



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION
Building Partnerships For Better Health Care

GREEN HOSPITAL PILOT

GREEN PURCHASING WORK GROUP

Represented by:
Abington Memorial Hospital
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Holy Redeemer Health System

ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICY

**Adapted by the Green Purchasing Workgroup
from a Kaiser Permanente Purchasing Policy**

**Presented to
Green Hospital Pilot Member Purchasing Departments**

**In conjunction with
Abington Memorial Hospital's Environmental Purchasing Guidelines
as Models for the Development of Individual Purchasing Policies**

ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICY

In support of ABC Hospital's mission to improve the health of our patients, staff, physicians and the communities we serve, the procurement and supply staff within ABC Hospital are committed to the principles of Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP). The Environmental Purchasing Policy requires that the principles of Environmentally Preferred Purchasing be applied to all major purchasing decisions. ABC Hospital Procurement Groups, supported by purchasing and environmental stewardship staff, will evaluate the environmental impacts (e.g., waste, toxicity) of products and services in their effort to select healthy and safe products and services that are also environmentally sound. The policy also encourages all personnel involved with product selection communicate to the marketplace that all suppliers continuously develop price competitive products that conform to our EPP principles. This policy shall be maintained and reviewed periodically by Purchasing/Material Management to assure continuing relevance and revision as necessary.

I. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED PURCHASING PRINCIPLES

The following EPP principles are incorporated into deliberations on commonly used products, especially where more environmentally friendly alternatives may be available. A statement on the outcome of these deliberations is included in all product contract recommendations. These principles will not be the sole factors in determining product selection but will be weighed with other quality, service and total cost components. They also recognize that natural resources and landfill space are limited and that the cost of disposal is increasing. Most importantly, these principles support improving the health of our members and communities by reducing exposure to toxic substances.

A. General Utilization and Selection Strategy for Purchases

One should consider the following elements that make an alternative preferable:

1. Use less of it
2. Conserve resources (e.g. use less water, energy or virgin resources to produce or use; Energy Star rating)
3. Eliminate/reduce waste
4. Reduce toxicity (e.g. no chlorine)
5. Ability to recycle
6. Comparable functionality and effectiveness
7. Consideration of total cost of ownership (including unit cost, cost of waste, etc.)

B. Specific Environmental Criteria for all Purchasing Decisions

1. Strive to avoid products containing:

- Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds as defined in the *Supplier's Environmental and Social Issues Disclosure*, addendum to this policy
- Bisphenol-A (BPA)
- Carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxic chemicals as defined in the *Supplier's Environmental and Social Issues Disclosure*, addendum to this policy
- Halogenated flame retardants
- Mercury
- Phthalates (e.g. plasticizer DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate))
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

2. Promote the purchase of these products:

- Building products, materials and furnishings that do not adversely impact indoor air quality

- Building products, materials and furnishings that are consistent with Green Building standards
- Products with high post-consumer recycled content
- Products that are readily recycled, reprocessed, and/or reused
- Products that are latex-free
- Products that do not contain or contain a reduced amount of toxins
- Products that have “Take Back” provisions
- Paper products that are chlorine-free

3. Encourage vendors to:

- Package units in minimal packaging that is recyclable, non toxic, or bio-based
- Transport products with minimal packaging; move to bio-based packaging
- Manufacture products that use less energy and water during normal use
- Manufacture products that use less water and energy during manufacturing
- Manufacture products with attributes listed above (i.e., chlorine-free, latex-free, non-toxic)

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing** is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to competing products and services
- B. Green Building** is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of design, construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition. Elements of green building include, but are not limited to, designing and operating buildings to use energy efficiently and to use renewable sources of energy, including solar and wind; using water efficiently; using building materials that, in comparison to competing brands, have a reduced effect on the environment throughout their life cycle (e.g. recycled content, low toxicity, energy efficiency, biodegradability, and/or durability); reducing waste from construction, remodeling, and demolition; designing and operating buildings that are healthy for their occupants and their community. Green Guidelines for Healthcare Construction may be referenced.
- C. Take Back Provisions** encompass the ability to return items for credit, reuse, and disposal such as the return of mercury sphygmomanometers, fluorescent lights, shipping containers and packaging etc.
- D. Total Cost of Ownership** consists of the costs, direct and indirect, incurred throughout the life cycle of an asset, including acquisition, deployment, operation, support, and retirement.

