

Energy-Efficient Purchasing (compiled March 2009)

FAQs and resources for local governments in ICLEI USA's Pacific Northwest and Islands Region

What Is Energy-Efficient Purchasing?

Energy Efficient Purchasing refers to the purchase of appliances and equipment that are more energy efficient than their traditional counterparts. It falls under the umbrella of green purchasing—also known as environmentally preferable purchasing—in which procurement guidelines are used to choose products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment compared with their traditional counterparts. ICLEI has created an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide as a resource for members at www.icleiusa.org (find it quickly with our search tool).



What Is the ENERGY STAR Label?



ENERGY STAR is a joint labeling program of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy that strives to help consumers save energy and money by identifying energy-efficient products and services, help producers find markets for those products, and help the environment by reducing energy-related pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. ENERGY STAR-labeled equipment, from computers and photocopiers to water coolers and exit signs, is generally 25 percent to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Why Implement Energy-Efficient Purchasing Policies?

The purchasing of energy-efficient goods and services can lead to an array of benefits:

- **Saving energy and money:** ENERGY STAR products saved \$16 billion on energy bills in 2007. Also, many ENERGY STAR products cost no more to purchase than their conventional counterparts; others may cost slightly more but the energy savings pay back the difference in a few years or less.
- **Protecting the environment:** ENERGY STAR products prevented 40 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2007, the equivalent of removing 27 million vehicles from the road. Saving energy also reduces other air pollutants that impact our public health, such as fine particulate matter from burning fossil fuels.
- **Saving on maintenance and replacement costs:** Many ENERGY STAR products last longer than their conventional counterparts and require less maintenance.



What Kind of ENERGY STAR Products Are Available?

For more information on ENERGY STAR products, including payback periods, visit the links below. Don't see the product you're looking for? Go to www.energystar.gov/products.

USA

- [Commercial appliances](#)
- [Commercial food service](#)
- [Commercial heating & cooling](#)
- [Construction products](#)
- [Consumer electronics](#)
- [Office products](#)
- [Residential appliances](#)
- [Residential heating & cooling](#)
- [Residential lighting](#)

How Do Local Governments Use ENERGY STAR to Boost Efficiency?

- [City of New York requires](#) that all appliances, computers, light bulbs, and other energy-using devices purchased for city buildings meet ENERGY STAR standards. Through this measure, the City expects to reduce CO2 emissions by 100,000 tons by 2017.
- [Portland, OR, installed outdoor lights](#) with an efficient reflector design at a sports stadium, reducing energy use by 40 percent and cutting maintenance costs by half. Park Services estimates the new lights will save the city \$58,000 over the life of the system.
- [King County, WA, tracks the savings](#) from its environmental purchasing program on an annual basis. In 2007, the program saved the County more than \$875,000. The County’s energy-related procurement practices include lighting, office supplies, and computers.

King County Annual Savings from Environmental Purchasing Program

Year	All County Expenditures	Savings from EP Program
2004	\$18,000,000	\$950,000
2005	\$31,000,000	\$675,000
2006	\$36,000,000	\$640,000
2007	\$41,000,000	\$877,000

How Do I Create an Energy-Efficiency Procurement Policy?

- **Pull sample language from the ENERGY STAR website:** The [ENERGY STAR products website](#) provides sample procurement language specific to each type of product. For example, clicking the ‘Office Products’ link brings up a page of information about ENERGY STAR office products, including sample procurements language (see “Computers and Monitors.”)
- **Review existing procurement language:** During this process, it is also important to review your existing procurement language to make sure that no language exists that would prohibit or disincentivize the purchasing of environmentally preferable goods and services. For example, avoid specifications that require new equipment so that vendors are able to offer remanufactured items, such as auto parts and cartridges.

Employ the following general purchasing or policy language:

- Purchasing officials and vendors are required to “Provide new and repaired computers, monitors, and integrated computer-monitor systems that earn the ENERGY STAR ranking or equivalent and are configured properly for automatic energy-saving features, as per current ENERGY STAR specifications. The vendor shall provide customer support with respect to power management features, such that these features remain properly enabled and repaired if a malfunction occurs.” [Source: [ENERGY STAR purchasing and procurement website](#)]

USA

- Ensure compliance with existing sustainability efforts: “Informal/formal bids detail the product and performance specifications for paper products, cleaning supplies, etc., to ensure that they are consistent with the Sustainable City Program’s goals and objectives. For example, paper products criteria include analysis of recyclability, percentage of post-consumer recycled content, manufacturing impacts, local economic benefits, and cost effectiveness. Clean product manufacturers are required to provide chemical analysis, identify impacts on human health and potential impacts on the environment and to demonstrate compliance with existing State and Federal regulations.” [Source: City of Santa Monica Purchasing Section, March 2009]
- “In order to increase the development and awareness of environmentally sound products and services, [City of XXX] staff will review their contracts and tender specifications for goods and services, to ensure that wherever possible and economically feasible, specifications are amended to provide for consideration of environmental characteristics.” [Source: Richmond, British Columbia, Environmental Purchasing Policy, undated, as cited in Richmond’s Environmental Purchasing Guide, February 2001.]
- “All City departments, in consultation with the City Purchasing office and the Environmental Affairs office, shall report annually regarding a review of existing product and services specifications to: (a) identify and eliminate any specifications that require the use of virgin products or exclude the use of recycled or environmentally preferable products, unless they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the City Manager that such specifications are necessary to protect health and safety or that recycled or environmentally preferable products do not meet performance standards, unfairly eliminate competition, or are unreasonable in price, taking durability and liability into account; and (b) revise specifications, where appropriate, to include recycled content and environmentally preferable criteria.... [Source: Boulder, Colorado, Environmental Purchasing Policy Directive, 1993]

