Purchasing: An Opportunity for Sustainability

Joy Scrogum, February 11, 2015
Prairie Research Institute: Illinois-focused Resource Research and Service

*Addressing societal challenges that impact Illinois and the global community*
Sustainability and The Triple Bottom Line

*Actions must account for impact on planet and people as well as profit*

Environmental Performance

- **PLANET**
  - Sustainability
  - Social Performance
  - Economic Performance

- **PEOPLE**
  - Social Performance

- **PROFIT**
  - Economic Performance
Joy Scrogum
Emerging Technologies Resource Specialist

- MS, Natural Resources & Environ. Sciences, specialized in wildlife ecology
- At ISTC since 2001; public engagement & technical assistance programs
- Sustainability information for public & technical assistance providers

**Projects**
- GLRPPR
- Governor’s Sustainability Awards
- Sustainable Electronics Initiative
- Greening Schools
- Zero Waste Illinois

**Procurement**
- Sustainable electronics purchasing guidance for organizations & procurement officers
- On ISTC’s internal sustainability committee, performing our purchasing audit → **IL GOC Purchasing Activity #3**
- Wrote ISTC policy for IT equipment including purchasing considerations → **IL GOC Purchasing Activities #4 & #5**
WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE INVOLVED THAT YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM?

ENERGY
1. Become Informed about Energy Management
2. Complete Energy Questionnaire
3. Track Energy Use
4. Conduct a Lighting and Lighting Controls Audit
5. Retrofit Lighting and Lighting Controls
6. Change Out Light Bulbs
7. Conduct a Pre-Challenge Plug Load Survey
8. Turn Off Electronics When Not in Use

PURCHASING
1. Learn about Green Purchasing
2. Complete the Green Purchasing Questionnaire
3. Conduct a Pre-Challenge Purchasing Survey
4. Write a New Green Purchasing Policy
5. Enhance an Existing Green Purchasing Policy with EPEAT or ENERGY STAR
Definitions
“Green,” “Environmentally Preferable,” & “Sustainable” Purchasing

“Green” or “Environmentally Preferable” Purchasing
Procurement of "products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose" -- [http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/about/about.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/about/about.htm)

“Sustainable” or “Responsible” Purchasing
“Sustainable procurement takes a wider view and incorporates the net benefits for both the buyer organisation and the wider world." Involves consideration of "the impact of environmental, economic and social factors along with price and quality.“ -- [https://www.cips.org/en/Knowledge/Procurement-topics-and-skills/Sustainability/Sustainable-and-Ethical-Procurement/](https://www.cips.org/en/Knowledge/Procurement-topics-and-skills/Sustainability/Sustainable-and-Ethical-Procurement/)

Start with “green,” but work toward “sustainable.”
Establishing your baseline & engaging stakeholders

Performing a purchasing survey/audit

**What**
- Examination of current procedures & policies.
- Learn rules, requirements, & organization-wide tools.
- Determine specifically what you buy & why.
- Identify & engage all personnel involved with procurement.

**Why**
- Know the status quo before you attempt to make changes; allows for measurement
- Identify opportunities for immediate impact, determine priorities
- Set achievable, meaningful goals
- Establish ownership, buy-in from procurement personnel by discussing their concerns & ideas

**Who**
Oversight by member of green team or sustainability committee
Establishing your baseline & engaging stakeholders

Performing a purchasing survey/audit

My experience with this activity

• Compiled preliminary list of stakeholders
• Email: what I was doing & why
• Sent an initial questionnaire (online form)
• Face-to-face discussions
• Met with key administrative personnel to address concerns with survey worksheet format, establish our scope/focus, divide duties (for worksheet)
• Received baseline information from procurement personnel → insight into record keeping, easing future queries
• Obtained iBuy access; went through training
• Identifying alternatives—currently underway
• Will obtain “test” alternatives for staff assessment
• Will draft policies & recommendations as appropriate & consult with procurement personnel & decision makers

Establishing your baseline & engaging stakeholders

Performing a purchasing survey/audit

For some organizations, Calendar Year & Fiscal Year differ. Calendar year is needed for reporting in programs like the State Electronics Challenge.

