



EcoPurchasing means
considering attributes
such as

♦
recycled content
toxicity
reusability
durability
repairability
♦

before you buy
a product.

1997 Buy-Recycled Series Park and Recreation Products

Want to go the extra mile for your community? Buying recycled-content running tracks and other recreational products is cost-effective, easy to do, and a good way to keep our outdoors green. The same goes for your community's beaches. You can protect your sand dunes using plastic fencing made from recovered plastics, an easy and long-lasting solution for your shoreline.



To make it easier to buy recycled for your park and recreation needs, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updates the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) each year. Through the CPG, EPA designates items that must contain recycled content when purchased by federal, state, and local agencies or by government contractors using appropriated federal funds. Among these items, EPA has designated several park and recreation products. EPA's research shows that the items designated in the CPG are of high quality, widely available, and cost-competitive with virgin products. EPA also issues a non-regulatory companion piece—the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN)—that recommends levels of recycled-content for these items.

If you specify or purchase park and recreation products, buying recycled can turn the materials we collect for recycling into budget-friendly products. And buying recycled isn't just good news for our parks and recreational areas—it also strengthens the economy by creating jobs and supporting your local recycling businesses.



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

What Is The CPG?

**The CPG
requires
federal
agencies to
buy items
made from
recovered
materials.**

Recycling is more than just dropping off your cans, bottles, and newspapers at the curb or at a local collection facility. Diverting recyclables from the waste stream is only the first step in the recycling process. The second step occurs when companies use these recyclables to manufacture new products. The third step comes when you purchase products made from recovered materials. That's how we close the loop.

To encourage the purchase of recycled products, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires agencies to buy recycled products. President Clinton signed Executive Order 12873 in October 1993, which called for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content products. Developed in response to these directives, the CPG requires federal agencies to give preference to EPA-designated items made with recovered materials. This, in turn, supports recycling markets and allows recycling to continue to expand.

Issued in May 1995, the first CPG designated 19 new products, including playground surfaces and running tracks. Procuring agencies are required to purchase these items with recycled content. (A procuring agency is any federal, state, or local agency or government contractor that uses appropriated federal funds to purchase products.) A CPG update (CPG II) was published in November 1997, and designated an additional 12 products, including plastic fencing.

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.

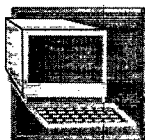
By May 1, 1996, your agency was required to develop an affirmative procurement program (or modify its existing program) to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for playground surfaces and running tracks. It is not too late to develop your affirmative procurement program if you have not already done so. This effort might involve reviewing your specifications for these products and eliminating provisions that pose barriers to procuring them with recycled content (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance). Your agency also must revise its affirmative procurement program to add the newly designated item—plastic fencing—by November 13, 1998.

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

How Can I Get More Information? (continued)

- ❖ **Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 12873.** This guide provides detailed information on establishing and implementing federal affirmative procurement plans. Updated in the summer of 1997, 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. Homepage: <http://www.ofee.gov>.
- ❖ **Official Recycled Products Guide.** This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products, including athletic surfaces and plastic fencing. For more information, contact the Recycling Data Management Corporation, P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707. Fax: 315 471-3258.
- ❖ **Recycled Plastic Products Source Book.** This booklet lists more than 1,300 plastic products from approximately 300 manufacturers, including plastic fencing. For more information, call the American Plastics Council (APC), 1801 K Street, NW., Suite 7010, Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 202 974-5400. Fax: 202 296-7119. Visit the APC homepage at <http://www.plasticsresource.com>.
- ❖ **Recycled Rubber Products Catalog.** This catalog lists products manufactured from recovered rubber and provides information on how to obtain them. For more information, contact the Scrap Tire Management Council, 1400 K Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202 682-4880. Fax: 202 682-4854.

Internet Sites



- ❖ **California Recycled-Content Product Database:** <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/mrt/rcp/rcp.htm>. This site contains information on why to buy recycled-content products, how to procure them, and provides access to a database with information on products, as well as manufacturers, distributors, reproducers, mills, and converters across the country who procure or produce these products.
- ❖ **King County Recycled Product Procurement Program:** <http://www.metrokc.gov/oppis/recyclea.html>. This site describes the tools and techniques developed by King County, Washington, agencies for purchasing recycled products.
- ❖ **The Procurement Assistance Jumpstation:** <http://www.fedmarket.com/procinet.html>. This site contains links to many sites containing procurement information.
- ❖ **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...Through Procurement:** <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure.htm>. This site describes EPA's effort to facilitate the procurement of products containing recovered materials, including information on CPG, RMANs, and the Buy Recycled Series.

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

How Can I Get More Information?



Information Available From EPA

This fact sheet and the following publications on buying recycled products are available in electronic format on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure.htm>. Use Internet e-mail to order paper copies of documents. Include the requestor's name and mailing address on all orders. Address e-mail to: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Text of the following *Federal Register* notices can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/search.htm>. Search by specific day, by keywords, or by accessing the Government Printing Office database.

Paper copies also may be ordered by calling the RCRA Hotline. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672. The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., EST.

