

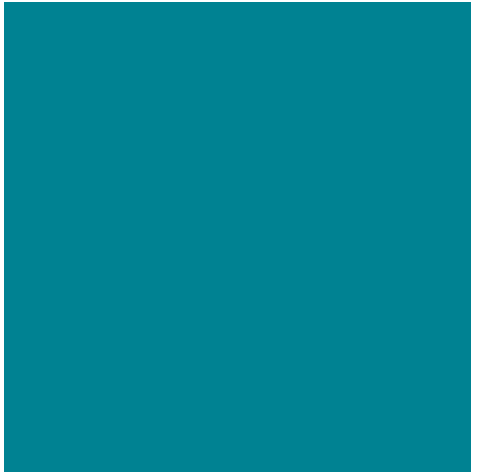


King County Environmental Purchasing **2007 Annual Report**



King County

Department of Executive Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
Environmental Purchasing Program



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King County Environmental Purchasing Program

2007 Annual Report

Executive Summary

King County's Environmental Purchasing Policy reflects a long-term commitment to the purchase of environmentally preferable products. In 1989, King County adopted its original recycled product procurement policy in response to overburdened landfills and the need to create markets for newly collected recyclables. The policy was expanded in 1995 to include other environmentally preferable products. Because every purchase has an impact on human health and the environment, the goal of policy is to mitigate these impacts whenever practicable. Environmentally preferable procurement considers multiple product attributes, such as toxicity, durability, emissions, recycled content and conservation of resources, in addition to price, performance and availability.

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program provides county personnel with information and technical assistance to help them identify and evaluate, and ultimately purchase, economical and effective environmentally preferable products and services. In the past year, King County agencies purchased 41 million dollars worth of these products, saving \$875,000 compared to the cost of conventional products.

The program continues to provide a central resource for internal agencies and for jurisdictions and other organizations across the nation. Program staff also continues their integral role in the development of the national membership-based non-profit organization called the "Responsible Purchasing Network," serving on the steering committee. King County lends support to the network by sharing its experiences with others who

are working to develop policies and programs to support the purchase of environmentally preferable products.

The program reports annually on the status of policy implementation and the environmental purchasing accomplishments of agencies. Recycled paper is used for all major government functions, including bus schedules, tax statements, court forms, pet license notifications, business cards, reports, and internal printing. Other purchases include: remanufactured toner cartridges; re-refined antifreeze and motor-oil; ultra-low sulfur diesel; biodiesel; hybrid vehicles; bio-based oils; plastic lumber, compost, shredded wood-waste and tire-retreading services. In addition to their environmental benefits, many of these products are more economical than those they replace and perform well.

Program success depends on enabling agencies to obtain the benefit of new opportunities being created in a changing marketplace by supporting them with information and technical assistance. In addition to producing educational seminars on specific opportunities, the program makes extensive use of the Internet, using email to distribute an "Environmental Purchasing Bulletin" and maintaining a website to make information available to agencies, suburban cities, and the community at-large on the environmental purchasing experience of county agencies.



King County

Department of Executive Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
Environmental Purchasing Program

2007 Annual Report

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I. King County Environmental Purchasing Program

This report summarizes the achievements of King County agencies for the year 2007, in their implementation of the King County Environmental Purchasing Policy.

In the past year, King County agencies continued to increase their awareness and use of environmentally preferable products. The King County Environmental Purchasing Program, housed in the Procurement and Contract Services Section, continues to provide a central resource for internal agencies and for jurisdictions and other organizations across the nation. Program staff continued their integral role in the development of the national membership-based non-profit organization called the “Responsible Purchasing Network” (RPN), serving on the steering committee. King County lends support to the network by sharing its experiences with others who are working to develop policies and programs to support the purchase of environmentally preferable products.

King County maintains this leadership position through the efforts and accomplishments of the employees who are actively developing ways to use economical environmentally preferable materials in new applications and sharing their experiences.

Policy

The King County Environmental Purchasing Policy (KCC 10.16, CON 7-1-2-AEP) reflects a long-term commitment to the purchase of environmentally preferable* products. In 1989, the county adopted its original recycled product procurement policy in response to overburdened landfills and the need to create markets for newly collected recyclables. The policy was updated in 1995 (and again in 2003) to require all agencies of county government to

revise their purchasing practices to reduce their impact on human health and the environment “whenever practicable.” Environmentally preferable procurement considers multiple attributes, such as toxicity, durability, recyclability and conservation of resources, while still fulfilling the basic requirements of price, performance and availability.

Program

The Environmental Purchasing Program aims to fundamentally change the procurement practices of the agencies of King County. The program provides County personnel with information and technical assistance to help them identify economical and effective environmentally preferable products and maintain contracts for their purchase. The program helps agencies understand policy requirements and communicates specifications, contracts, and other practical information between county agencies, vendors, users, and other jurisdictions. Full participation of the people who make purchasing decisions is the key to success.

The program’s collaborative approach, which relies on the expertise of county employees to evaluate procurement opportunities and revise procedures, is gradually changing the way agencies view these opportunities. County agencies have responded by developing new ways to use environmentally preferable products, especially where these will reduce costs while still meeting performance standards.

*King County defines “environmentally preferable” as having a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product.

Implementation

The Procurement and Contract Services Section of the King County Finance and Business Operations Division administers the Environmental Purchasing Program to help county agencies increase their purchase of environmentally preferable products. The program:

- communicates environmental purchasing policy requirements to county agencies;
- researches and communicates information about price, performance, availability and potential benefits of environmentally preferable products;
- provides technical assistance to facilitate evaluation and adoption of environmentally preferable products and applications by county agencies;
- assists buyers and user agencies in the development of specifications and contracts;
- documents policy implementation, including purchases and product evaluation results;
- publishes this annual report as required by policy;
- produces e-mail environmental purchasing bulletins and maintains program website; and
- provides technical assistance, including policy development and implementation strategies, to other jurisdictions, businesses and nonprofit agencies.

