

Responsible Purchasing

Your organisation can decrease carbon emissions, reduce waste, save money and improve its environmental impact by choosing to buy more sustainable products. Here are some simple, cost effective ways you can minimise the environmental impact of your purchasing:

- **Think about whether a purchase is really necessary.** Could you cut down on the use of natural resources by hiring instead of buying?
- **Choose durable products** and make purchases based on whole life cost not just lowest price. It may be more cost effective to buy a product which lasts longer or an efficient product with lower running costs, even if it is more expensive up front.
- **Choose products with minimal packaging.** These could be cheaper, and you will save money on waste disposal costs.
- **Think about whether a product and its packaging can be reused or recycled** before buying it.
- **Avoid hazardous or toxic materials.**
- **Always buy recycled paper.** If you do need to buy virgin paper (or any other wood product) ensure that it comes from well managed FSC certified forests. Look for this symbol on the product.
- **Choose efficient products** which use less energy and water. For recommended products visit www.eca.gov.uk/etl and www.eca-water.gov.uk
- **Where possible choose local suppliers** to reduce emissions from transport and support the local economy.
- **Buy second-hand.** This will be cheaper and reduce the use of natural resources.
- **Ask your suppliers about their environmental credentials.** Aim to only do business with companies which have high environmental standards.

Since its launch in 2001, members of the Green Procurement Code have diverted 1.3 million tonnes of waste from landfill and in 2006 alone, the purchase of green products resulted in 175,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide savings.

www.greenprocurementcode.co.uk





Top tips...

1. Decrease the use of virgin materials by buying recycled products. Check out www.recycledproducts.org.uk for ideas.
2. Procure recycling services together with other local organisations. You may be able to negotiate a better price. For a list of commercial recycling providers which operate in Haringey go to www.haringey.gov.uk/greenbusiness
3. Choose a green energy tariff which generates electricity from renewable sources. This will support the development of renewable energy in the UK. For more information visit www.greenelectricity.org.

A database of sustainable products and services can be found at:
www.greenprocurementcodedirectory.co.uk

A quick guide to sustainable choices:

Product	Choose...
Cleaning materials	Non-toxic biodegradable products.
Decorating materials	Non-toxic solvent and VOC-free paints
Energy	A renewable energy tariff • Energy efficient products
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In season foods (www.eattheseasons.co.uk) • Organic (www.soilassociation.org) • Local food (www.sustainweb.org/localfoodfinder) • RSPCA approved Freedom Food (www.lookforthehlogo.co.uk) • Fish with the blue MSC label (www.msc.org) • Fairtrade (www.fairtrade.org.uk)
Furniture	Second-hand • FSC/PEFC certified wood • Recycled/recyclable materials
Stationary	Water based ink pens and recycled products
Paper	Recycled, chlorine free and FSC certified
Plastic products	Polypropylene (PP) instead of PVC
Vehicles	Low CO ₂ emissions, fuel efficient, hybrid and electric
Water	• Water efficient products • Mains filtered not bottled water
Other	Minimal packaging • Recyclable products • Reusable plates/mugs/glasses etc • An ethical bank account

For free support to:

- reduce the environmental impact of your procurement and;
- source green products

Sign up to the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code.
 Visit www.greenprocurementcode.co.uk for more information.

If you would like more information on how to green your business please visit www.haringey.gov.uk/greenbusiness or contact the Environmental Resources team at Haringey Council by emailing environmental.resources@haringey.gov.uk or calling 020 8489 3528.