



MEMORANDUM

22 April 2013

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

Fr: Lloyd Brewer, Environmental Programs Manager

Cc: Theresa Sanders, City Administrator
 Mayor's Cabinet

Re: Environmentally Preferable Purchases Policy Report for 2012

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

The EPP policy and fact sheets are available at www.greenspokane.org/green-team.
 The five items currently on the City's Environmentally Preferred Purchases List as vetted through the Green Team are:

- 1) Recycled Office Paper,
- 2) Recycled Oil,
- 3) Re-refined Engine Coolant,
- 4) Retreaded Tires,
- 5) Remanufactured Printer Cartridge

The following table provides a summary of the 2012 data collected from responding Departments (~84%) with lowest average cost per unit item highlighted in green:

2012 Environmentally Preferable Purchases Report

Product Purchased	Quantity		Cost	Average Cost/Unit
	Reams	# gallons		
1a. Office Paper 30% Recycled	3114		\$14,557.26	\$4.67
1b. Office Paper 100% Recycled	363		\$1,706.26	\$4.70
1c. Office Paper Other 8.5x11 white	8226		\$26,681.75	\$3.24
1c. Office Paper Other	522		\$5,336.86	\$10.22
2a. Remanufactured Toner Cartridges		80	\$3,897.11	\$48.71
2b. Toner Cartridges Other		420	\$42,182.66	\$100.43
3a. Re-refined Engine Coolant			2221 \$8,038.49	\$3.62
3b. Engine Coolant Other			621 \$8,773.68	\$14.13
4a. Re-refined Motor Oil			9858 \$81,309.99	\$8.25
4b. Motor Oil Other			1242 \$13,332.19	\$10.73
5a. Retread Tires		705	\$147,520.06	\$209.25
5b. Tires Other		1,028	\$313,015.39	\$304.49

The calculated unit cost for both the EPP list items and the products purchased without recycled content is provided. Those products purchased In 2012 with recycled material content were on average cheaper than those of virgin materials, except for standard office paper. Most of this difference is the result of purchasing specialized-higher grade/specification materials currently not available with recycled content. As best I can tell from the information available the EPP products, except office paper, are available at lower cost than comparable virgin materials derived products, but there are not the variety in types or quality. 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. Toner cartridges appear to be problematic in that there have been some bad experiences with the re-manufactured cartridges and some types are not available re-manufactured. One commenter noted that purchasers of new equipment should consider the operational savings that can be achieved when the new equipment accepts recycled fluids, paper, or cartridges.

The Fire Dept. noted they were recycling their coolant at their shop. About 175 gallons were estimated recycled in this fashion. The greatest environmental benefit is derived when the recycled material can be put back to the same purpose it had, and when the recycling / re-manufacturing occurs locally. So this is an example of the best of recycling.

I have no new EPP recommendations for policy change at this time, but would encourage purchasers of new equipment to include in their decision making process whether recycled consumables could be used.

Related Information: In order that recycling work there needs to be a balance between how much and what is being recycled and how much and what will be reused. There are both environmental and monetary costs when either side is out of balance. The overall benefits of both sides of the balance is reduced environmental and monetary costs for waste disposal and materials acquisition. Most of the EPP recycled content items are less costly than virgin material derived products. Purchasing the EPP items should help reduce the utility waste costs by providing viable recycling markets, and then in addition reducing the demand for new resources and the energy needed to manufacture and acquire them.

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/downloads/benefits.pdf>

In the table below is some additional information worth considering as decisions are made.

Product	Quantity		Value to City If Recycled ¹		Environmental Cost Avoided If Recycled ²
Office Paper	reams		\$0.01 ?		\$8.81
Toner cartridges	#		\$0.01		\$1.72
Antifreeze	gallons		\$0.00		\$16.29
Motor oil	gallons		\$0.88		\$12.60
Tires	#		\$0.00		\$65.13

¹ Added value from existing City contract terms with recyclers. This value is less when the wastes are commingled. Office paper has added value when sold for newsprint.

² Derived from “*More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S; Prepared by: Tellus Institute with Sound Resource Management*”; November 2011 “*Appendix E: Measuring Environmental Benefits Calculator (MEBCalcTM), Model Documentation*”; pg. 23, “*Valuation of lifecycle environmental impacts*”, http://www.recyclingworkscampaign.org/?dl_id=5 / and estimated unit weights.

Note: As product specific environmental costs were not available I assigned the same per ton cost to all products, with the estimated weight of each determining the value presented.

Please accept this memorandum as the yearly report for 2012 on the Environmentally Preferable Purchases.