that cleaning practices play in overall sustainability goals. By streamlining operations, using less water, using less product, and using more environmentally-friendly products, the Antioch community can reduce its impact. Antioch encourages the purchase of Green Seal or EcoLogo certified cleaning products, whenever possible.

C. Office Paper Use and Purchasing

Antioch College recognizes that the purchase of recycled content paper reduces demand for timber, conserving trees to reduce climate change and provide forest habitats. Purchasing recycled content office paper also encourages the manufacture of products made from recycled material. The Antioch community will strive to reduce paper usage through limiting printing, encouraging electronic communications, printing double-sided when possible, and encouraging the purchase of the highest percentage recycled content paper possible for campus printers, with a stated preference for paper with a post consumer recycled content of 30% or higher.