



**MEMORANDUM**

26 April 2012

To: David Condon, Mayor of Spokane  
 Ben Stuckart, Council President  
 City Council Members

Fr: Lloyd Brewer, Environmental Programs Manager *LRB*

Cc: Theresa Sanders  
 Mayor's Cabinet

Re: Environmentally Preferable Purchases Policy Report for 2011

The Environmentally Preferable Purchases (EPP) Policy was put in place November, 2010 and requires a yearly report to the City's elected officials.

The five items currently on the City's Environmentally Preferred Purchases List were vetted through the Green Team and City Administration:

- Recycled Office Paper,
- Remanufactured Printer Cartridges,
- Recycled Oil,
- Re-refined Engine Coolant, and
- Retreaded Tires

The following table provides a summary of the 2011 data collected from 23 responding Departments:

**2011 Environmentally Preferable Purchases Report**

| Product Purchased                   | Quantity |           | Cost               | Average<br>Cost/Unit |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|
|                                     | Cases    | # gallons |                    |                      |
| 1a. Office Paper 30% Recycled       | 110.4    |           | \$4,980.01         | \$45.11              |
| 1b. Office Paper 100% Recycled      | 952.9    |           | \$38,521.57        | \$40.43              |
| 1c. Office Paper Other              | 402.15   |           | \$40,784.06        | \$101.42             |
| 2a. Remanufactured Toner Cartridges |          | 115       | \$10,167.75        | \$88.42              |
| 2b. Toner Cartridges Other          |          | 222       | \$34,228.54        | \$154.18             |
| 3a. Re-refined Engine Coolant       |          |           | 2,445 \$11,078.40  | \$4.53               |
| 3b. Engine Coolant Other            |          |           | 382 \$9,451.03     | \$24.74              |
| 4a. Re-refined Motor Oil            |          |           | 10,571 \$88,257.86 | \$8.35               |
| 4b. Motor Oil Other                 |          |           | 420 \$6,189.89     | \$14.73              |
| 5a. Retread Tires                   |          | 663       | \$132,047.03       | \$199.17             |
| 5b. Tires Other                     |          | 1,262     | \$285,484.00       | \$226.22             |

The calculated unit cost for both the reported EPP list items and the alternatives purchased is provided. The data gathered indicates that on average EPP listed products were less costly. The EPP policy leaves it up to the department purchasers to use their best judgment in determining whether an EPP listed item will meet their needs.

Some Departments commented that their experience was that specific EPP listed products were inferior in quality and/or performance as compared to the alternatives. The following are other comments received:

- “It is often not time or cost effective to look for the best EPP purchases. It would be really helpful to have a list created for the departments to use with EPP approved paper products and toners that include the item number (used to order), recycled content if it applies, average cost, etc. I have looked on Kershaw’s website and still have not found paper that contains a watermark or imprint of the chasing logo arrow on it. Often recycled paper is not the lowest cost and can be quite a bit higher so it is a matter of deciding which the most important factor is. For a lot of departments on tight budgets, that is going to come down to cost. Remanufactured toners are usually cheaper but it seems like the ink is not as good of quality and they do not last as long.”
- “In the past year we have implemented changes which include scanning and not printing many documents. On a continual basis we evaluate what we print to determine if it needs to be printed, if it could be scanned or eliminated to save money without effecting negatively on our mission.”

Since only a portion of the City Departments responded to the request for data, it is not known if they have evaluated the use of the EPP listed items. Not only do the current listed items appear to be less costly than the alternatives but purchasing the items should help reduce the waste costs by providing viable recycling markets, and in addition reduces the demand for new resources and the energy needed to manufacture and acquire them.

The Green Team continues to discuss and explore pesticide products, other recycled paper products, and cleaning supplies. These items may be added in 2012.

I have no recommendations for policy changes at this time. The EPP policy and fact sheets are available at [www.greenspokane.org/green-team](http://www.greenspokane.org/green-team).

Please accept this memorandum as the yearly report for 2011 on the Environmentally Preferable Purchases.