Challenges

A number of factors challenge efforts to increase environmental purchasing:

- project managers, designers, and contractors and other users are often not familiar with the use of many environmentally preferable products and are uncertain of the ways in which they might be effectively specified and applied as substitutes for familiar products;
- developers of environmentally preferable products are often in the early stages of identifying the needs of potential customers and establishing the production, marketing, and distribution capacity to meet them;
- the use of environmentally preferable products must be effective and fiscally responsible;
- the lack of consensus-based standards for many product categories requires specifiers to define their own criteria for environmental preferability and specifications must balance many attributes, such as consumption of water, energy and other natural resources, toxicity, recyclability, and recycled content;
- “greenwashing,” or false claims of environmental preferability, complicates consensus on terminology; and
- collecting data on environmentally preferable purchases through existing accounting information systems can be time consuming and expensive.

Opportunities

The Program and county agencies are addressing these challenges by:

- participating in efforts by government agencies, non-profit groups, trade associations, and others, to develop consensus-based standards that will enable users to specify materials that are environmentally preferable as well as available, economical and effective;
- maintaining liaisons between agencies and the Environmental Purchasing Program to facilitate policy implementation, contracting, and data collection;
- evaluating environmentally preferable product performance in new applications through testing and pilot programs and sharing the results with agencies, jurisdictions, and other users through our website, the Environmental Purchasing Bulletin, and by other means;
- helping agencies develop specifications and contracts for environmentally preferable products whenever evaluations establish that product performance and cost are acceptable;
- assembling application information and performance data from product users and manufacturers and disseminating this to potential users in the county;
- helping potential suppliers understand King County procurement processes and obtain feedback from users to assist them in product development; and
- networking with other jurisdictions and organizations to share information about techniques, materials, and strategies allow us to take advantage of each other's successes and minimize duplication of effort.

II. Purchases and Savings

In 2007, King County purchased 41 million dollars worth of environmentally preferable products, saving \$875,000 by doing so. King County strives to buy products that are cost effective, meet performance requirements and are environmentally preferable. These products provide various environmental benefits, including resource efficiency, reduced toxicity, durability, and recycled content.

The tables below summarize environmentally preferable product purchases for 2007. This data is obtained primarily from “term” supply contracts, which are centrally administered goods and service contracts that enable county agencies to purchase materials at low and consistent prices. The tables also include data from one-time purchases. Details of purchases and product performance follow in the “Purchase Detail” section of this report.

2007 Purchase Summary

<i>Office Products</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Copy and Bond Paper	Case	21,386	743,428
Printing Paper	N/A	N/A	2,134,697
Paper Products	N/A	N/A	824,248
Toner Cartridges	Each	3,899	185,124
Computers	Each	3,588	3,454,651
Can Liners	Case	9,258	230,427
Sub-Total:			7,572,575

<i>Operations and Maintenance</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Asphalt Cold Patch	Ton	100	1,200
Compost	Yard	1,103	27,575
Plastic Lumber	Each	N/A	N/A
Shredded Wood	Yard	40,370	111,018
Cleaners	Gallon	495	9,834
Goats	Site	2	6,800
Carpet	Sq. Yd	8,066	275,628
LED Solar Lighting Systems	Each	47	N/A
Porous Concrete Sidewalk	Sq. Yd	1,100	N/A
Synthetic Turf Field	Each	4	N/A
Erosion Control Mulch	Bale	66	N/A
Sub-Total:			432,055

<i>Vehicular</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Motor Oil	Gallon	112,054	548,459
Antifreeze	Gallon	24,112	86,493
Bio-Based Lubricants	Gallon	1,595	23,491
Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel	Gallon	9,948,248	22,801,815
Biodiesel (B100)	Gallon	1,759,251	4,482,204
Biodiesel (B20)	Gallon	1,454,392	3,696,520
Flexible Fuel Vehicles	Each	19	230,541
Hybrid Vehicles	Each	17	391,888
PHEV Vehicles	Each	2	N/A
Hybrid Truck	Each	1	N/A
CNG Vehicles	Each	2	N/A
Rubber Decking	Each	N/A	N/A
Wheel Weights	Each	N/A	N/A
Parts Washer	Each	0	0
Tire Retreading	N/A	N/A	273,014
Sub-Total:			32,534,425

<i>Resource Recovery Services</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Electronics Recycling	N/A	N/A	80,951
Fluorescent Lamp Recycling	N/A	N/A	19,931
Antifreeze Recycling	Each	19,961	11,648
Carpet Recycling	Yard	5,354	N/A
Office Material Recycling	Pound	1,073,961	N/A
Sub-Total:			112,530

<i>Purchase Totals</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Total:	N/A	N/A	40,651,585

Purchase Detail: Office Products

Copy and Bond Paper

County agencies purchase recycled processed chlorine-free (PCF) copy paper with 30% post-consumer content. The post-consumer content level meets the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG). County purchases of recycled white and colored copy paper totaled 21,000 cases at a cost of \$740,000 in the last year.

In 2006, King County added 100% post-consumer paper to its copy paper contract, but users found the 50% cost-premium prohibitive. At the end of 2007, the contractor proposed a substitution of locally produced, better-priced (approx 15% higher) paper and this may result in more purchases next year.

Using 30% recycled content paper, instead of virgin, saves resources. According to the Paper Calculator, created by Environmental Defense, a national nonprofit organization, buying one million pounds (King County's estimated purchase) of 30% recycled copy paper, instead of virgin, saves the equivalent of 3,600 trees and approximately 315,000 pounds of CO₂, which equates to the greenhouse gases produced by 29 cars in an average year. For more statistics from this analysis, please visit: www.papercalculator.org.

Printing Paper

Printing performed by the county Printshop and through contracts administered by Procurement and Contract Services Section for various King County agencies is required to use recycled paper whenever practicable. This includes all printing, from business cards to tax and court forms, reports and bus timetables. The recycled content of this paper varies from 20% to 100% depending on the type of paper and the application. During 2007, estimated recycled paper expenditures, exclusive of printing costs, totaled 2.1 million dollars.

Paper Products

In addition to recycled copy and printing papers, the county also maintains several contracts that allow agencies to purchase various recycled paper products. These include office supplies, such as envelopes, boxes, folders and notepads, and janitorial products, such as paper towels and tissues. The recycled content of this paper varies from 10% to 100% depending on the manufacturer and product type. Several unbleached and non-chlorine bleached products are available on contract. Recycled content purchases totaled \$825,000 in 2007.