III. SUPPLIER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES DISCLOSURE

The following form may be completed by suppliers to aid in purchasing decisions.

SUPPLIER'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES DISCLOSURES FORM

Suppliers: Check the appropriate line for each environmental objective and complete the attached charts, *Exhibit A* and *Exhibit B*, where indicated. References are provided below to assist with identification.

1. Mercury Reduction. ABC Hospital is committed to minimizing the amount of mercury used in operations and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain mercury whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain mercury.

The Products do not contain mercury.

The Products that contain mercury are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of mercury contained in each product containing mercury and indicates if a feasible mercury-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing mercury.**

2. Polyvinyl Chloride Plastic Reduction. _____ is committed to minimizing the amount of polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC) used in their operation and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain PVC whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain PVC.

The Products do not contain PVC.

The Products that contain PVC are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of PVC contained in each product containing PVC and indicates if a feasible PVC-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing PVC.**

3. Phthalate Reduction. _____ is committed to minimizing the amount of phthalates, including di-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP), used in their operation and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain phthalates whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain phthalates. Chemicals considered phthalates include but are not limited to bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) (CAS 117-81-7); dibutyl phthalate (DBP) 84-74-2 201-557-4; benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) (CAS 85-68-7); di-isononyl phthalate (DINP) (CAS 28553-12-0 and 68515-48-0); di-isodecyl phthalate (DIDP) (CAS 26761-40-0 and 68515-49-1); dioctyl phthalate (DNOP) (CAS 117-84-0)

The Products do not contain phthalates

The Products that contain phthalates are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the chemical name of the phthalate and the amount of phthalates contained in each product containing phthalates and indicates if a feasible phthalate-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing DEHP.**

4. Halogenated Flame Retardants and other halogenated organic chemicals. _____ is committed to minimizing the amount of halogenated organic chemicals (HOCs) used in their operation and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain HOCs whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. HOCs are defined as chemicals containing a carbon-halogen bond. Halogens include fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain HFRs and HOCs.

___ The Products do not contain HOCs

___ The Products that contain HOCs are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of HOCs contained in each product containing HOCs and indicates if a feasible HOC-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing halogenated flame retardants.**

5. Persistent, Accumulative and Toxic Compounds Reduction. _____ is committed to minimizing the amount of persistent, accumulative and toxic compounds (PBTs) designated as an EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/chemlist.htm>, and the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy- at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2/bns.html> , used in their operation and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain PBTs whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain PBTs.

___ The Products do not contain PBTs.

___ The Products that contain PBTs are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of the PBTs contained in each product containing PBTs and indicates if a feasible PBT-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing the PBTs.**

6. Carcinogens and Reproductive Toxins Reduction: _____ is committed to minimizing the amount of carcinogens and reproductive toxins used in their operations and desires to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain carcinogens and reproductive toxins whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins.

___ The Products do not contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins.

___ The Products that contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the amount of carcinogen or reproductive toxin contained in each product containing a carcinogen or reproductive toxin and indicates if a feasible carcinogen-free or reproductive toxin-free alternative is available. **Supplier must specify the alternative component that is replacing the carcinogen or reproductive toxin.**

7. Renewable Materials. _____ is committed to conserving natural resources and purchasing products made from renewable resources. Supplier will notify _____ if the product or packaging is made from renewable materials. If so, what percentage of the product and packaging contain renewable materials? Renewable materials are defined as those made from resources that are not depleted by human use, such as corn and soybeans.

___ All Products use 100% renewable materials

___ The Products containing renewable materials are identified in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement, which specifies the name and source of the renewable material, and the amount of the renewable material contained in each product.

8. Hazardous Waste. _____ is committed to reducing its generation of hazardous waste. Supplier will indicate any products which qualify as hazardous waste as delivered or which generally qualify as hazardous waste after use as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

___ No products qualify as RCRA hazardous waste as delivered or after use.

___ The Products that qualify as RCRA hazardous waste as delivered or after use are indicated in *Exhibit A* to this Agreement.

