

# KING COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



**King County**

Department of Executive Services  
Finance and Business Operations Division

**Procurement and Contract Services Section**

---

# King County Government

## *King County Executive*

Ron Sims  
206-296-4040  
[www.metrokc.gov/exec](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec)

## *King County Council*

Bob Ferguson	District 1
Larry Gossett	District 2
Kathy Lambert	District 3
Larry Phillips	District 4
Julia Patterson	District 5
Jane Hague	District 6
Pete von Reichbauer	District 7
Dow Constantine	District 8
Reagan Dunn	District 9

206-296-1000  
[www.metrokc.gov/mkcc](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc)

## *Environmental Purchasing Program*

Eric Nelson, Program Manager  
Karen Hamilton, Program Manager  
821 Second Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
206-263-4279  
[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green)

## *Procurement and Contract Services Section*

David Leach, Manager  
206-684-1681  
[www.metrokc.gov/finance/procurement](http://www.metrokc.gov/finance/procurement)

## *Finance and Business Operations Division*

Ken Guy, Director  
206-684-1937  
[www.metrokc.gov/finance](http://www.metrokc.gov/finance)

## *Department of Executive Services*

Paul Tanaka, Director  
206-296-3824  
[www.metrokc.gov/dias](http://www.metrokc.gov/dias)



***Cover graphic used with permission, courtesy of Indiana State Department of Commerce, Recycling Market Development Program.***

---

---

# *King County Environmental Purchasing Program*

## *2005 Annual Report*

### *Executive Summary*

King County's Environmental Purchasing Policy reflects a long-term commitment to the purchase of environmentally preferable products. In 1989, King County adopted its original recycled product procurement policy in response to overburdened landfills and the need to create markets for newly collected recyclables. Every purchase has an impact on human health and the environment. Environmentally preferable procurement considers multiple product attributes, such as toxicity, durability, recycled content and conservation of resources, in addition to price, performance and availability. The goal is to reduce these impacts whenever practicable.

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program (EPP) provides County personnel with information and technical assistance to help them identify and evaluate economical and effective environmentally preferable products. In the past year, King County agencies purchased **30.5 million dollars** worth of these products, **saving \$675,000** compared to the cost of conventional products.

Over the past fifteen years, the program has earned awards and accolades from the White House Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Association of Counties (NACo), Center for a New American Dream (CNAD), the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), US Conference of Mayors, and Sustainable Seattle. EPP continues to be a central resource for jurisdictions and other organizations across the nation. Last May, staff attended a meeting of environmental purchasing specialists in Washington DC, hosted by the OFEE and CNAD. An outcome of this meeting was conceptualization of a "Responsible Purchasing Network"

(RPN) to assist and advise jurisdictions in development and implementation of environmental purchasing policies and programs. As a pioneer and leader in the field, King County was appointed to the steering committee for this network and is helping define and shape the structure and mission of this network with federal, state and local governments, nonprofits and private industry. This membership-based network will be launched in the fall of 2006.

The program reports annually on the status of policy implementation and the environmental purchasing accomplishments of agencies. Recycled paper is used for all major government functions, including more than nine million bus schedules annually, tax statements, court forms, pet license notifications, business cards, reports, stationery, and internal printing. Other products include: remanufactured toner cartridges; re-refined antifreeze and motor-oil; ultra-low sulfur diesel; biodiesel; hybrid vehicles; bio-based oils; low-VOC asphalt cold-patch; plastic lumber, compost, shredded wood-waste and tire-retreading services. Many of these products are more economical than those they replace and save money.

Program success depends on enabling agencies to appreciate the new opportunities being created in a changing marketplace by supporting them with information and technical assistance. In addition to producing educational seminars on specific opportunities, the program makes extensive use of the Internet, using email to distribute an "Environmental Purchasing Bulletin" and maintaining a website to make information available to agencies, suburban cities, and the community at-large on the environmental purchasing experience of County agencies.





