



# Contra Costa County Climate Leaders Program

A project of Generation Green - a 501(c)3 Non profit organization

Find Links to Other Local Government Policy Opportunities at  
[www.cccclimateleaders.org](http://www.cccclimateleaders.org)

## Does your city have an Environmental Purchasing Policy (EPP)?

**WHAT?** An Environmental Purchasing Policy is designed to promote the purchase and use of recycled or environmentally preferable products in a jurisdiction, agency, or organization and to encourage partnerships with others who follow the same methods. “Environmentally preferable products” are items that are made in a more sustainable manner and respect human health. EPPs focus on the entire lifespan of a product from materials acquisition, to production and packaging, to disposal. By reducing the impact of an item at any stage, these policies can help save money too!

**WHY?** Several BENEFITS for the community are apparent when implementing EPPs:

- Save money through lower upfront costs, lower maintenance costs, reduced replacement costs, and decreased disposal or cleanup costs.
- Decrease the negative health impacts in your community.
- Generate less waste material by reviewing how supplies, materials and equipment are manufactured, purchased, packaged, delivered, used, and disposed. Reduce your landfill contribution and conserve your resources.
- Serve as an example for other communities or businesses to follow.

**WHO?** Local city governments can institute city wide policies or particular businesses, agencies, schools, or organizations can take the first steps. Even individuals can make a conscious effort to buy GREENER. (<http://www.greenbiz.ca.gov/ShopGreenCCC.html>)

**WHERE?** Pleasant Hill (<http://www.ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=1510>) recently implemented their own EPP. Contra Costa County (<http://ca-contracostacounty.civicplus.com/DocumentView.asp?DID=2905>) encourages participation. The State of California (<http://www.green.ca.gov/EPP/default.htm>) requires EPPs.

**HOW?** Use a step-by-step guide ([http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing\\_guides/all/index.php](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/all/index.php)) to create your own Environmental Purchasing Program. Also, look into the policies of other agencies or governments.

If looking for more information, the following links are a good place to start:

- “Climate-friendly” purchasing (<http://www.cacities.org/index.jsp?zone=ilsg&previewStory=26678>)
- StopWaste.org resources: <http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=372>
- Case Studies compiled by the Association of Bay Area Governments: <http://www.abag.ca.gov/hazwaste/environmentallypreferablepurchasing.html>
- General Information on Responsible Purchasing: [www.responsiblepurchasing.org](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org)

**WHEN?** Now of course! Find upcoming events (<http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/events/index.php>) where you can learn more about EPPs.

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