Toner Cartridges

King County has purchased remanufactured toner cartridges for laser printers, fax machines and ink-jets since 1991. Cartridges supplied under this contract must meet original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) standards and provide full performance guarantees. In 2007, the county purchased 3,900 cartridges, at a cost of approximately \$185,000. These purchases saved an estimated \$275,000, as the cost of new cartridges is, on average, 2.5 times more expensive than remanufactured cartridges on contract. King County's specifications require spent cartridges to be remanufactured and all components to be recycled when their useful life is over, reducing the landfill disposal of hazardous material. At the end of 2007, the Procurement and Contract Services Section issued an Invitation-to-bid (ITB) for new and remanufactured toner cartridges. In this new contract, to be awarded in 2008, the county took advantage of enhancements in specification developed by colleagues in Alameda County and City of Seattle and contained additional requirements for the remanufacturing process, beyond OEM standards.

Computers

King County purchases most desktop computer equipment through centralized contracts. A new tool was introduced in 2006 to help buyers evaluate, compare and select desktop computer, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. The Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool, or EPEAT, is a consensus-based environmental procurement tool sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and managed by the Green Electronics Council. King County adopted executive policy in 2007 to encourage agencies to buy EPEAT compliant products.

In 2007, the primary vendor for purchases of desktop computers, laptop computers and monitors supplied the county with over 3,500 EPEAT compliant products. The majority of these met the EPEAT silver rating, which means they met the 23 required criteria plus at least 50% of the optional criteria. In June 2007, the first gold rated desktop and laptop products were added to the registry. Products in this category meet all required criteria plus at least 75% of the optional criteria. The county purchased over 200 notebooks and 100 desktops meeting the gold rating.

The Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator developed for the EPA, estimates the environmental and economic benefits of purchasing EPEAT-registered products. According to its calculations, King County saved energy equivalent to powering 100 US households per year and achieved greenhouse gas reductions equivalent to 72 passenger cars. To find out more about the calculator, visit: www.epeat.net/FastBenefits.aspx.

Can Liners

In 2007, King County purchased over 8,200 cases of can-liners at a cost of approximately \$210,000. These were made with 25%-30% high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or 25% low density polyethylene (LDPE) recycled post-consumer plastic. County agencies have used recycled plastic bags from various vendors with good results since 1991.

Operations and Maintenance Products

Asphalt Cold Patch

The King County Roads Maintenance Section has been purchasing asphalt cold patch that reduces the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released to the environment, since 2001. This product is a dry, odorless, ready-to-use asphalt-based compound used to repair potholes, cracks, and other defects in paved surfaces. It contains 75% post-consumer asphalt and hardens by compaction. Traditional cold patch hardens through a combination of compaction and evaporation of a petroleum-based carrier, such as kerosene. This evaporation releases large amounts of VOCs, which are not present in this product. In the past year, King County Roads Maintenance Operations purchased 100 fifty-pound bags, of this product, at a cost of \$1,200.

According to the Roads Maintenance Operations Section, after several years of using this product, a head to head performance test of the low-voc pothole patching mix and the traditional mix showed the low-voc mix did not perform as well. The low-voc mix did not grip to the hole and required repeat visits, which increased costs, complaints and claims. New low-VOC products will be evaluated as they become available, and this product will continue to be used where appropriate.

Compost

Compost amended topsoil is specified for use in maintenance and construction projects. Although several agencies require their contractors to use compost in their construction projects, they do not ordinarily require compilation and reporting of data on compost usage for all projects. One agency, the Roads Environmental Unit, reported that in the past year, their contractors used 1,100 cubic yards of topsoil containing yard-waste compost.

Plastic Lumber

The Renton Maintenance Facility of the Fleet Administration Division requires new dump trucks to be outfitted with recycled plastic sideboards before delivery. High-quality old growth Douglas-fir had been conventionally used in this application, but it is increasingly scarce and expensive. Since 1996, they have used recycled plastic because it is more impact-resistant and needs to be replaced less frequently, saving money in the long-term despite its higher initial cost. Replacement was immediately reduced from two wooden sideboards per week to less than one plastic sideboard per month which saves \$10,000 per year in materials costs alone.

Shredded Wood

Wood chips made from shredded land-clearing debris can be used as ground cover for erosion-control, horticultural mulch, and other applications. In the last year, the Solid Waste Division (SWD) used 40,000 cubic yards of shredded wood, or “hogfuel,” to stabilize temporary driving surfaces at the Cedar Hills landfill, especially during rainy seasons. They also improved their operating procedures and are able to cover the same acreage with less material, which is timely, as the cost of this material significantly increased over the past year. The hogfuel purchases totaled \$110,000.

Cleaners

King County agencies have tested and used many cleaners that have claimed to be environmentally preferable, over the years, with varying degrees of success. The market has improved dramatically for environmentally preferable cleaners, as standards and certification programs have begun to emerge and more products have become certified.

In 2007, King County Procurement and Contract Services Section solicited bids for cleaners that have been certified to meet the GS-37 standard set by Green Seal, an organization that establishes consensus standards of environmental performance. This contract will be awarded in 2008, and we plan to encourage county facilities to evaluate the practicality (performance and price) of these Green Seal certified products.

Metro Transit, which operates over 1,200 buses and maintains seven bus bases and a 1.3 mile transit tunnel, undertook its own evaluation and started using environmentally preferable cleaners, including one that is hydrogen peroxide based, with good results. An unexpected benefit of this evaluation was that they have reduced the number of different chemicals used in their bases from dozens to just three products, two multi-purpose cleaners and a degreaser. The agency reports that they used 500 gallons of the multi-purpose cleaner primarily for cleaning bathrooms and offices and 165 gallons of the other multi-purpose cleaner for cleaning floors.

The agency also adopted the use of microfiber cleaning cloths for all cleaning operations, and report that this change saves water and performs well. The use of microfiber mops has eliminated the use of the mop-buckets full of muddy water, as they are easily laundered.



Metro Transit used goats to control weeds

Goats

King County Metro Transit hired a goat herder and 270 of his goats from Eastern Washington to assist with vegetation management at the Tukwila Park-and-Ride (0.8 acres) and at Metro’s East Base in Bellevue (2 acres). These sites have been difficult for Metro to maintain due to steep hillsides and

uneven ground. The goats are a more efficient way to control the weeds than crews of human workers, present less risk of injury to the human staff, and eliminate the need for chemical maintenance. The decision to use goats for weed control was inspired by the City of Seattle and City of Tacoma, which used this service. King County's work influenced the University of Washington to use goats as well, at their Bothell campus.

