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Solid Waste
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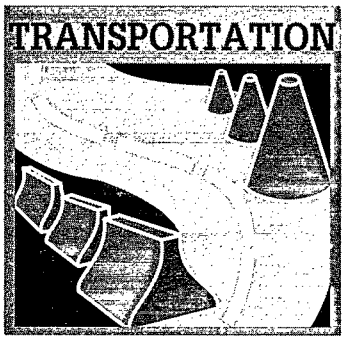
EPA

1996 Buy-Recycled Series
Transportation Products

ECO PURCHASING



Buying recycled has never been easier. Procurement officials are finding that more and more recycled-content products are available—products that not only do the job, but cost about the same as similar products made from virgin materials. When it comes to transportation products, this means that you can now find items like traffic safety cones and traffic barricades made from recovered plastic, rubber, steel, and fiberglass. And using these products helps give new life to materials like milk jugs and scrap tires, items that otherwise would be thrown away.

To make it even easier to buy recycled, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG identifies seven categories of items, including transportation products. Federal, state, or local agencies or government contractors that use appropriated federal funds should purchase these products with recycled content. At the same time, EPA also released a nonregulatory companion piece—the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN). The RMAN recommends levels of recycled content based on EPA's in-depth, current market research concerning the availability and quality of products in these categories.

In addition, there are other buy-recycled resources, including product lists compiled by EPA covering the seven product categories, including transportation products (see the back page of this fact sheet). So the next time you order cones and barricades to direct traffic around detours and hazards, buy recycled. Because when you buy these items with recycled content, you're doing more than supplying the road crew's needs. You'll also be helping support recycling businesses and protecting the environment.

EcoPurchasing means considering attributes such as

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recycled content
toxicity
reusability
durability
repairability

❖

before you buy a product.

Recycled/Recyclable
Printed on paper that contains at least 20 percent postconsumer fiber.

What Is The CPG?

The CPG requires federal agencies to give preference to items made from recovered materials.

Recycling is growing all across America, making it more important than ever to find buyers for these collected materials. That's why President Clinton signed Executive Order 12873 in October 1993, calling for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content products. Developed in response to the Executive Order, the CPG requires that federal agencies give preference to items made from recovered materials—which in turn will support recycling markets and allow recycling to continue to expand.

Issued in May 1995, the CPG designates 19 new products (and incorporates five previously designated items) in seven product categories that procuring agencies are required to begin purchasing with recycled content. (A procuring agency is any federal, state, or local agency, or government contractor that uses appropriated federal funds to purchase products.) If your agency spends more than $10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, you are required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable. The CPG also applies to lease contracts covering designated items.

Your agency must develop an affirmative procurement program (or modify its existing program) to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for designated products by May 1, 1996. This might involve reviewing your specifications for these products and eliminating provisions that might pose a barrier to their procurement (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance). As soon as the program is in place, your agency should begin following the guidelines for purchasing designated products whenever practicable.

The CPG acknowledges, however, that specific circumstances could arise that would preclude the purchase of products made with recovered materials. Under the CPG, you may purchase designated items that do not contain recovered materials if you determine that 1) the price of a given item made with recovered materials is unreasonable; 2) there is inadequate competition (not enough sources of supply) for the item; 3) unusual and unreasonable delays would result from obtaining the item; or 4) the item does not meet your agency's reasonable performance specifications.

Case Study

The states of Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Wisconsin are combining their resources to buy recycled-content traffic control devices. These eight states use both barricades and cones in large highway projects. In addition, many cities, counties, and universities across the United States purchase these recycled-content traffic control devices. For more information contact Ron Wachenheim, Office of General Services, State of New York, at 518 474-1557.

How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Transportation Products?

To help agencies comply with the buy-recycled requirements, EPA also issued non-regulatory RMAN recommendations designed to make it as easy as possible to comply with the CPG. The RMAN recommends recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing the transportation products shown in the chart below. Following the RMAN's recommended levels will help ensure that your purchases meet CPG requirements.