# King County

Department of Executive Services  
Finance and Business Operations Division

## **Procurement and Contract Services Section Environmental Purchasing Program**

[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green)

### *2005 Annual Report*

<b>I. King County Environmental Purchasing Program.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Policy.....	1
Program.....	1
Implementation.....	2
Challenges.....	2
Opportunities.....	3
<b>II. Purchases and Savings.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2005 Purchase Summary.....	4
Purchase Detail.....	5
Office Products.....	5
Operations and Maintenance.....	6
Vehicular.....	8
Product Evaluation.....	10
Savings Summary.....	12
<b>III. Supporting Program Elements.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Agency Liaison Network.....	13
Internet Information.....	13
Website.....	13
E-mail Environmental Purchasing Bulletin.....	14
Internet Discussion Groups.....	14
Public Involvement.....	15
Publicity.....	16
Model Procurement Policy.....	17
Allied King County Programs.....	17
<b>IV. Environmental Initiatives of County Agencies.....</b>	<b>18</b>
Green Building.....	18
Waste Reduction and Recycling.....	18
Air Quality.....	19
Energy and Water Conservation.....	19



## I. King County Environmental Purchasing Program

This report summarizes the achievements of King County agencies for the year 2005, in their implementation of the King County Environmental Purchasing Policy.

In the past year, King County agencies continued to increase their awareness and use of environmentally preferable products. The King County Environmental Purchasing Program (EPP) continues to be a central resource for internal agencies and for jurisdictions and other organizations across the nation. Last May, EPP staff attended a meeting of environmental purchasing specialists in Washington DC, hosted by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the Center for a New American Dream. An outcome of this meeting was conceptualization of a “Responsible Purchasing Network” (RPN) to assist and advise jurisdictions in development and implementation of environmental purchasing policies and programs. As a pioneer and leader in the field, King County was appointed to the steering committee for this network and is one of the few governments helping define and shape the structure and mission of this network with federal, state and local government, nonprofits and private industry. This membership based network will be launched in the fall of 2006.

King County maintains this leadership position through the efforts and accomplishments of the employees who are actively developing ways to use economical environmentally preferable materials in new applications and sharing their stories.

### Policy

The King County Environmental Purchasing Policy reflects a long-term commitment to the

purchase of environmentally preferable\* products. In 1989, the County adopted its original recycled product procurement policy in response to overburdened landfills and the need to create markets for newly collected recyclables. Every purchase has an impact on human health and the environment. Environmentally preferable procurement considers multiple attributes, such as toxicity, durability, recyclability and conservation of resources, beyond price, performance and availability. The goal is to reduce these impacts whenever practicable.

King County policy can be found on the program website at:  
Executive policy (CON 7-1-2–AEP)  
[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/policy.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/policy.htm)  
Environmental purchasing ordinance (KCC 10.16)  
[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/eppordinance.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/eppordinance.htm)

### Program

The Environmental Purchasing Program aims to fundamentally change the procurement practices of the agencies of King County. With the full participation of the people who make purchasing decisions, the County can attain its goal of buying recycled and other environmentally preferable products whenever practicable. The program provides County personnel with information and technical assistance to help them identify economical and effective recycled and environmentally preferable products and maintain contracts for their purchase. The program helps agencies understand policy requirements and communicates specifications, contracts, and other practical information between County agencies, vendors, users, and other jurisdictions.

The program’s collaborative approach, which relies on the expertise of County employees to

\*King County defines “environmentally preferable” as having a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product.

---

evaluate procurement opportunities and revise procedures, is gradually changing the way agencies view these opportunities. County agencies have responded by developing new ways to use recycled and other environmentally preferable products, especially where these will reduce costs while still meeting performance standards.