Carpet

King County agencies buy carpet, cushions, adhesives and installation services for small remodels and renovation work through the State of Washington flooring contract. Many of the products available have various certifications for recycled content and other elements of environmental preferability, including low emissions of VOCs.

In the past year, King County purchased approximately 8,000 yards of carpet through this contract for installation in twenty small projects at a cost of nearly \$275,000. Approximately 3,000 yards of this carpet was Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) certified by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) and the California Gold and Platinum Sustainable Carpet Standard. All carpet and adhesives met the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Green Label Plus certification for Indoor Air Quality (IAQ). Carpet was also recycled under this contract. Please see the "Resource Recovery Services" section for more information.

In late 2007, a new national standard called "NSF 140-2007" was created by NSF International, a not-for-profit, American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited public health organization. The NSF standard was developed by a joint committee under the guidance of NSF International, through a documented consensus process. The State of California worked closely with this group and will transition to using this standard from their currently mandated California Gold Standard. SCS also will transition their EPP standard to NSF.

LED Solar Lighting Systems

Since 2004, King County Metro Transit Division has been installing energy efficient solar light-emitting diode (LED) bus shelter lighting systems to enhance passenger safety. Solar-powered lighting allows Metro to install lighted bus stops without the expense and construction of connecting the facility to the regional power grid and LED technology consumes far less power than typical lighting systems. Metro Transit installed 47 solar-powered lighting systems in 2007 bringing the total number of solar-lit shelters to 102.

Transit has also installed a total of 150 solar powered "iStops" in 2006 and 2007. Metro customers push a button on the iStop to light a signal lamp to alert transit operators that a passenger is waiting in the bus zone. The use of this technology will decrease the number of passengers that are passed-by at dark bus stops.

Porous Concrete

In August 2007, Road Services Division constructed a 1,100 square-yard porous concrete sidewalk as part of a low impact development (LID) intersection improvement project. They received a LID stormwater grant of \$425,000 from the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) to support construction of porous concrete sidewalks, installation of an onsite bioretention facility or "rain garden," monitoring of the project and educating others about the site.

Porous concrete sidewalks use a cement mixture that contains voids when hardened. These voids allow water to drain through the sidewalk surface and infiltrate directly into the soil below. Installing these sidewalks and "rain garden" will treat pollutants on-site and lower the cost of stormwater infrastructure by eliminating the need for a retention vault or pond and by reducing overall impervious surface areas.

Testing by the King County Roads Division Materials Lab showed that the porous concrete met engineering standards for strength. Roads Engineering Services Section and its Environmental

Unit will monitor the performance of the sidewalk and rain garden for at least the first three years of operation in accordance with DOE grant requirements. For more information, please see the project website at:

www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/eng/lid/militaryS272

Synthetic Turf Fields

The Facilities Management Division, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Division, installed four synthetic-turf soccer fields at Marymoor Park in 2007. The installation includes recycled rubber mixed with sand, which provides traction for the playing surface. This is the same product that is used at Qwest Field and Husky Stadium in Seattle. This turf requires less maintenance, as they require grooming only once per month with leaf-blowers, and eliminate the need to use water and chemicals.

Parks has been involved in several synthetic turf projects over the past few years, primarily through grants and partnership activities. The county and others are finding that the synthetic turf fields are superior to grass or sand fields because they can be used for various sports, are less expensive to maintain and can be used year-round. It is more expensive to purchase and install these fields, but they last longer and require less maintenance.

Plastic lumber was also used at the field perimeters as a part of the synthetic turf fastening system. Porous asphalt was used to minimize the amount of stormwater runoff. Water percolates through the



Roads Division trial of porous concrete sidewalks

asphalt and is absorbed in the sub-grade, which helps to filter contaminants. The flood-lighting uses the latest technology, providing adequate illumination for safe play, while using a minimum of electricity.

Erosion Control Mulch

King County's Department of Transportation, Road Services Division is testing a new locally developed and manufactured product for erosion control. This product is made from recycled wood waste and is shaped into strands and bundled together like a straw bale. This product is marketed

as an alternative to agriculture straw products and is included in the Washington State Department of Ecology's list of Best Management Practices (BMPs). In July 2007, 66 bales of this material were spread over a bridge replacement project site to test its performance. Benefits represented include the absence of weed seeds and greater resistance to displacement by wind. If the results of the pilot project are satisfactory, the agency will consider including this material in its BMPs for future projects.

Vehicular Products

Motor Oil

Motor oil made with re-refined base-stock has been used in county vehicles operated by the Renton Maintenance Facility, Motorpool and Solid Waste Operations since 1992. Metro Transit became one of the first major metropolitan transit authorities in the nation to adopt the use of re-refined motor oil for its entire fleet of over 1,200 buses in 1999. In 2007, the county purchased 112,000 gallons of re-

refined oil, primarily 15w40 and 10w30, at a cost of approximately \$550,000.

Antifreeze

County agencies, including Motor Pool, Solid Waste Operations, and the Renton Maintenance Facility have purchased antifreeze manufactured with re refined ethylene glycol since 1991. Metro Transit Division began using a concentrated re-refined ethylene glycol antifreeze product for buses in 1999. They introduce the necessary “additive packages” in the maintenance shops. In 2007, the county purchased 24,000 gallons of re-refined antifreeze, at a cost of over \$85,000, and saved over \$17,000 by its use. Please see the “Resource Recovery” section of this report for details of the recycling of spent antifreeze.

Bio-Based Lubricants

The Renton Maintenance Facility of the Fleet Administration Division (Fleet) has purchased vegetable-based hydraulic oils for use in their equipment since 2001, to comply with provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act and other regulations intended to protect our sensitive waterways and groundwater. Bio-based lubricants were tested by Fleet and found to perform as well or better than petroleum oils. They are readily biodegradable, low in toxicity, and are safer for workers. The agency also requires manufacturers to fill new equipment with vegetable-based hydraulic fluid. In the past year, they required two backhoes and a flatbed truck with a crane and 100 gallon reservoir, to be filled and labeled with “Use only Biodegradable Hydraulic Oil in This Unit.” In the past year, they purchased 1,600 gallons at a cost of approximately \$23,500.

Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel

In 2002, five years ahead of the EPA requirement, known as the “2007 Highway Rule”, King County began purchasing ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel. The fuel switch, along with the addition of filters, reduced particulate emissions by 90 percent. ULSD has the same energy and performance

characteristics as standard diesel, so its use does not affect engine performance or warranties.

In 2007, Metro Transit purchased 10 million gallons of ULSD fuel at a cost of 23 million dollars. In addition, they purchase 100% biodiesel (B100) and have the vendor mix these fuels together to create B20 (20% biodiesel, 80% ULSD). The Solid Waste and Fleet Administration Divisions purchase ready-to-use B20. They purchased 750,000 gallons of B20 at a cost of 2 million dollars last year.

Biodiesel

Biodiesel is a diesel-fuel substitute produced from renewable sources, such as vegetable oils, animal fats and recycled cooking oils, and reduces our dependence on petroleum products. In 2007, Metro Transit committed to purchasing biodiesel made from Washington-grown canola seeds. Previous biodiesel purchases were made from soy crops grown in other states.

In 2006, King County Executive Ron Sims issued an Executive Order on Global Warming Preparedness that set a goal of using 20% biodiesel fuel for all county diesel burning vehicles, including the Metro bus fleet. After a successful trial period at a mixture of 95% ULSD and 5% biodiesel, called B5, all fleets now purchase B20.

In 2007, Metro Transit purchased 1.8 million gallons of B100 at a cost of \$4.5 million. As noted in the ULSD section, Solid Waste and Fleet Administration Divisions purchase ready-to-use B20. In the winter months, because of performance issues, SWD has used B5 in certain applications. Using biodiesel increases demand for, and ultimate supply of, alternative fuels here in Washington State.

Hybrid and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

King County has been purchasing alternative fuel vehicles since the 1990's. The county also began purchasing gasoline-electric hybrid passenger vehicles in 2001 and hybrid buses in 2004. At the end of 2007, King County Fleet Division received delivery of its first plug-in hybrid-electric (PHEV) vehicle, a first-of-its-kind heavy-duty hybrid truck, and two compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles.

Flexible Fuel Vehicles

King County Fleet Administration Division purchased 19 flexible-fuel vehicles (FFV), including 10 Dodge Caravans, 7 Chevrolet Impalas, one Chevrolet Express and one Ford Crown Victoria for a total of \$230,000 in the past year. These vehicles are equipped to use ethanol, gasoline, or "E85," the term for fuel blends of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Using E85 reduces carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrocarbon and benzene emissions when compared to vehicles running on gasoline. The Division acknowledges that regional supply infrastructure may limit the availability of ethanol and E85. These vehicles were purchased through the State of Washington vehicle contract.

Hybrid Vehicles

King County has purchased hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) to replace older model vehicles as they are retired, since 2001. Hybrids are fuel-efficient and contribute less to greenhouse gas emissions.



This hybrid truck is used to maintain traffic signals



Executive Sims demonstrates how to charge this plug-in hybrid vehicle

The Fleet Administration Division of the King County Department of Transportation purchased seven, and the Airport Division purchased one, Toyota Prius hybrid cars for \$180,000 and nine Ford Escape hybrid SUVs for \$215,000 in the past year. The county now maintains approximately 190 hybrid vehicles and uses State of Washington contracts for new purchases.

Plug-in Hybrid-Electric Vehicles

Fleet Administration Division joined with other local and regional governments, last fall, to create a PHEV demonstration project, funded by a grant from the Idaho National Laboratory of the United States Department of Energy. King County received delivery of its first PHEV vehicle at the end of 2007 and purchased two battery conversion kits to

convert conventional hybrids already in its fleet into PHEVs.

Hybrid Trucks

The Northwest Hybrid Truck Consortium, which King County started in 2006, received grant funding from US EPA and US Department of Transportation for the purchase of a hybrid truck. This new truck is used by the King County Department of Transportation to maintain traffic signals and roadside trees. The lift uses energy stored in the battery, so

the motor does not need to be running for it to operate. This technology has achieved a 25 percent reduction in fuel consumption compared to conventional diesel trucks. Two more of these trucks will be purchased in 2008.

Hybrid Buses

King County Metro Transit became one of the first municipalities to purchase a large fleet of articulated hybrid buses in 2004. These buses have demonstrated a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, saved fuel and shown increased

reliability. In 2007, King County signed a five-year contract with New Flyer of America to purchase up to 500 articulated buses to expand the transit system and replace aging buses. Metro Transit expects to take delivery of 22 buses, with a hybrid drive built by General Motors and an engine built by Cummins Engine Company, in spring 2008, at a cost of approximately \$719,000 per bus. The agency plans to purchase 100 more in 2009. The buses will be funded through a combination of local, state and federal sources. The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will provide approximately 80 percent of these funds.

Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles

During the 1990's, Fleet had approximately 275 vehicles operating on flexible-fueled CNG and Propane and the largest police vehicle fleet operating on CNG in the nation. To support these vehicles, they also built three CNG fueling facilities at county facilities. Fleet's use of CNG vehicles was suspended for reasons related to refueling infrastructure and performance. With the development of improved technologies, Fleet purchased two CNG Honda Civic vehicles in 2007 and plans to purchase a total of ten, using available incentives and grants to invest in three new fueling facilities.

Tire Retreading

The county spent \$275,000 to retread tires for trucks and other heavy equipment at the Renton Maintenance Facility, Fleet Administration Division and Solid Waste Operations. This not only avoided landfill disposal of tires, but also saved the county approximately \$275,000 in new-tire expense in 2007, as retreading a tire is half the cost of buying a new tire.

Rubber Truck Decking

King County Fleet Equipment Shop has been using a recycled rubber/plastic composite product to line equipment trailer decks since 2001. This product, which replaces exotic hardwoods or other specialized woods customarily used in this

application, performs better than wood, provides a nonskid surface, is durable, and has recycled content. They use this product as a replacement decking and require new equipment to be delivered with this material already in place. Last year, they specified 2x6 tongue and groove material to cover the bed of four new flatbed trucks.

