

Effective December 13, 2011 in Facilities Services
UNC Sustainable Purchasing Policy

Background

The Sustainable Purchasing Policy is intended to facilitate environmentally preferable purchasing by decision-makers in administrative and academic departments across the university in order to preserve natural resources; conserve energy, water, and materials; reduce waste and emissions; and lessen overall environmental impact.

In December 2005, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill adopted a Sustainability Policy to serve as a guide to fostering and demonstrating approaches to sustainability. In this Policy, Carolina committed to developing "*policies, practices, and curricula (which) should, when possible, embody approaches that reduce life cycle costs, restore or maintain the functioning of natural systems, and enhance human wellbeing.*" The Sustainability Policy included a commitment to continuous improvement in procuring and managing energy, water and materials in a manner that conserves wisely, while fully supporting UNC's mission of teaching, research and public engagement.

The University shall henceforth:

Comply with LEED for new and existing building requirements when purchasing items in the product categories below:

Building Products including adhesives, sealants, paints and coatings, composite wood, and flooring.

Cleaning Products including general purpose cleaners, disinfectants, floor finishes and strippers, disposable paper products, trash bags, and soaps.

Cleaning Equipment including vacuum cleaners, carpet extraction equipment, and floor maintenance equipment

Ongoing Consumables including office paper and supplies, toner cartridges, and batteries.

Computers shall comply with Environmental Protection Agency EPEAT Gold requirements. An Energy Efficient Purchasing Policy governing office and laboratory equipment and an Energy Efficient Lighting Policy were both adopted by UNC in 2007.

Vehicle replacements as well as new additions to the vehicle fleet shall be alternatively fueled unless written justification is submitted and approved.

All of these standards emphasize products with high post-consumer recycled content, that are long-lasting and made from reusable and/or renewable materials, are nontoxic, and are made locally whenever they perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonably competitive price. This policy is in accordance with existing NC Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policies for state agencies:

Executive Order 156 – Sustainability Initiative. A resolution and guidance for state agencies to purchase recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services

General Statutes 143-58 – Guidance on purchasing products with recycled content, including recycled content paper and paper product regulations. Purchasing guidance is also included throughout Chapter 143.

UNC Board of Governors Sustainability Policy 2009 – Each constituent institution shall improve the environmental performance of its supply chain with consideration given to toxicity, recycled content, energy and water efficiency, rapidly renewable resources, and local production. Each constituent institution shall also improve the social performance of its supply chain with consideration given to working conditions and historically underutilized businesses.

Purchasing Guidance

State Term Contracts

Agencies (including community colleges and universities, as well as local school districts) are required under General Statutes 143-53(a)(2) to purchase from state contract vendors. Term contracts are convenient to use, as they are negotiated by the N.C. Division of Purchase and Contract (P&C) for products most often used by agencies. E-Procurement is the new online purchasing system P&C provides for agencies and registered local governments, making purchasing even easier and more efficient. Contracts for specific products or services can also be negotiated here. This site includes a **Purchasing Manual** for state agencies, information about selling to the government, and a link to view specific recycled content products available on contract. When performance and/or sole source requirements dictate purchasing outside of state term contracts, state agencies (including community colleges and universities) may write performance specifications and sole source justifications in order to obtain the products they need.

State Surplus

The Division of Surplus Property is responsible for the disposal or transfer of all state-owned property. It offers surplus property received from agencies to other agencies in need, or sells to qualified nonprofit organizations and the general public. It also recycles oil and antifreeze, paper, wet cell batteries, and computers/monitors.

Exceptions to this policy require approval from the Sustainability Office. The Sustainability Office can be contacted at 843-5251 or at sustainability@unc.edu or via <http://sustainability.unc.edu>