



Environmentally Preferable Papers

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INTRODUCTION

Paper products can be made with various feedstocks, such as virgin cellulose, recycled paper, hemp, cotton, and other plant materials, to name just a few. Recycled paper can be manufactured to the same quality standards as paper from virgin pulp.

According to Conservatree, a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental paper education, recycled paper production saves trees, energy and water, produces less pollution, uses more benign chemicals, and requires less bleaching than virgin paper production. Alternatives to chlorine bleaching are now being certified by organizations like the Chlorine Free Products Association, which certifies papers that are free of chlorine (“Totally Chlorine Free”) or free of secondary chlorine compounds (“process chlorine-free”).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first developed recycled paper guidelines in 1988. In 1995, EPA published Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines that recommended recovered material levels for products, including 30 percent post-consumer waste for copy paper.

Increasing awareness of other opportunities to improve the environmental impacts of the manufacture, distribution, and use of paper are bringing more options to the marketplace. In addition to addressing the use of chlorine, today’s buyer may be able to choose papers that minimize other environmental impacts. Certifications for “sustainable” forestry practices are now being offered by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which certifies that paper has been sustainably harvested and processed. And Green-E offers certification and verification of renewable energy and greenhouse gas mitigation products.

STANDARDS

Chlorine Free Products Association

The [Chlorine Free Products Association](#) (CFPA) is a non-profit accreditation and standard setting organization.

- [CFPA #102 - Printing and Writing Paper](#)

Green Seal

[Green Seal](#), a national non-profit consensus based standard setting organization, has two standards for paper products:

- [GS-7 Printing and Writing Paper](#)
- [GS-9 Paper Towels and Paper Napkins](#)

EcoLogo

[EcoLogo](#) is a North American standard and certification program (originated in Canada). They have set criteria and certified various paper products. Products and services bearing the logo meet have been verified by a third party auditor.

- [CCD-077 Printing and Writing Paper](#)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

[FSC](#) is a non-profit organization that sets standards for wood products that are produced from a responsibly managed forest. Products carrying the FSC label are certified by a third party.

- FSC Standard for Chain of Custody Certification
 - [FSC-STD-40-004 \(Version 2-0\) EN](#)
 - [Standard setting process](#)
- [List of certifications](#)

Green-e

[Green-e Energy](#) is a certification and verification program for renewable energy.

- [Green-e Energy Standard](#)

USAGE HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE

King County has purchased recycled paper since the adoption of its original Recycled Product Procurement Policy in 1989. The policy required county agencies to use recycled paper whenever practicable.

King County purchases most printing and office supply paper through centrally administered term-supply contracts, which enable agencies to purchase hundreds of paper products at low and consistent prices. In 2008, agencies purchased recycled paper goods valued at 3.7 million dollars. These purchases fall into three general categories:

Copy and Bond Paper

County agencies purchase recycled processed chlorine-free (PCF) copy paper with 30% post-consumer content. The post-consumer content level meets the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG). County purchases of recycled white and colored copy paper totaled 20,500 cases at a cost of \$778,000 in the last year.

Since 2006, the county has also had 100% post-consumer paper on contract, but most users have found the 15% cost-premium prohibitive. In 2008, the Recycling and Environmental Services Section of the Solid Waste Division committed to purchasing this paper exclusively, in line with their mission, and purchased a total of 212 cases.

Using recycled content paper saves resources. According to the Paper Calculator, created by Environmental Defense, a national nonprofit organization, buying one million pounds (King County's estimated purchase) of 30% recycled copy paper, instead of virgin, saves the equivalent of 3,600 trees and approximately 315,000 pounds of CO₂, which equates to the greenhouse gases produced by 29 cars in an average year. For more statistics from this analysis, please visit [Paper Calculator](#).

Printing Paper

Printing performed by the county Printshop and through contracts administered by Procurement and Contract Services Section for various King County agencies is required to use recycled paper whenever practicable. This includes all printing, from business cards to tax and court forms, reports and bus timetables. The recycled content of this paper varies from 20% to 100% depending on the type of paper and the application. During 2008, estimated recycled paper expenditures, exclusive of printing costs, totaled 2 million dollars.

Some agencies are choosing higher recycled content percentages and evaluating other environmental attributes of paper. For example, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, purchased a 100 lb, 100% recycled, FSC certified paper, manufactured with wind power. They were willing to pay more for the added environmental benefits of this paper because it is in line with their mission.