Lead-Free Wheel Weights

Lead weights have typically been used to balance wheels on vehicles. Because these frequently fall onto the roadway and are pulverized by traffic, they are increasingly understood to represent a public-health issue and are receiving increasing attention from regulators. The European Union banned lead wheel weights in 2005. House Bill 2143, introduced in the Washington State legislature in 2007 (and again in 2008), would eliminate lead wheel weights first on state-owned vehicles and then on Washington State registered used and new vehicles.

In 2005, due to the environmental concerns and increased availability of alternatives, the Fleet Administration Division of the King County Department of Transportation took leadership on this issue and started testing an alternative to lead wheel weights on passenger cars and trucks. The product they chose to test consists of adhesive flexible plastic cartridges filled with steel media in various weights. In 2007, the manufacturer of these weights eliminated polyvinyl chloride (PVC) from their casings and replaced it with polypropylene, in response to environmental concerns about PVC. They also introduced larger sizes for use on heavy-duty trucks. Fleet continues to use these weights, even though the cost per unit is higher than lead weights, because the product works well and is less harmful to the environment.

King County's experience has led to the adoption of lead-free weights by other jurisdictions. To share these efforts and to learn about others, the county also participates in bi-monthly national conference calls with the Lead Free Wheels campaign, led by the Ecology Center in Michigan, with other jurisdictions and organizations.

Aqueous Parts Washer

Since the mid-1990s, King County vehicle maintenance shops, including Metro Transit, Fleet Administration and Solid Waste Operations, have used various types of aqueous parts washing systems. In 2006, the Fleet Administration's Equipment Shop tested a new brand of aqueous parts washer. After a trial period, they sent out an old "sink and drum" unit to be retrofitted to this new system. After a year, staff report satisfaction and prefers it over the systems that they replaced, and report longer replacement cycles for the cleaning solution. They experienced some problems with heating the converted cleaning tank properly, and are working on making those improvements.

Resource Recovery Services

Electronics Recycling

King County agencies have been recycling obsolete computers, television sets and other electronic equipment with a local recycling firm since 2002. There is growing concern about the ultimate effects of landfill, disassembly, or incineration of computers and electronics, which contain a variety of heavy metals and other toxins. Of special concern are cathode ray tubes (CRTs), which are no longer accepted at the King County landfill, because they contain large amounts of lead.

King County Code requires working equipment to be surplus for redistribution within the county or donated or auctioned. Non-working equipment is recycled through a local recycler, through the Washington State contract for electronics recycling services that include strict requirements for recycling electronic components domestically. During the past year, agencies recycled 1,400 computer monitors, 70,000 pounds of other electronic equipment and 7,600 pounds of batteries of various types associated with this equipment.

Fluorescent Lamp Recycling

King County businesses and residents are now required to recycle products containing mercury, including fluorescent lamps, as they are no longer allowed in the garbage or accepted at transfer stations. King County established a contract for recycling waste lamps, including fluorescent tubes and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps from its own facilities in 2000. Using fluorescent lamps makes sense, as they are three to four times more energy efficient than incandescent lamps, and they last up to ten times longer. In the long run, fluorescent lamps cost less to use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In the past year, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Roads Maintenance, Environmental Labs; Facilities Management; Airport; Metro Transit, Public Health; Sheriff's office; Solid Waste Division and the property manager for the King Street Center used the State of Washington contract to recycle various lamps, including 51,100 straight fluorescent tubes, almost 6,200 compact fluorescent lamps, and almost 2,300 HID lamps.

In addition, the Sheriff's office recycled 73,000 pounds of obsolete lighting-circuit ballasts that contained PCBs through this same contract.

Antifreeze Recycling

King County agencies recycled 20,000 gallons of ethylene glycol antifreeze back into new antifreeze, through the same contract used for the purchase of re-refined antifreeze, and paid \$11,500 for this service last year.

Carpet Recycling

In the past year, King County agencies recycled over 5,300 yards of used carpet through the State of Washington flooring contract. Agencies use this service when they are replacing existing carpet with new flooring materials. The reclaimed carpet is collected at a local warehouse and then shipped to a carpet manufacturer to be turned into carpet pad, car parts etc.

Asphalt and Concrete Recycling

The Road Services Division Coordinated Reduction of Waste program (CROW), has been sorting and recycling materials, such as asphalt, concrete, and fill from road operations since 1991. They are often able to recover asphalt and concrete and stockpile for use as fill-material in road projects. The asphalt and fill debris recycling efforts of the CROW Program save more than \$300,000 every year.

The Division's Street Waste Alternative Program (SWAP) has been processing and reusing street-sweeping waste as fill material since 2003. In the past year, they have recycled approximately 10,000 tons of treated waste from street sweepings, storm drain cleaning, and other road operations, that would otherwise have been expensive and difficult to dispose of.

Office Recycling Programs

King County agencies recycle paper, cardboard, newspaper, aluminum cans, and plastic and glass bottles from all offices. These are collected by a local recycler and sold as feedstock for the manufacture of various recycled products. In 2007, agencies recycled over one million pounds of material.

Savings Summary

In 2007, the county saved 875,000 dollars by purchasing recycled and other environmentally preferable materials. The Environmental Purchasing Program has helped agencies identify opportunities to purchase environmentally preferable products that not only perform well, but also save money. In some cases, the product simply costs less and in other cases savings are found in avoided purchase costs because the alternative product is more durable. For example: the cost of a remanufactured toner cartridge is less than one-half the cost of a new cartridge, plastic lumber avoids the consumption of virgin timber or old growth lumber, and it costs half as much to retread a worn tire as to buy a new one.

The table below represents estimated cost savings based on purchase price only, or avoided purchase cost, and does not reflect savings in maintenance and installation. Additional examples of savings can be found in Section IV, "Environmental Initiatives of County Agencies," of this report.

<i>Commodity</i>	
	2007 Dollar Savings
Aggregates*	300,000
Toner Cartridges	275,000
Tire Retreading	275,000
Antifreeze	17,000
Plastic Lumber	10,000
Total Dollars:	877,000

**Aggregates – avoided purchase costs for reuse of asphalt and concrete that are stockpiled, then used as fill-material in road projects by Roads Division*

III. Supporting Program Elements

The Environmental Purchasing Program helps King County agencies develop practical ways to use recycled and other environmentally preferable products and processes through several program elements, detailed in this section.