## *Implementation*

The **Procurement and Contract Services Section** of the King County **Finance and Business Operations Division** administers the **Environmental Purchasing Program** to help County agencies increase their purchase of environmentally preferable products. The program:

- communicates environmental purchasing policy requirements to County agencies;
- researches and communicates information about price, performance, availability and potential benefits of environmentally preferable products.
- provides technical assistance to facilitate evaluation and adoption of environmentally preferable products and applications by County agencies;
- assists buyers and user agencies in the development of specifications and contracts;
- documents the progress of policy implementation, including purchases and product evaluation results;
- publishes this annual report;
- produces e-mail environmental purchasing bulletins and the program website;
- provides technical assistance, including policy development and implementation strategies, to other jurisdictions, businesses and non-profit agencies.

## *Challenges*

A number of factors challenge efforts to increase environmental purchasing:

- project managers, designers, and contractors are often not familiar with the use of many environmentally preferable products and are uncertain of the ways in which they might be effectively specified and applied as substitutes for familiar products;
- developers of environmentally preferable products are often in the early stages of identifying the needs of potential customers and establishing the production, marketing, and distribution capacity to meet them;
- the use of environmentally preferable products must be economically responsible, cost competitive, and effective;
- many products must meet rigorous standards maintained by government and industry regulators and the modification of these standards, though underway, is a slow, and expensive process and manufacturers, regulators, and users may not yet be equipped to specify and use these new materials effectively;
- in the absence of standards, each specifier must define its own criteria for environmental preferability and specifications must balance the many attributes that are significant to environmental performance, including toxicity, recyclability, recycled content and consumption of water and energy; and
- developing and administering data-collection procedures to influence and obtain information from construction and other service contracts is costly and time-consuming and places unfamiliar demands on participants.

---

## Opportunities

The Program and County agencies are addressing these challenges by:

- participating in efforts by government agencies, non-profit groups, trade associations, and others, to develop consensus based standards that will enable users to specify materials that are available, economical and effective, as well as environmentally preferable;
- maintaining liaisons between agencies and the Environmental Purchasing Program to facilitate policy implementation, contracting, and data collection;
- assembling application information and performance data from product users and manufacturers and disseminating this to potential users in the County;
- seeking new applications for recycled and other environmentally preferable products and encouraging supply and contract managers to specify them whenever possible;
- helping agencies develop specifications and contracts for environmentally preferable products whenever evaluations establish that product performance and cost are acceptable;
- evaluating environmentally preferable product performance in new applications through testing and pilot programs and sharing the results with agencies, jurisdictions, and other users through our website, the email “Environmental Purchasing Bulletin,” and by other means;
- helping potential suppliers understand King County procurement processes and obtain feedback from users to assist them in product development; and
- sharing information with other jurisdictions and organizations about techniques, materials, and strategies.

## II. Purchases & Savings

In the past year, King County **purchased 30.5 million dollars** worth of environmentally preferable products, **saving \$675,000** by doing so. Environmentally preferable products include those that have recycled content, reduce waste, use less energy, are less toxic, or are more durable. The Environmental Purchasing Program has earned national recognition as one of the most effective such programs in the Country due, in part, to our emphasis on cost-effective products that meet performance requirements.

The tables below summarize environmentally preferable product purchases for 2005. This data is obtained primarily from “term” supply contracts, which are centrally administered contracts that enable County agencies to purchase materials at low and consistent prices. The tables also include data from one-time purchases. Details of purchases and product performance follow in the “Purchase Detail” section of this report.