Paper Products

In addition to recycled copy and printing papers, the county also maintains several contracts that allow agencies to purchase various recycled paper products. These include office supplies, such as envelopes, boxes, folders and notepads, and janitorial products, such as paper towels and tissues. The recycled content of this paper varies from 10% to 100% depending on the manufacturer and product type. Several unbleached and non-chlorine bleached products are available on contract. Recycled content purchases totaled \$950,000 in 2008.

BID AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

This section contains U.S. EPA definitions and contract provisions from King County's contract for recycled copy paper

"Recovered material" means waste material and by-products which have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, but does not include those materials and by-products generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.

"Post-consumer material" means a material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been discarded for disposal or recovery, having completed its life as a consumer item.

"Post-consumer material" is a part of the broader category of "recovered material".

"Environmentally preferable products" means products that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product.

"Federal guidance" means guidelines provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, Federal executive orders or other guidelines offered by federal agencies.

"Recycled paper" means paper meeting recycled content standards in federal guidance.

King County Supply Contracts

King County agencies purchase recycled paper through term-contracts with local vendors. This section contains excerpts (shaded area) from the provisions of the 2007 Invitation-To-Bid that resulted in these contracts. King County requires a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content in copy paper (per federal guidance).

Technical Specifications

Recycled Copy Paper-Cut Stock:

- A. The paper brand names listed indicate the minimum acceptable standard of quality required by King County. Brands of equal quality and performance may be considered. To be considered as an approved equal, the bidder shall specify the brand name and provide the technical specifications for that brand. King County will be the sole judge for approving other brands as approved equals to those brands listed.
- B. The County reserves the right to reject or accept alternates to these specifications in accordance with King County's best interest.
- C. The County will be the sole judge of the bidder's' ability to supply the recycled copy paper-cut stock required.
- D. The recycled copy paper cut-stock bid shall function properly in all County Copiers, Fax Machines, Laser Printers and Ink Jet printers.

MINIMUM Paper specifications for all Schedules

- A. Case Size
 - 8-1/2" X 11" & 8-1/2" X 14" size paper is.....5000 sheets.
 - 11 X 17" size paper is.....2500 sheets.
- B. Colored stock includes: Blue, Buff, Canary, Cherry, Goldenrod, Gray, Green, Ivory, Lilac, Pink, Tan, Peach, Cream, and Salmon or like colors.
- C. Approved brands: Eureka, Weyerhaeuser, and Husky Xerocopy or approved equal

SCHEDULES 1 THRU 6

- D. Schedule 1 8-1/2" X 11" WHITE
- Schedule 2 8-1/2" X 11" COLOR
- Schedule 3 8-1/2" X 14" WHITE
- Schedule 4 8-1/2" X 14" COLOR
- Schedule 5 11" X 17" WHITE
- Schedule 6 8-1/2" X 11" 3 HOLE –PUNCHED-WHITE
- Substance Weight: 20#
- Brightness: 92 or greater
- Opacity: 88 or greater
- Moisture Content: 4.5%
- Smoothness, Sheffield Units: 140
- Post-consumer Recycled Fiber: 30% or greater
- Bidders shall state specifications of paper offered:
Brand of Paper Offered: _____
Substance Weight: _____

Brightness: _____
Opacity: _____
Moisture Content: _____ %
Smoothness, Sheffield Units: _____
Post consumer Recycled Fiber: _____ %
Colors Offered: _____
Attach additional sheets as required.

SCHEDULE 7

8-1/2" x 11" Processed Chlorine Free (PCF), 100% Post Consumer Content, Recycled

Shall be Processed Chlorine Free (PCF)

Processed chlorine free refers to paper in which the recycled content is bleached without chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Any virgin material portion of the paper must be totally chlorine free (virgin paper that is unbleached or processed without chlorine or chlorine derivatives).

Substance Weight: 20#
Brightness: 84 or greater
Opacity: 87 or greater
Post-consumer Recycled Fiber: 100%

Bidders shall state specifications of paper offered:

Brand of Paper Offered: _____
Substance Weight: _____
Brightness: _____
Opacity: _____
Post consumer Recycled Fiber: _____ %

FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Conservatree](#) – History of paper and list of environmentally preferable papers

[Paper Calculator](#) - Environmental Defense

[EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines](#) - Recommended recovered material levels for printing and writing paper

[City of Seattle Paper Cuts Campaign](#)

VENDOR INFORMATION

King County's current paper supplier is:

[West Coast Paper](#)

Kent, Washington

1-800-451-2737

[Copy of the contract pricing](#)

Products: Husky Xerocopy, Domtar and [Grays Harbor 100](#)