Agency Liaison Network

The program uses a network of liaisons within agencies to provide users with information on environmentally preferable products and processes. These liaisons allow us to reach the people who do the daily work, and who can help us understand the roles and functions within each unit. This helps us to communicate new evaluation opportunities, institutionalize the routine use of these materials, and share evaluation results and specifications among agencies and other clients.

Website

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program has maintained a website since 1995 as a resource to participants in the King County program as well as others in the community. Clients visiting this website find information on King County's experience with recycled and other environmentally preferable products, specifications, evaluations, contracts, and contact information.

Municipalities and other organizations throughout the nation and the world take advantage of this site and these contacts bring new information that county agencies and others can use as we all develop new applications for environmentally preferable products.

In the past year, the program has received questions and comments from:

The Nations of:

Canada (British Columbia)	Israel (Tel-Aviv)
China (Hebei Province)	Kingdom of Bahrain
China (Zhuhai City)	Libya
China (Shanghai)	South Africa
China (ShenZhen)	Turkey
Egypt	Ukraine (Kiev)
France (Paris)	

The States of:

Alabama	Maryland
Arizona	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Oregon
California	Texas
Idaho	Virginia
Indiana	Washington

The Counties of:

Dane County, WI	Milwaukee County, WI
Hennepin County, MN	San Juan County, WA
Lancaster-Fairfield, PA	Washington County, OR

The Cities of:

Akron, OH	Lincoln City, OR
Baton Rouge, LA	Madison, WI
Bellingham, WA	New Orleans, LA
Bemidji, MN	Olympia, WA
Bensalem, PA	Palmer, Alaska
Bothell, WA	Phoenix, AZ
Chicago, IL	Plano, TX
Chiloquin, OR	Plymouth, MN
Cleveland, OH	Portland, ME
Denver, CO	Portland, OR
Ellensburg, WA	Reno, NV
Estes Park, CO	Salt Lake City, UT
Foster City, CA	Sammamish, WA
Hightstown, NJ	Scituate, RI
Kent, WA	Seattle, WA
Lancaster, CA	Spokane, WA
	Valhalla, NY

Environmental Purchasing Bulletin

The program produces e-mail “Environmental Purchasing Bulletins” to disseminate and exchange information about environmentally preferable products, events, contracts, and other resources. Recipients include participants in the program’s county liaison network, suburban cities of King County, and others across the nation. There are currently over 1,000 direct recipients of this bulletin. Many of these originate their own listservs and newsletters and forward the bulletin to others. An index of the past 106 bulletins can be found on the program website.

Bulletins for 2007:

“Greenwashing”

Porous Concrete

Green Procurement Case Studies

Natural Vegetation Management (goats)

Hybrid Bus Purchase

2006 Environmental Purchasing Annual Report

Internet Discussion Groups

We participate in several Internet discussion groups, where we exchange environmental purchasing information with other jurisdictions, many of which now subscribe to our Environmental Purchasing Bulletin. The participants come from across the nation and bring a wide range of experience, which we share with county agencies.

EcoLogo Procurement Think Tank

Recruited as members in 2007 and participated in several surveys, including those reported in “EcoMarkets 2007 Summary Report”.

EPPNET

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Network, sponsored by the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC), a discussion group on environmental purchasing issues.

Greeneyes

A discussion group on general sustainability issues.

Waste Prevention Forum

A discussion group managed by King County Solid Waste Division, and part of the National Waste Prevention Coalition.

Public Involvement

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program offers its experience in support of the planning, policy development, and procurement-education activities of local jurisdictions and other organizations. The program consults with cities, counties, state and federal agencies and other users to provide them with technical assistance in policy development and implementation.

In 2007, program personnel participated in the following work-groups and conferences:



RPN Steering Committee

Responsible Purchasing Network Steering Committee

King County Environmental Purchasing Program staff serve on the steering committee for a national membership organization called the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN). Sponsored by the Center for a New American Dream, a national non-profit organization, this network was officially launched at the beginning of 2007, with a mission to promote environmentally preferable purchasing

practices and provide assistance to governments and businesses for this purpose. After only a year, the membership has grown to over one hundred. King County staff has participated since the inception of this group and has contributed to monthly telephone conferences to shape the mission and further the work of this network. For more information, please visit the website at: www.responsiblepurchasing.org

Lead-free Wheel Weights Discussion Group

The county participates with other jurisdictions and organizations in bi-monthly national conference calls with the Lead Free Wheels campaign, led by the Ecology Center, a nonprofit environmental organization based in Michigan. King County was one of the first jurisdictions to adopt the use of lead-free wheel weights and exchanges information with others to learn about other opportunities. For more information, please visit the website at: www.leadfreewheels.org

North American Green Purchasing Institute

Environmental Purchasing Program staff participated in a planning session for this organization's five year work plan. For more information about the group, please visit the website at: www.cec.org/nagpi

The program consulted with the following organizations that requested program assistance with environmental purchasing policy development and implementation in their organizations:

City of New Orleans, Louisiana
City of Palo Alto, California
City of Plano, Texas
City of Sacramento, California
City of Seattle, Washington
City of Tacoma, Washington
New York City, New York
Clark County, Washington
State of Pennsylvania
State of Washington Department of Ecology

BC Hydro, Canada
Portland Metro, Oregon
US Communities
Buyers Laboratory

Publicity

A key to the success of the King County Environmental Purchasing Program has been the exchange of practical information with other users of these unfamiliar materials. Many of these exchanges have come as a consequence of exposure through national magazines, newspapers, and other publications.

Among the publications which featured the King County Environmental Purchasing Program in 2007:

Resource Recycling

"Against the grain" A look at several alternative uses for recyclable glass outside of bottle-to-bottle conversion, October 2007

Government Procurement Magazine

Green Office, October 2007

What's New in P2?

Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)
King County's Environmental Purchasing 2006 Annual Report cited, May 2007

Responsible Purchasing Update

King County Expands Fleet of Hybrid Buses, May 2007

National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP)

Member Agency Saves \$640K on Environmental Purchasing Program, May 2007

King County Press Release

King County's environmental purchasing program paying green dividends – Emphasis on environmentally sound products saves county \$640,000, May 2007

Model Procurement Policy

The program continues to promote the development of recycled and environmentally preferable procurement policies in suburban cities by providing policy guidance, including a model policy, through the website. The program also provides direct technical assistance to suburban cities for policy implementation by sharing contracts, specifications, and procurement strategies.