### 2005 Purchase Summary

<i>Office Products</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Copy and Bond Paper	Case	19,544	629,407
Printing Paper	N/A	N/A	1,817,564
Paper Products	N/A	N/A	441,048
Toner Cartridges	Each	7,247	269,547
Electronics Recycling	N/A	N/A	9,850
Can Liners	Case	7,969	181,660
Sub-Total:	N/A	N/A	3,349,076

<i>Operations and Maintenance</i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Asphalt Cold Patch	Ton	25	11,000
Compost	Yard	3,714	92,850
Shredded Wood	Yard	88,440	39,799
Plastic Lumber Picnic Tables	Each	15	6,672
Flourescent Lamp Recycling	N/A	N/A	8,360
Sub-Total:	N/A	N/A	158,681

<i><b>Vehicular</b></i>			
	Per	Units	\$
Motor Oil	Gallon	105,278	288,545
Antifreeze	Gallon	15,010	51,424
Bio-based Lubricants	Gallon	990	16,625
Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD)	Gallon	12,022,150	23,449,127
ULSD with 5% Biodiesel (B5)	Gallon	539,705	1,158,851
Biodiesel (B100)	Gallon	138,126	391,093
Flexible Fuel Vehicles	Each	26	543,434
Hybrid Vehicles	Each	40	885,490
Tire Retreading	N/A	N/A	259,152
Air Filters	Each	N/A	1,497
Sub-Total:	N/A	N/A	27,045,238

<i><b>Purchase Totals</b></i>			
	Per	Units	\$
<b>Total Dollars:</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>30,552,995</b>

## ***Purchase Detail - Office Products***

### ***Copy and Bond Paper***

County agencies purchase recycled processed chlorine-free (PCF) copy paper with 30% post-consumer content. The post-consumer level meets the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) established by Federal Executive Order 13101. County purchases of recycled paper totaled **19,500 cases** at a cost of **\$630,000** in the last year, which represents **99%** of total copy paper purchases.

### ***Printing Paper***

Printing performed by the **County Printshop** and through contracts administered by **Procurement and Contract Services Section** for various King County agencies is required to use recycled paper whenever practicable, which is over 90% of the time. This includes all printing, from business cards to tax and court forms, reports and bus timetables. The recycled content of this paper

varies from 20% to 100%. During 2005, estimated recycled paper expenditures, exclusive of printing costs, totaled **1.8 million dollars**.

### ***Paper Products***

In addition to recycled copy and printing papers, the County also maintains several contracts that allow agencies to purchase various recycled paper products. These include office supplies, such as envelopes, boxes, folders and notepads; and janitorial products, such as paper towels and tissues. Recycled content purchases totaled **\$450,000** in 2005.

### ***Toner Cartridges***

King County has purchased remanufactured toner cartridges for laser printers, fax machines and ink-jets since 1991. Cartridges supplied under this contract must meet original equipment manufacturer's (OEM) standards and provide full performance guarantees. In 2005, the County

purchased **7,250 cartridges**, at a cost of **approximately \$270,000**. These purchases **saved** an estimated **\$300,000**, as the cost of these remanufactured cartridges is less than half the cost of new cartridges. King County's specifications require spent cartridges to be remanufactured and all components to be recycled when their useful life is over, reducing the landfill disposal of hazardous material. The current contract was awarded in 2004 to a new vendor after thirteen years of successful service from the previous supplier. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/tonecart.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/tonecart.htm).

### ***Electronics Recycling***

Since 2002, King County has been recycling obsolete computers, television sets and other electronic equipment through a competitively bid contract with a local recycling firm. There is growing concern about the ultimate effects of landfill or incineration of computers and electronics, which contain a variety of heavy metals and other toxins. Of special concern are cathode ray tubes (CRTs), which are no longer accepted at the King County landfill, because they contain large amounts of lead (often 4 or 5 pounds each).

During the past year, **agencies recycled 350 computer monitors, 215 televisions, 6,200 pounds of other electronic equipment and 1,000 pounds of batteries of various types associated with this equipment.** Agencies using this recycling service included **Property Surplus, Records and Elections, Regional Justice Center, Department of Community and Development, Roads Engineering, Roads Environmental Lab, Adult and Juvenile Detention, Finance, Facilities, Roads Maintenance, Cedar Hills Landfill, and Metro Transit.** For more information and contract details, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/electronics.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/electronics.htm).

