



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	NEW BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	DECEMBER 12, 2023

ITEM:	Review of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.	
DEPARTMENT: Community Development	BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher – City Planner	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an “X” in front of the selected text below)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy and Safe Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Thriving and Vibrant Destination Community	
<input type="checkbox"/> Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive, and Friendly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong Infrastructure and Public Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trusted and Engaged Leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable	

BACKGROUND

One of the requirements to achieve Step 3 recognition in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program is to adopt a Sustainable Purchasing Policy directing the City to purchase at least EnergyStar and EPEAT certified equipment and appliances as well as paper containing post-consumer recycled content. Sustainable purchasing, also known as environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), shifts city purchasing to procurement of goods and services that have a reduced effect on the natural environment and human health when compared to competing products and services that serve the same purpose. While life-cycle assessments offer the best metric for determining what is the most sustainable, product and service attributes are commonly used as a proxy, and include:

- Increased energy efficiency
- Water-conserving
- Locally produced
- Reduced toxicity
- Recycled-content
- Embodied energy/life-cycle greenhouse gas impact
- Beneficial to indoor air quality
- Minimized waste
- Plant-based

Staff examined the purchasing policies of the cities of Nisswa, St. Louis Park, Warren, Dilworth, and Maplewood in development of the City’s policy as these cities have achieved 3-Star recognition for their policies. Examples of the products and services that other cities have addressed in their policies include: renewable energy purchasing, establishing preferences for local, regional, and diverse products and services, requiring purchase of WaterSense-certified products, minimum sustainability standards to reduce the impact of construction materials, etc.

The proposed purchasing policy is designed to reflect the City’s commitment to being an environmental and sustainability leader. The purchasing policy will address energy through an emphasis on increasing energy conservation and renewable energy while decreasing the amount of purchased fossil fuels. Other fields this policy intends to address are; source reduction, recycled content products, electronics, water conservation, green cleaning products and services, waste minimization, landscaping, and sustainability of investments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Move to continue discussion of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to the January meeting of the Sustainability Commission; OR

MOTION: Move to recommend that the Sustainability Commission through the Council Liaison, Connie Buesgens, give the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy a positive recommendation and request City Council consider the item at the next available work session.

ATTACHMENTS: City of St. Louis Park
City of Maplewood