GreenTools tour of FSC certified forests and wood

Allied King County Programs

Many King County programs offer information and technical assistance to help citizens, businesses and county agencies find ways to improve their environmental performance. The Environmental Purchasing Program has collaborated with the following programs for the dissemination of information in 2007:

Climate Change, Executive Office

Worked with program staff and were invited to join the Climate Implementation Team in 2008

Energy Program, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Worked with program staff and were invited to join the Energy Task Force in 2008

Green Building Program/GreenTools, Recycling and Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division

Outreach to suburban cities

Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Contribute to regular meetings

Public Health – Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP)

Environmentally preferable purchasing survey and green cleaners

IV. Environmental Initiatives of County Agencies

King County government includes environmental conservation and protection considerations in many environmentally-oriented programs, from green building to resource conservation. This section contains information about several initiatives undertaken by county agencies that are reducing the impact of county operations on the environment.

Climate Change/AirQuality

Global Warming Action Plan

In February 2007, King County Executive Ron Sims called on the region to cut greenhouse gas pollution by 80 percent below current levels by 2050 and outlined strategies in the 2007 King County Climate Plan. The plan is available on the website at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/pdf/ClimatePlan.pdf

Climate Change Guide

King County, in collaboration with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Governments for Sustainability program, created a guide for local governments called "Preparing for Climate Change: A Guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments." The guidebook is available on-line at: www.cses.washington.edu/db/pdf/snoveretalgb574.pdf

Cool Counties

In 2007, King County joined several other large counties across the country in partnering with the Sierra Club to announce the creation of the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Initiative, a major new initiative to combat global warming. The initiative supports Executive Sims goals of reducing carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. The press release is available at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/0716coolcounties.aspx and the executive

policy at: www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put79aao.htm

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Oversight

In October 2007, King County Executive Policy went into effect mandating that every proponent of a SEPA-reviewed proposal provide estimates of greenhouse gas emissions associated with that proposal. King County staff developed a SEPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Worksheet to help project proponents meet this requirement and the County's capital projects are being reviewed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy is available at: www.kingcounty.gov/operations/policies/executive/utilitiesaao/put7101aao.aspx

Climate Change Leadership

King County Executive Ron Sims was honored with the 2007 Climate Protection Award of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Executive Sims delivered the keynote address at that event, which featured awards to corporations, government agencies and other organizations from across the nation and around the world that have done outstanding work to reduce climate change. The press release is available at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/0501epa.aspx

Hybrid Bus Contract

King County Executive Ron Sims announced a landmark contract to expand Metro Transit's bus fleet, with an order for up to 500 hybrid buses over the next five years. King County Metro Transit became one of the first municipalities to purchase a large fleet of articulated hybrid buses in 2004. These buses have demonstrated a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, saved fuel and shown increased reliability. Read the press release at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/0516bus.aspx and contract facts at: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/news/2007/nr070516_contractfacts.htm

Puget Sound Regional Green Fleet Initiative

King County, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition, and 20 suburban cities have committed to develop a series of green fleet standards. The standards will encourage the use of clean vehicle technology and could form the basis of one of the nation's first clean vehicle certification programs, one that could serve as a model for communities across the country. The declaration of intent is available at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/cleanvehiclesnow/principles.aspx. The Puget Sound Green Fleets Guide is available at: www.psgreenfleets.org/.

Anti-idling Policy

In January 2007 King County adopted an anti-idling policy to reduce the county's contribution to greenhouse gases. This action applies to non-revenue generating vehicles, such as motorpool cars & trucks (not buses). It will protect public health and improve the environment by reducing emissions while conserving fuel. Read the policy at: www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/fes125aep.htm

Efficient Equipment

In 2007, Roads Services Division began replacing their outdated chain saws. New equipment, manufactured after 1996, produce one third fewer hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides that contribute to "smog." In 2008, they will also replace old mowers, and weed eaters. Find out more at: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transtoday/2007news/apr/tt040907_chainsaws.htm

Resource Conservation

Energy Plan

King County Executive Ron Sims issued an Executive Order in 2006 which established renewable energy use requirements for King County government operations and directed the development of a plan to meet these requirements. The plan, finalized in February 2007, outlines three main goals and provides action items intended to meet each of them. The Energy Task Force was created to coordinate implementation. The Energy Plan is available at: www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/pdf/EnergyPlan.pdf

Gas to Energy

King County is moving forward in its effort to convert landfill gas from decomposing garbage at the Cedar Hills Landfill to "green" energy, which will significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and earn revenue. In July 2007, King County signed a contract with a company for these services with a target date for operations by the end of 2008.

Capturing the methane from the landfill, instead of burning it ("flaring it off"), will reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by approximately 124,000 tons, roughly equal to the annual CO₂ emissions from 22,000 average passenger cars. Read the press release at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/press/2007/0723landfill-gas-energy.htm>

Electronic Waste Reduction

In June 2007, Executive Sims signed an executive order requiring agencies to develop and implement strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of the county's purchase and use of electronic equipment, including procurement of desktop computers, laptop computers and monitors that meet or exceed the minimum requirements for designation under the EPA sponsored Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) standards. Read the policy at: www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/INF89AEO.htm

Biodiesel

In April 2007, King County announced that Metro Transit will start using canola-based biodiesel.

Metro Transit has made a commitment to purchase 2 million gallons of biodiesel made from Washington-grown canola seed. As with previous biodiesel purchases, made from soy crops grown in other states, the 2 million gallons of biodiesel will be blended with 8 million gallons of ULSD to produce a B20 blend for use in diesel-powered buses. This will result in nearly a year's supply of B20 for Metro. Metro's use of biodiesel is expected to remove an estimated 22,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the air, or the equivalent of removing 2,800 vehicles from King County roadways. Read the press release at:

www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/0420energy.aspx

and the fact sheet at:

www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2007/pdf/%20

[Canolafacts.pdf](#)



Certificate Code SW-COC-1523

Text: 80# Book, 50% recycled, 25% post-consumer waste
Cover: 80# Cover, 50% recycled, 25% post-consumer waste

1202 M



Printed on recycled paper



King County

Department of Executive Services
Finance and Business Operations Division
Procurement and Contract Services Section
Environmental Purchasing Program
401 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

www.metrokc.gov/procure/green