Resources for Sustainable Purchasing

Jan Hardin
Solid Waste Manager
Waste Reduction Partners
NC Purchasing Toolkit

North Carolina Purchasing Toolkit:
Recycled Content Products (Draft)
Waste Reduction Partners

- Innovative Partnership between NCDEQ & COGs – Land of Sky Regional Council
- Non-regulatory / no cost
- Solid waste reduction, energy efficiency, and water conservation
- Conducts on-site assessments and provides cost saving strategies and resources
WRP Volunteers

• Retired business professional and staff
• Engineers
• Scientists
• 40 field team members across the state
• Recycling “Brain Power”
• 2,300 years experience
Motivation Behind the Campaign

• Environmental purchasing strategies are often recommendations in WRP’s assessments
  • Energy efficient devices
  • Water efficient devices

• Special push for recycled content to support domestic market development of the recycling industry
Partners in this Project

- NC Recycling Business Assistance Center
- Southeastern Recycling Development Council
- Carolina Recycling Association
- Association of Plastics Recyclers
- Environmental Protection Agency
Where to Find the On-line Toolkit
EPA Sustainable Materials Management Grant

www.wastereductionpartners.org
North Carolina Purchasing Toolkit:

Recycled Content Products (Draft)
NC Purchasing Toolkit

- Purchasing information and key specifications
- Resources for additional information
- Statewide contract listing
Key Products, Purchasing Information, Sample Specifications

b. Plastic Products for Administrative Offices (Recycling and Garbage Containers, Trash Bags, Office Products)
c. Industrial Products (Totes, Bins, Drums, Plastic Pallets, Crates, Slipsheets, Gaylord Liners, Can Liners, Mats, Sorbents, etc.)
d. Packaging
   i. Plastic - (Protective, Flexible, Rigid, Food, Labels)
   ii. Paper – (Paperboard, Corrugated Paper Products)
e. Interior Building Products
   i. Carpet, Carpet Backing, Other Flooring and Underlayment,
   ii. Building Insulation, Shower/Restroom Dividers, Latex Paint
f. Exterior Building Products
   i. Plastic Lumber (Decking, Railing, Outdoor Furniture, Landscaping Timbers)
   ii. Non-pressure Pipe - Drainage or Conduit
g. Compost and Hydraulic Mulch
h. Other Parks and Recreation Products (Running Track Surfaces, Playground Surfaces)
i. Transportation Products (Parking Stops, Traffic Cones, Traffic Barricades, Delineators)
j. Vehicular Products (Coolant, Rerefined Oil, Remanufactured Parts, Retreaded Tires)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Purchasing Links in the Resources Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NASPO Green Purchasing Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPA Environmental Purchasing Program &amp; Sustainable Marketplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Packaging Coalition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable Purchasing Strategies

- Efficient with energy/water/resources
- Buying in bulk
- Buying from local/domestic suppliers
- Returnable shipping containers
- Products with lower toxicity
- Eco-labels
EPA has developed a number of ecolabels that can help purchasers identify greener products and services.

In addition, EPA manages the Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels which includes over 40 private sector standards/ecolabels/certifications across 25 purchase categories.
Sustainable Purchasing Strategies
ReCon Tool

This tool helps businesses and other entities show how recycled content purchasing relates to their greenhouse gas reduction goals.
EPA Sustainable Materials Management Grant

www.wastereductionpartners.org
**THE BUSINESS STORY**

Fiberon is a leading U.S. manufacturer of wood-alternative decking, railing, cladding, and fencing distributed worldwide. Fiberon products are available in a wide range of styles and price points, all providing the warmth and beauty of natural wood without the costly, time-consuming maintenance. Fiberon products are free of toxic chemicals and contain up to 94% recycled content.

**MATERIAL RECOVERED**

Fiberon products consist of locally-sourced recycled wood fibers and plastic. Fiberon diverts over 50,000 tons from landfills and incinerators each year. The recycled plastic content comes from film recycled through grocery and retail store collection programs. The recycled wood fibers are from ground window trims, shingles, lumber and cabinet pieces. Fiberon products deliver long-term performance and require no chemical preservatives, paint or stains that are common for wood decks, rails and fencing.

**PROCESS DETAILS**

Plastic film is recycled at the New London recycling plant. The plastic pellets generated by this recycling process are sent to the profile extrusion plant. The profile extrusion plant combines the recycled pellets with recycled wood flour to create decks, railing and fencing sold under the brand names Veranda and Fiberon.

“We think trees should give our backyard's shade, not flooring.”

www.wastereductionpartners.org
WRP’s No-Cost, Customized Assistance

• To manufacturers seeking recycled feedstock
  • Cellulose by-products from one NC manufacturer to a NC molded pulp manufacturer will keep 30 tons per month from the landfill
  • Also, recently worked with a composite lumber manufacturer to acquire NC ag plastic test material

• To sourcing departments and purchasers seeking recycled content products or otherwise sustainable products
Best Way to Implement a Sustainable Purchasing Program

- Make sure your sourcing/purchasing department is represented on your green team.
For more information and technical assistance:

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