

County of Monterey Board Policy Manual

Policy Name Climate Friendly Purchasing Policy	Policy Number A-20	Page 1 of 3
Policy Category Accounting, Financing, and Purchasing		

I. Purpose

The County is committed to procuring climate-friendly goods and services that meet its performance standards and requirements at a competitive cost.

II. Background

The County of Monterey is a large consumer of goods and services. As such, the purchasing practices of County departments can have a significant impact on our environment. Pursuant to the Institute for Local Government's California Climate Action Network Best Practices Framework¹, by purchasing climate-friendly products which have no or little impact on price or performance, the County can remain fiscally responsible while promoting practices that help improve public health and safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and conserve natural resources.

III. Policy

1. Procure Products that Minimize Environmental Impact and do not have a Negative Effect on Human Health.

It is the policy of the County, if applicable, practicable, and economically feasible, to purchase:

- Environmentally friendly products, where criteria have been established by governmental or other widely recognized authorities such as GreenSeal² or EcoLogo³;
- Services from businesses which have been certified "Green" by the California Green Business Network⁴ or similar organization;
- Certified energy efficient traffic signal and street lighting systems for unincorporated areas;
- Electronic equipment which is Energy Star⁵ rated or meets similar energy efficiency standards;
- Computer equipment which meets EPEAT⁶ "bronze" certification level or higher or meets similar energy efficiency standards; and,

- f. All-purpose (non-specialized) printing paper that contains a minimum of 30% post-consumer waste (recycled) content.

2. Promote Green Building

It is the policy of the County, if applicable, practicable, and economically feasible, to purchase building and landscaping materials and systems that meet or exceed Part 11 of the Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations⁷, also known as the CALGreen Code.

IV. Procedure

1. Because the County's Contracts/Purchasing Division is the central point of review and approval on most County purchasing, the Contracts/Purchasing Office will:
 - a. Maintain a link within the Contracts/Purchasing web site connecting departments to the Climate-Friendly Purchasing Policy for the County;
 - b. Incorporate Climate-Friendly requirements into solicitation documents.
2. Individual departments will be responsible for implementing and complying with the Policy regarding all non-centralized purchases made by the respective department;
3. The Go Green! Monterey County Program will provide education and resources to staff regarding environmentally friendly purchasing decisions.

V. Review Date

- a. This Policy will be reviewed for continuance

VI. Board Action

- a. Legistar File Number:

Notations:

1. Institute for Local Government's California Climate Action Network Best Practices Framework helps local officials and staff identify and apply policies and best practices that support sustainable communities
2. GreenSeal is an independent non-profit environmental labeling organization whose standards have already been referenced in the County's Custodial Services Contract. See www.greenseal.org
3. EcoLogo is an environmental standard and certification organization. See www.ecologo.org/en/
4. The Green Business Network provides certifications to businesses that employ Pollution Prevention practices, conserve energy, water, and other resources and minimize waste.

Monterey Bay Green Business is a chapter of the California Green Business Network. See <https://montereybaygreenbusiness.org/>

5. “Energy Star” is a voluntary energy efficiency labeling program derived from a partnership between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy. All products displaying the Energy Star label meet the Energy Star program standards. In general, labeled equipment uses 25% – 50% less energy than traditional counterparts. See www.energystar.gov
6. “EPEAT” is an acronym for Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool and the bronze, silver and gold ratings represent that at least all minimum established environmental performance standards have been met. See www.epeat.net
7. Part 11 of the Title 24 Building Standards Code is the California Green Building Standards Code, also known as the CALGreen Code. See <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/Home/CALGreen.aspx>