



MEMORANDUM

28 April 2014

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

Fr: Lloyd Brewer, Environmental Programs Manager

Cc: Theresa Sanders, City Administrator and Mayor’s Cabinet

Re: Environmentally Preferable Purchases Policy Report for 2013

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

At www.greenspokane.org/green-team you can access the EPP policy, fact sheets, and previous annual reports. 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 2013 data collected from responding Departments (71%) with lowest average cost per unit item highlighted in green:

2013 Environmentally Preferable Purchases Report

Product Purchased	Quantity		Cost	Average Cost/Unit
	Reams	# gallons		
1a. Office Paper 30% Recycled	980		\$4,307.44	\$4.395
1b. Office Paper 100% Recycled	0		\$0.00	
1c. Office Paper Other 8.5x11 white	9,868		\$31,588.39	\$3.20
1c. Office Paper Other	287		\$3,992.32	\$13.93
2a. Remanufactured Toner Cartridges		149	\$7,054.96	\$47.35
2b. Toner Cartridges Other		262	\$34,719.17	\$132.52
3a. Re-refined Engine Coolant			1,011 \$4,412.67	\$4.36
3b. Engine Coolant Other			691 \$9,326.14	\$13.50
4a. Re-refined Motor Oil			11,218 \$98,453.49	\$8.78
4b. Motor Oil Other			866 \$9,544.87	\$11.02
5a. Retread Tires		1,077	\$220,394.75	\$204.64
5b. Tires Other		1,085	\$419,232.28	\$386.39

For more detail please call 625-6968.

The calculated unit cost for both the EPP list items and the products purchased without recycled content is provided. Again in 2013 those products purchased with recycled material content were on average cheaper than those of virgin materials, except for standard office paper. The EPP products, while often cheaper, are typically not available in the variety virgin materials derived products are.

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. However most of the purchasing of the current EPP products is done through Reprographics and the Fleet Services Department.

This year, as in the past, we have received comment by some that EPP products are inferior in quality and/or performance. The use of recycled toner cartridges and recycled content paper seem to be where most comments of product problems arise. Some departments/individuals seem to do fine with them while others do not. This is an area where it would help if specific data on the problems and the resulting impact was recorded and reported. So far we just have hear-say.

The Fire Dept. has engine coolant recycling capability at their shop but did not generate sufficient quantities to use it in 2013. Fleet services and the departments they serve benefitted from the purchase of recycled engine coolant while Solid Waste Management and the Regional System sent the antifreeze turned in by citizens to recyclers. It is my understanding that most if not all of this recycling occurred in Nevada. 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.

Sections 6.3.1 and 6.3.5 of the current EPP policy are conflicting. The first says that Departments should determine what EPP they practicably could use, while the second says that all printing by departments should be on recycled content paper and public documents bear the logo so identifying it. Given that recycled paper has been determined not to be practicably available by nearly all City purchasers, I recommend that section 6.3.5 of the EPP policy be amended by preceding the current language with "Where recycled paper is practicably available". It would be helpful to purchasers and to furtherance of the goals of the EPP policy if some further definition of practicable could be provided as it relates to cost. I propose for consideration that practicable might be defined as available and at a cost not exceeding 10% above that of comparable virgin materials derived products. This year, barring direction to the contrary, Environmental Programs with the Green Team will begin addressing cleaning products and bio-accumulative toxics (such as PCBs) for inclusion in EPP recommendations. Given that recyclables are frequently cheaper, Department purchasers of new equipment are encouraged, before the purchase, to consider whether recycled consumables (e.g. toner & ink cartridges) can be used with the equipment.

Please accept this memorandum as the yearly report for 2013 on the Environmentally Preferable Purchases.