### ***Can-Liners***

In 2005, King County purchased over **8,000 cases** of can-liners at a cost of over **\$180,000**. These were made with 25%-30% high-density polyethylene

(HDPE) or 25% low-density polyethylene (LDPE) recycled post-consumer plastic. County agencies have used recycled plastic bags from various vendors with good results since 1991. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/plasbags.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/plasbags.htm).

## ***Purchase Detail – Operations and Maintenance***

### ***Asphalt Cold Patch***

The King County **Roads Maintenance Section** has been purchasing asphalt cold patch that reduces the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released to the environment, since 2001. This product is a dry, odorless, ready-to-use asphalt-based compound used to repair potholes, cracks, and other defects in paved surfaces. It contains **75% post-consumer asphalt** and works by compaction. Traditional cold patch hardens through a combination of compaction and evaporation of a petroleum-based carrier, such as kerosene. This evaporation releases large amounts of VOCs, which are not present in this product. It can also be used in all weather and can be overlaid with new asphalt without the special steps needed to overlay conventional patching compounds with new paving. In the past year, King County **Roads Maintenance Operations** purchased over **1,000 fifty-pound bags, approximately 25 tons**, of this product, at a cost of over **\$11,000**. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul65.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul65.htm).

### ***Compost***

Compost-amended topsoil is specified for use in maintenance and construction projects. Although not all of King County's compost usage is reported here, the **Roads Environmental Unit** reported that in the past year, their contractors used over **3,700 cubic yards** of topsoil containing yard waste compost. Further information about the use of compost by County agencies is available on the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/compost.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/compost.htm).

### ***Fluorescent Lamp Recycling***

Alternatives to landfill disposal of fluorescent lamps are important, as federal, state, and local regulation of mercury disposal is increasing, because these often contain significant amounts of mercury and other toxic materials. In the year 2000, King County established a contract for recycling waste lamps, including fluorescent tubes and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps. In the past year, **Airport, Facilities Management and Transit Divisions**, the **Department of Natural Resources and Parks** and the **Department of Transportation** used this contract to recycle various types of lamps, including **22,650** straight fluorescent tubes, over **3,000** compact fluorescent lamps, and almost **1,700** HID lamps. For more information regarding King County's program to recycle lamps, including regulations, visit the website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul60.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul60.htm).

### ***Plastic Lumber***

The **Renton Maintenance Facility** of the **Fleet Administration Division** requires new dump trucks to be outfitted with recycled plastic sideboards before delivery. High-quality old growth Douglas-fir had been conventionally used in this application, but it is increasingly scarce and expensive. Since 1996, they have used recycled plastic because it is more impact-resistant and needs to be replaced less frequently, saving money in the long-term despite its higher initial cost. Replacement was immediately reduced from two wooden sideboards per week to less than one plastic sideboard per month which **saves \$10,000 per year** in materials costs alone. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/errlbr.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/errlbr.htm).

The **King County Parks and Recreation Division** has used recycled plastic lumber since 1993 for various applications, such as benches, tables and boardwalks. In 2005, because of the durability and low maintenance of these products, they purchased **fifteen** six-foot recycled plastic picnic tables for the **Tolt River Campground** at a cost of less than **\$7,000**.



***Recycled plastic sideboard used on dump trucks since 1996***

### ***Shredded Wood***

Wood chips made from shredded land-clearing debris can be used as ground cover for erosion-control, horticultural mulch, and other applications. In the last year, the **Solid Waste Division** used it to stabilize temporary driving surfaces at the **Cedar Hills landfill**, especially during rainy seasons. The Division purchased **90,000 cubic yards** of shredded wood, or “hog-fuel,” at a cost of nearly **\$40,000** and **saved an estimated \$90,000** by using this instead of virgin aggregate. For more information, visit the program website: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/swhog.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/swhog.htm).