9. Comprehensive Screening. _____ is committed to using products where all ingredients have been fully evaluated for toxicity and environmental impact. Can supplier deliver to _____ an estimate of the percentage of the chemical components of your product and packaging for which basic toxicity testing has been done? Basic toxicity testing is defined as sufficient to qualify under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Screening Information Dataset (SIDS) for High Volume Production (HPV) Chemicals. Information on what tests are needed are referenced in the Manual for Investigation of HPV Chemicals Chapter 2: SIDS, The SIDS Plan and the SIDS Dossier found at <http://www.oecd.org/> <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/18/36045056.pdf>, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/14/36045229.pdf>

___ Yes, percentage of chemical components and packaging for which basic toxicity testing has been done is: _____%

___ No, at this time the supplier cannot deliver an estimate of the percentage of the chemical components of your product and packaging for which basic toxicity testing has been done.

10. Packaging: _____ is committed to reducing packaging waste. Supplier must indicate in *Exhibit B* the percentage of packaging containing recycled content, is recyclable, and is compostable for each product.

11. End of Life: _____ is committed to reducing its costs and liability related to product disposal and to reducing its contribution to solid waste. Supplier must indicate in *Exhibit B* whether the product is recyclable, compostable, or has a manufacturer- or supplier-operated take-back program.

12. Recycled Content: _____ is committed to supporting markets for recycled content products. Supplier must indicate on *Exhibit B* what percentage of the product contains post-consumer recycled content.

References provided to suppliers to assist in filling out the environmental disclosures form:

- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [1986]. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Subchapter I, Pts. 260-281). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/general/risk/risk-1.pdf>
- ◆ Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations: *Environment of Care Standard Hazardous Materials and Wastes*. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: Joint Commission.
- ◆ Green Guide for Healthcare (GGHC) www.gghc.org

- ◆ Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). [1996]. Hazard Communication (Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Pt. 1910, Section 1200). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- ◆ Federal Trade Commission (FTC) *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/gnrule/guides980427.htm>
- ◆ ISO 9001-2000 *Quality Management Systems – Requirements* <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>
- ◆ ISO 14020 – *Environmental Labels and Declarations – General Principles* <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>
- ◆ ISO 14021 – *Environmental Labels and Declarations – Self-declared Environmental Claims* (Type II Environmental Labeling <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>
- ◆ ISO 14024 – *Environmental Labels and Declarations – Type I Environmental Labeling – Principles and Procedures* <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/ISOOnline.frontpage>

Exhibit A

Use additional sheets if necessary.

Product/Item	MSDS Submitted? (Check for yes)	Name of Chemical/Material of Concern¹ Write "none" if product contains no chemicals (listed on Suppliers Environmental and Social Issues disclosure form) or materials. Chemicals present at less than 0.1% for carcinogens or 1% for other chemicals need not be disclosed.	Concentration (milligrams per liter) or amount (in grams) per product of Chemical/Material of Concern in product.	Name of available substitute product that does not contain chemical of concern	Alternative chemical/component material replacing Chemical/Material of Concern

I certify that I have reviewed the ingredient lists for these products and compared them to the EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical List (at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/chemlist.htm>). This information above is complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Name of chemist

Signature of chemist

¹ Chemicals/Materials of Concern include Mercury, Latex, PVC, DEHP, or any chemical on the EPA Waste Minimization Priority Chemical List

Exhibit B
Use additional sheets if necessary.

Product/Item	Percentage by weight of post-consumer recycled content packaging ²	Percentage by weight of recyclable packaging ¹	Percentage by weight of compostable packaging ¹	Is this product easily recyclable in the majority of geographical markets in the continental United States?	Is this product compostable?	Does supplier or manufacturer offer a take-back program for this product at the end of its life?	Percentage by weight of post-consumer recycled content in product.

I certify that I have reviewed the product and packaging components and am able to produce documentation upon request for the recycled content, recyclable, and compostable claims made above.

Name of supplier representative

Signature of supplier representative
Date

Date

² Percentage by weight is calculated by dividing the weight of the portion of the packaging with the environmentally preferable attribute (post-consumer recycled content, recyclable, or compostable) by the total weight of all packaging for this product..