I had to note the EPEAT rating level in the description.

It may work better to use the worksheet provided on the IL GOC site as a model to create a spreadsheet tailored to your situation. That’s ok!

Drop down box, with options
Purchase Avoidance

*The most sustainable product is the one already owned by you or someone else.*

Avoid material & energy use for creation of a new device—e.g. electronics

- Impacts associated with mining
- Over 1,000 materials are used to make electronic products & their components
- Embodied energy outweighs energy use during consumption


What’s the total travel distance for all the parts in your DS?

Answer: C) 228,000 miles, & the parts have come from around 18 different countries. *(Loop Scoops, Teachers’ Domain, http://www.teachersdomain.org.)*

Did you know...?

A United Nations study found that the manufacturing of one computer and its screen takes at least 530 pounds of fossil fuels, 48 pounds of chemicals and 1.47 tons of water. That’s more than the weight of a rhinoceros or a car! *(Schwarzer, Bono, et al., 2005)*
Purchase Avoidance

*The most sustainable product is the one already owned by you or someone else.*

Before you replace an item or device, consider

- Can the item/device be upgraded given staff expertise and budget?
- Can the item be economically repaired?
  - Service (e.g. “Geek Squad”)
  - By staff with guidance from sites like iFixit
  - Consider repairability at the time of purchase
    - Ex: [https://www.ifixit.com/Teardown](https://www.ifixit.com/Teardown) → Repairability scores

- Can maintenance solve any problems you’re experiencing?
- Is the item/device still adequately meeting the needs of the user? Could someone else in your organization use it?
- Can you obtain a “new” device from internal surplus or other source?
- Consider leasing equipment instead of buying
  - [http://www.officedepot.com/a/businessstools/text/p01_5340/;jsessionid=0000GhTLrLVcEZR2xBkmzjk8DA3:17h4h7c4g](http://www.officedepot.com/a/businessstools/text/p01_5340/;jsessionid=0000GhTLrLVcEZR2xBkmzjk8DA3:17h4h7c4g)
Making better choices

Tools & Resources for choosing more sustainable products & services

• Consider refurbished devices
  • Extend product life cycles
  • Save money
  • Listed on retail sites (e.g. Best Buy); search for “certified refurbished”
  • Electronics recyclers may be “Microsoft Authorized Refurbishers”

• State Electronics Challenge (SEC) [http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/]
  • For public entities & non-profits
  • Free, voluntary
  • Technical assistance, reports, recognition program
  • Purchasing, use, & end-of-life management
  • Great resources on web site, partners only webinars
  • [http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/epa_regions.html#il]

• ENERGY Star
Making better choices

*Tools & Resources for choosing more sustainable products & services*

- **EPEAT** [http://www.epeat.net/](http://www.epeat.net/)
  - Product registry, multi-stakeholder standards development
  - Green Electronics Council
  - Bronze, silver, gold
  - Currently covers PCs & displays, imaging equipment, & televisions
  - New products will be added over time
  - State of IL required to purchase or lease Bronze or higher
  - Criteria: [http://www.epeat.net/resources/criteria/#tabs-1=overview](http://www.epeat.net/resources/criteria/#tabs-1=overview)
  - ENERGY Star is part of the criteria
  - Full life cycle considerations; some social aspects (corporate responsibility)
  - Sample policy & contract language: [http://www.epeat.net/resources/for-purchasers/](http://www.epeat.net/resources/for-purchasers/)
  - SEC webinar on how to navigate: [http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/teleconferences.html](http://www.stateelectronicschallenge.net/teleconferences.html)
  - EPEAT web site also offers training videos; can request a live training: [http://www.epeat.net/resources/training/](http://www.epeat.net/resources/training/)
Making better choices