- ❖ **EPA Issues Comprehensive Procurement Guideline** (EPA 530-F-95-010). This 4-page factsheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs.
- ❖ **Federal Register (FR)** notices promulgating CPG I (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and RMAN I (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995. *Federal Register* notices promulgating CPG II (62 FR 60961/EPA530-Z-97-009) and RMAN II (62 FR 60975/EPA530-Z-97-010), November 13, 1997.
- ❖ **Park and Recreation Products Containing Recovered Materials** (EPA530-B-97-006). This list identifies manufacturers and suppliers of playground surfaces, running tracks, and plastic fencing containing recovered materials. (Each listing is based on information provided by the manufacturer and does not constitute an endorsement by EPA.)
- ❖ **A Study of State and Local Government Procurement Practices that Consider Environmental Performance of Goods and Services** (EPA742-R-96-007). This report provides important program elements and case studies of state and county agencies purchasing environmentally preferable products and services. For a copy of the report or more information on EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program, contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 401 M Street, SW. (7409), Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1023. Fax: 202 260-4659. Visit the EPP homepage at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home>.



Other Sources of Information

- ❖ **Buy Recycled Business Alliance.** The Alliance includes over 3,200 companies and organizations committed to increasing their use of recycled-content products and materials in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join free of charge. For more information, contact Bonnie Fedchock, National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720. Phone: 703 683-9025, Ext. 209. Fax: 703 683-9026.
- ❖ **General Services Administration (GSA).** GSA publishes various supply catalogs, guides, and schedules for products available through the Federal Supply Service. For copies of the following two documents and other publications, contact GSA, Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), 4900 Hemphill Street, P.O. Box 6477, Fort Worth, TX 76115-9939. Phone: 817 334-5215. Fax: 817 334-5227. You can also access *GSA Advantage!*, GSA's Internet-based online ordering system, to order any GSA product at <https://www.fss.gsa.gov/cgi-bins/advwel>.
 - **Park and Outdoor Recreational Equipment, Federal Supply Schedule Group 78, Part 1, Schedule C, Classes 7830.** Lists a variety of park and recreation products available for purchase.
 - **Environmental Products Guide.** This guide is designed to help procurement officials identify environmentally preferable products and services. It contains nearly 3,000 items, including many recycled-content products.
- ❖ **National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO).** NASPO's Internet-based Database of Recycled Commodities (DRC) includes information from states on their recycled product procurement. Data include product distributors, manufacturers, brand names, recycled and postconsumer content, "Energy Star" rating, units purchased, unit of measurement, unit price, and type of procurement. Visit the site at http://fcn.state.fl.us/bpsr/drc_notice.html. For more information, contact George C. Banks, DRC Coordinator, Florida Department of Management Services, 4050 Esplanade Way, Suite 335, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950. Phone: 850 921-7852. Fax: 850 921-5979. E-mail: banksg@dms.mail.ufl.edu.

How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Park & Recreation Products?

To help agencies comply with the buy-recycled requirements, EPA also issues guidance in RMANs, which are designed to make it as easy as possible to buy the designated items. The RMANs recommend recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing park and recreation products, as shown in the table below. Following the RMANs' recommended levels will help ensure that your affirmative procurement program and standards meet the buy-recycled requirements.

Rather than specifying just one level of recycled content, the RMANs recommend ranges that reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on market research identifying recycled-content products that are commercially available, are competitively priced, and meet buyers' quality standards.

Refer to EPA's *Park and Recreation Products Containing Recovered Materials* for sources of the designated items.

- 1 Federal agency installations of these products must comply with applicable state or local construction codes, as well as standards set by the Consumer Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 2 Content levels are based on dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agents.
- 3 Designation includes fencing containing recovered plastic for use in controlling snow or sand drifting and as a warning/safety barrier in construction or other applications.

CASE STUDY The White House	CASE STUDY City of West Palm Beach, Florida
In March, 1993, President Clinton seized the concept of recycling and ran with it by installing a 5-foot-wide, nearly quarter-mile running track encircling the South Lawn of the White House. The running track was resurfaced with 13 tons (about 13,000 tires) of material made from recycled scrap tires, with material and labor donated to the White House. Users report that the track provides a much improved running surface that is safer, attractive, and requires little maintenance. For more information, contact the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive at 202 260-1297.	The city of West Palm Beach, Florida, realizes that children and the environment are its two most important resources. With this in mind, since 1995, the city has been purchasing a loose-fill rubber playground surface made from recycled scrap tires. They have been extremely satisfied with its performance, finding it clean, durable, and cost-effective. The softer material creates an air cushion that absorbs impact, which reduces the risk of injuries. Due to its resilience and low maintenance requirements, the city predicts that it won't have to be replaced as often as mulch or sand. In fact, the durability of the material was tested recently when a hurricane hit the area, bringing torrential rains and 125 mile-per-hour winds. Despite these extreme conditions, the surface suffered no damage. For more information, contact Robert Mitch of the city of West Palm Beach at 561 659-8044.

EPA's Recommended Content Levels for Park & Recreation Products	
Park & Recreation Product	Recovered Material Content
Playground Surfaces: —Plastic or Rubber	90 – 100% (postconsumer)
Running Tracks: —Plastic or Rubber	90 – 100% (postconsumer)
Plastic Fencing for Specified Uses ³	60 – 100% (postconsumer)/ 90 – 100% (total)



United States
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW. (5306W)
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300