

lished guidelines and procedures contained in the Rutgers Green Purchasing Policy:

(<http://purchasing.rutgers.edu/green>). The Rutgers Green Purchasing Guidelines document is a way in which Rutgers' procurement decisions are made using multiple factors. These procurement decisions



Cost savings are realized in many ways even outside of the traditional purchasing arena.

include economic criteria, as well as strong commitments towards environmental protection.

Thereby creating environmental practices and management through purchasing decisions which utilize the purchasing power held within Rutgers to support responsible environmental actions and practices.

We are always looking for Green-Minded individuals to help us further the environmental awareness message. If you have an interest in helping us with this task, or if you are just interested to learn more, please contact Magda Comeau at [mcomeau@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mcomeau@rci.rutgers.edu) or by regular mail at the address printed below.



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# Rutgers Green Purchasing

Purchasing for the Greener Good(s)



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**Green Purchasing (GP)** is the purchase of goods and services that minimize environmental impacts. It includes the purchase of products that have “a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose.” Many factors are taken into account when making these comparisons, such as:

- the raw materials, including energy and water, used in the manufacture of the product
- the type of production, (i.e., use of cleaner production processes)
- packaging or distribution method
- source reduction and reuse
- distance of transport/localness of production



Less packaging using recycled content fillers is an easy way to reduce ecological impact.

Price and performance are also important factors to consider and are critical determinants for purchasing agents. Adherence to quality and performance standards is a

primary concern and need not be sacrificed. All these vital considerations could be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Environment} + \text{Price} + \text{Performance} = \text{EPP}$$

A proven beginning strategy in EPP (GP) consists simply of buying products with recycled content that are themselves recyclable. In the last decade, government entities and businesses throughout the country, including New Jersey, have launched strong “buy recycled” programs. There is growth potential for the purchase of recycled content products.

In addition to improved environmental performance, many environmentally preferable products work as well or better than traditional products and can even save money. Switching to safer cleaning products, for example, can reduce incidents of allergic reactions, asthma, burns, eye damage, major organ damage, and cancer connected with the hazardous chemicals used in many traditional cleaning products. Buying **100 percent recycled-content paper** can reduce energy use by **44** percent, decrease greenhouse gas emissions by **37** percent, cut solid waste emissions in **half**, decrease water use by **50** percent, and practically **eliminate** wood use. Similarly, energy-



efficient vehicles and renewable energy cut greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollutants while lessening our dependence on imported oil. Overall, the implementation of a GP program constitutes a system-wide process reform that collectively contributes to an organization’s reduction in its ecological footprint (cumulative associated ownership to global ecological damage stemming from a demand for natural resource to sustain economic and social balance).

In accordance with the University’s Purchasing Policy, Rutgers is committed to the use and purchase of environmentally and socially responsible materials and products. Departments are expected to support this policy in accordance with estab-