*Tools & Resources for choosing more sustainable products & services*

- **UL Environment Sustainable Product Guide**
  - **Electronics category:** battery chargers, computers, imaging equipment, mobile phones, monitors, office machines, televisions
  - categories for equipment with electronic components (appliances) and products related to electronics (remanufactured printer cartridges & printer ink)
  - All products that have achieved certification/validation from UL Environment, including GREENGUARD and ECOLOGO Certified products
  - UL Environment does 3rd party verification for ENERGY Star claims
  - **Lots** of other categories: flooring, construction, gym equipment, etc.

- **The Good Guide** [www.goodguide.com/](http://www.goodguide.com/) >250,000 products; mobile app
Making better choices

Tools & Resources for choosing more sustainable products & services

  - Multiple purchasing guides, some free, others available only to members
  - Created in partnership with U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, the Responsible Purchasing Network, & Green Seal
  - Links to several purchasing guides, info on common eco labels, model policies, measurement tools/cost calculators, model process, success stories
Making better choices

Tools & Resources for choosing more sustainable products & services

• **Green Seal**  [http://www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)
  - Searchable database of products and services (e.g. cleaning, hotels & lodging; restaurants & food services)
    [http://www.greenseal.org/FindGreenSealProductsAndServices.aspx](http://www.greenseal.org/FindGreenSealProductsAndServices.aspx)
  - Publications

• **US EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Hands-on Tools**

• **US EPA Design for Environment Program Labeled Products & Partners**
  - 2500 labelled products currently
  - Labelled products have been reviewed by EPA scientists with regard to a safer chemical ingredients list
  - See [http://www.epa.gov/dfe/](http://www.epa.gov/dfe/) for more info
Click a category to find the names and company websites of Green Seal-certified products and services. Green Seal does not manufacture or sell these products and services. Please contact the listed company for product information.

Filter by:
- Standard: Select
- Category: Select
- Manufacturer: Select

Search by:
Enter keyword
Go

- Household Products (GS-8, GS-21, GS-48)
- Construction Materials & Equipment (GS-13, GS-31, GS-36)
- Paints & Coatings (GS-11, GS-43, GS-47)
- Printing & Writing Paper (GS-7, GS-10, GS-15)
- Paper Towels, Napkins & Tissue Paper (GS-1)
- Food Packaging (GS-18, GS-35)
- Institutional Cleaning Products (GS-34, GS-37, GS-42)
- Hand Soaps & Cleaners (GS-41)
Labeled Products and Our Partners

The following is a list of all partners and products recognized under the DFE Safer Product Labeling Program. DFE commends these companies for their leadership in designing products that are good for the environment and for their business.

A note on private labels and licensees: Partners may custom label a DFE-recognized product for another company, provided that the formulation remains identical to the recognized formulation. Similarly, DFE extends recognition to the products of Partner company licensees, provided that the Partner retains full legal control of the product formulation. Partners must inform DFE in advance of any private labeling or licensing activities that involve the use of DFE recognition.

* These are private-labeled or licensee products.
† This partner is currently overdue for an audit.

Industrial/Institutional Product Categories: -- Select a Category --

Liquid Detergents

Industrial/Institutional Product Category

Air Conditioner Coil Cleaners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Partner Since</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC Energy Boost</td>
<td>Kenosha</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>*AC Energy Boost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aircraft Cleaning Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Partner Since</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zip-Chem Products</td>
<td>Morgan Hill</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Calla 301A Cleaner/Degreaser Concentrate</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There is no ultimate, comprehensive, end-all, be-all guide to green or sustainable purchasing resources, labels, etc.

Multiple resources exist, with some overlap. If you wonder if there's a database of a category of products that rates specific items, or if you come across a label that doesn't appear on a list you have, feel free to contact me.

Source: http://www.cafepress.com

When in doubt, give Joy a shout!
THANK YOU

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