

City of San Diego

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EP³)

Environmental Services Department / Purchasing & Contracting Department

Background

- 1989 - City Council approved the Recycled Products Procurement Policy:
 - Encouraged City departments to purchase recycled content products.
 - 1992 revision resulted in purchase of recycled paper for all copiers and Print Shop use.

ESD EP³ Pilot Project

- FY05: The Environmental Services Department (ESD) began an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EP³) pilot project:
 - Assessed and evaluated existing purchasing practices.
 - Determined penetration of EP³ criteria.
 - In FY05, ESD purchased nearly \$3.9 million of environmentally preferable products and services.

Administrative Regulation

- ESD and Purchasing & Contracting Department (P&C) collaborated to revise existing Recycled Products Procurement Policy.
- April 4, 2007: (EP³) Administrative Regulation signed by Mayor.
- Purpose was to balance multiple environmental attributes with price and performance considerations.

Why EP³?

- Helps improve the City's environmental performance.
- Allows for cost savings and operating efficiencies.
- Contributes to community sustainability.
- Institutionalizes efforts to purchase items which:
 - Are less toxic.
 - Save energy.
 - Have a lower life-cycle cost.
 - Are less wasteful.
 - Have a higher percentage of recycled content.
- Creates a mechanism to track citywide environmentally preferable purchases.

EP³ Criteria

- Established twelve environmentally preferable categories to aid decision-making:

- 1) Alternative Energy Source.
- 2) Bio-based.
- 3) Biodegradable.
- 4) Compostable.
- 5) High Recycled Content .
- 6) Low Toxicity.
- 7) Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC).
- 8) Pollution Reduction.
- 9) Recyclable.
- 10) Repairable.
- 11) Resource Efficient.
- 12) Reusable.

Examples of EP³ Products

- Office Supplies.
- Paper Products.
- Office Furniture.
- Janitorial Products.



Examples EP³ Products

- Street and traffic control materials.
- Solar powered street lights, LED traffic lights.
- Re-processed paint.
- Retreaded tires.
- Alternative fuel.
- Re-refined oil.



Examples of EP³ Products

- Park Benches.
- Carpet.
- Playground Surfaces.
- Aluminum folding tables and chairs.
- Refuse Containers.
- Mulch and Compost.



Citywide FY07 EP³ Purchases

- City purchased over **\$17 million** of environmentally preferable products and services:
 - Computers, printers, copiers, office products, & paper: **\$6.4 million.**
 - Vehicles & vehicle maintenance: almost **\$3 million.**
 - Construction materials: **\$3.3 million.**
 - Building supplies, maintenance, energy efficiency: **\$3.9 million.**
 - Other: **\$1.2 million.**

Examples of EP³ Cost Savings

City Streets Division uses recycled crumb rubber from tires in slurry seal:

- Costs about 25% more.
- Outlasts conventional slurry by 2:1.
- Estimated **cost savings** over 10 year life of rubberized slurry vs. conventional slurry: **\$843,750.**
- Other benefits:
 - Darker pavement makes legends and striping safer.
 - Minimizes street sweeping and sedimentation in storm drains and waterways.
 - 400 tires diverted from landfill disposal for every mile of pavement treated.

Examples of EP³ Cost Savings*

- **\$1.7 million** in FY07 by using reclaimed water.
- **\$461,000** annually in reduced energy consumption and costs through energy retrofits and installation of solar panels at City facilities.
- **\$342,000** annually by using recapped tires on certain vehicles.
- **\$45,000** by recycling old trash and recycling containers.

* Figures are approximate

EP³ Implementation

- Develop environmentally preferable product listings and resources.
- Develop information and training aides.
- Update City bid documents to encourage the use of EP³ products.
- Provide annual report to Mayor on the status of EP³ implementation.
- Target major purchasers for greatest impact:
 - Central Stores.
 - Water Department.
 - General Services.

EP³ Implementation Plan