Rather than just one level of recycled content, the RMAN recommends ranges that reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on extensive market research to identify recycled-content products that are commercially available, priced competitively, and meet buyers' quality standards.

The RMAN recommends recycled content ranges that reflect actual market conditions.

RMAN Levels for Transportation Products

Transportation Product[1]	Recovered Material Content[2]
Traffic cones	
Plastic (PVC and LDPE)	50 – 100%
Crumb rubber	50 – 100%
Traffic barricades (type I and II only)	
Plastic (HDPE, LDPE, PET)	100% (80 – 100% postconsumer)
Steel	100% (80 – 100% postconsumer)
Fiberglass	100%

1 Transportation products containing recovered materials must conform to the "Manual on Uniform Highway Traffic Control Devices," used by the Federal Highway Administration, as well as other applicable federal requirements and specifications.

2 Content levels are based on the dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agents.

How Can I Get More Information?

Information Available from EPA

The following publications on buying recycled and the CPG are available through the RCRA Hotline. To order, call 800 424-9346 (or 800 553-7672 for the hearing impaired). In Washington, DC, the number is 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323. The RCRA Hotline is open from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

- ***Federal Register*** notices establishing the CPG (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and the RMAN (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995.
- ***Transportation Products Containing Recovered Materials*** (EPA530-B-95-006), June 1995. Lists manufacturers and suppliers of traffic cones and barricades containing recovered materials. (Each listing is based on information provided by the manufacturer and does not constitute an endorsement by EPA.)
- ***EPA Issues Comprehensive Procurement Guideline*** (EPA530-F-95-010). This four-page fact sheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs.

These documents also are available on EPA's Public Access Server on the Internet (gopher.epa.gov). For the text of *Federal Register* notices, choose: ***Rules, Regulations, and Legislation; Waste Programs; EPA Waste Information-GPO***; and ***Year/Month/Date.*** This fact sheet, the technical support documents, and the product availability lists are available under **EPA Offices and Regions; Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response; Office of Solid Waste; Nonhazardous Waste;** and **Procurement.**

Other Sources of Information

- ***Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing E.O. 12873.*** This guide provides detailed information on establishing and implementing affirmative procurement plans. It is available without charge from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 401 M Street SW., (Mail Code 1600) Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1297. Fax: 202 401-9503.
- ***The Official Recycled Products Guide.*** This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products. For more information, contact the Recycling Data Management Corp., P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707.
- **National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO).** NASPO's Windows-based *Database of Recycled Commodities* (DRC) includes information from states on their recycled product procurements. Data includes product distributors, manufacturers, brand names, recycled and postconsumer content, units purchased, unit of measurement, unit price, and type of procurement. For more information, contact: Linda Carroll, NASPO, 167 West Main Street, Suite 600, Lexington, KY 40507. Phone: 606 259-0959 or 606 254-7979. Fax: 606 231-0262.
- **National Institute of Governmental Purchasing** (NIGP). NIGP maintains a library of product specifications and sample bid documents for both virgin- and recycled-content products. It also offers procurement training workshops for members. For more information, contact: Fuad Abu-Taleb, 11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 22091. Phone: 703 715-9400 ext. 41. Fax: 703 715-9897.
- **National Association of Counties** (NACo). NACo can provide sample county procurement ordinances and distributes buy-recycled information. For more information, contact: Naomi Friedman, Research Associate for Recycling, 440 First Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202 942-4262. Fax: 202 737-0480 or 202 393-2630.
- **Buy Recycled Business Alliance.** The Alliance includes over 1,500 companies and organizations committed to increasing use of recycled-content products in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join for free. For more information, contact: Phil Bailey, Director of Market Development, National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720. Phone: 703 683-9025. Fax: 703 683-9026.

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In addition, contact your state solid waste agency for information about local and regional businesses that produce or distribute recycled-content products.