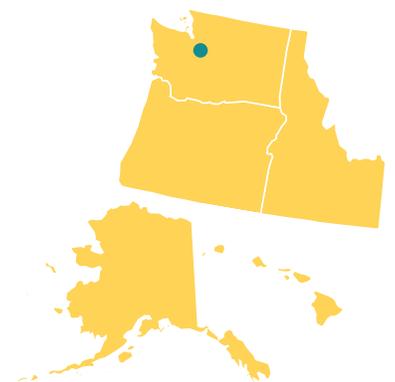


Review regional procurement policy examples:

- Washington and Oregon-specific examples of contracts and price agreements are available through the website of the [National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Columbia Chapter](#).
- [The City of Seattle office equipment purchasing guidelines](#)
- The [City of Seattle Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Policy](#)

What Is a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement and What Are Its Benefits?

Also sometimes called a joint purchasing agreement, a cooperative purchasing agreement is a formalized agreement between two or more entities that they will enter product purchase orders together, which increases economies of scale, reducing unit costs as well as shipping costs. Municipalities can enter into such agreements with nongovernmental entities such as a major employer, hospital, or educational institution. These kinds of facilities often have



similar needs to local governments. Smaller cities and counties may not have the staff resources to dedicate to researching and verifying preferable purchasing; such governments should consider entering into cooperative agreements with other cities in their region in order to maximize staff resources and avoid repeating research.

An example of cooperative purchasing agreements is the [City of Portland and Multnomah County's Joint Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#), which allows these local governments to cooperatively purchase lighting, computers, printers, and other items. The strategy also enables them to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements with the state. Visit [Oregon's Department of Administrative Services – State Procurement Office](#) for examples of cooperative purchasing contracts.

Municipalities can use other resources in their jurisdictions that benefit both parties through economies of scale. This could be a major employer, hospital, or educational institution. These kinds of facilities often have similar needs to local governments.

Where Can I Find More Resources on Energy-Efficiency Procurement?

National Resources

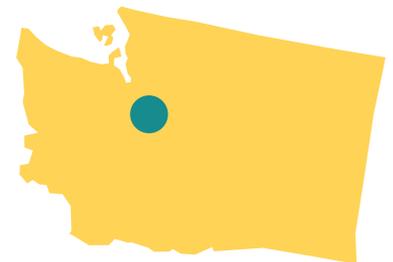
- [EPA ENERGY STAR purchasing and procurement website](#)
- [EPA energy efficiency purchasing and procurement training calendar](#)
- [EPA ENERGY STAR Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool \(EPEAT\)](#)
- [EPA case studies](#)
- [Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Inc.'s State and Local Government Purchasing Initiative fact sheet](#); [About CEE](#)
- [National Associates of Counties \(NACo\) website](#): county-specific energy efficiency purchasing programs
- [National Recycling Coalition](#): the voice for the recycling industry
- [The Responsible Purchasing Network](#): a stakeholder network that promotes responsible purchasing



Resources in Washington State

**Note: Washington and Oregon have a reciprocal agreement allowing access to each other's contracts.*

- [Washington State Purchasing and Contracts](#)
Contact: Mark Gaffney, Contract Specialist
mgaffne@ga.wa.gov
(360) 902-7424
- Washington State Energy Saving Performance Contracting
Contact: Stuart Simpson, Green Building Advisor
ssimpso@GA.WA.GOV
(360) 902-7199
- [King County Environmental Purchasing](#)
Contact: Karen Hamilton, Environmental Purchasing Program



USA

karen.hamilton@kingcounty.gov

(206) 263-9294

- City of Seattle
(almost all electronics contracts are ENERGY STAR, computers EPEAT Silver)
Contact: Jason Edens, Purchasing and Contracting Services.
jason.edens@seattle.gov
(206) 684-0445

Resources in Oregon

*Note: Washington and Oregon have a reciprocal agreement allowing access to each other's contracts.

- [Oregon Department of Energy – Conservation Division](#)
- [Oregon Department. of Administrative Services – State Procurement Office](#)
Contact: Taraza Lawrence
(503) 378-4092
- Oregon Cooperative Purchasing Program
Contact: Nancy Ahlbin, Program Coordinator
nancy.a.ahlbin@state.or.us
(503) 378-2497
- [City of Portland, Bureau of Purchases](#)
Contact: Stacey Foreman
stacey.foreman@ci.portland.or.us



Resources in Idaho

- [Idaho Department of Administration; State-wide contracts](#)
Contact: Main Office
(208) 327-7465
- [Idaho Office of Energy Resources](#)
Contact: Sue Seifert, Idaho Office of Energy Resources
Sue.Seifert@oer.idaho.gov
 - [Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Inc.'s Idaho State Case Study](#)



Resources in Alaska

- Alaska Division of Administrative Services – Procurement
Contact: Dorie Choquette
dorie_choquette@revenue.state.ak.us
(907) 465-3666



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