In 2005, the **Roads CIP Section** recycled over 120 cubic yards of wood waste from trees removed on projects. The wood mulch was then re-used for erosion control in place of straw mulch in construction and maintenance projects. The **Roads Maintenance** unit is testing a new baled “wood-straw” product from a local company for use in place of straw. Roads Engineering is looking for a project that would serve as a suitable site to field test this product.

## Purchase Detail - Vehicular

### Motor Oil

Motor oil made with re-refined base-stock has been used in County vehicles operated by the **Renton Maintenance Facility, Motorpool and Solid Waste Operations** since 1992. **Metro Transit** became one of the first major metropolitan transit authorities in the nation to adopt the use of re-refined motor oil for its entire fleet of over 1,200 buses in 1999. In 2005, the County purchased over **105,000 gallons** of primarily 15w40 and 10w30 re-refined oil at a cost of approximately **\$290,000**. The bus fleet recently added new hybrid buses and re-refined oil is used in these, as well. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/oil.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/oil.htm).

### Antifreeze

County agencies, including **Motor Pool, Solid Waste Operations**, and the **Renton Maintenance Facility** have purchased antifreeze manufactured with re-refined ethylene glycol since 1991. **Metro Transit Division** began using a concentrated re-refined ethylene glycol antifreeze product for buses in 1999. They introduce the necessary “additive packages” in the maintenance shops. In 2005, the County purchased **over 15,000 gallons** of re-refined antifreeze, at a cost of over **\$50,000**, and **saved over \$13,000** by its use. For more information about King County’s use of antifreeze, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/antifrz.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/antifrz.htm).

### Bio-Based Lubricants

The **Renton Maintenance Facility** has purchased vegetable-based hydraulic oils for use in their equipment since 2001 to comply with provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act and other regulations intended to protect our sensitive waterways and groundwater. Bio-based lubricants were tested and found to perform as well or better than petroleum oils, are readily biodegradable, low in toxicity, and offer worker-safety advantages. The agency also specifies that manufacturers fill new equipment with vegetable-based

hydraulic fluid. In the past year, they purchased **990 gallons** at a cost of approximately **\$16,600**. For more information, visit the program website: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/oil.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/oil.htm).

### Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel

King County has been purchasing ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel since 2002. Testing by King County **Metro Transit** showed that using ULSD along with particulate filters in buses can provide a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon particulate matter. ULSD has the same energy and performance characteristics as standard diesel, so its use does not affect engine performance or warranties. All King County Fleets purchase ULSD and in 2005, King County purchased over **twelve million gallons** of fuel at a cost of over twenty-three million dollars. Beginning in 2007, the US EPA will require all new diesel equipment to adopt the particulate-filter technology that **King County Metro Transit, Solid Waste Division and Fleet Administration Equipment Shop** adopted in 2002. For more information, visit the program website: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/ulsd.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/ulsd.htm).



**King County fleets use biodiesel in buses and trucks**

### Biodiesel

At the end of 2004, King County **Metro Transit** began a pilot program to evaluate using biodiesel, at a mixture of 95% ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) and 5% biodiesel, called B5 at

two of its seven bus bases. Biodiesel is a diesel fuel substitute produced from renewable sources, such as vegetable oils, animal fats and recycled cooking oils. In 2005, **Transit** purchased almost **140,000 gallons** of 100% biodiesel (B100) and had the vendor mix this in with ULSD at a 5% blend to produce over **2.5 million gallons** of B5 fuel. This project is still in the pilot phase and will be extended to the rest of the bus fleet in 2006. Although the cost of biodiesel is higher than regular diesel full, King County entered into a partnership with Seattle City Light, the local utility, to sell “greenhouse gas credits,” as part of the utility’s greenhouse gas mitigation program. The utility paid the cost differential of biodiesel in 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, the **Solid Waste Division** and **Fleet Administration Division** also adopted the use of B5 fuel. Their total purchases were **540,000 gallons** of B5 at a cost of over **one million dollars**. Using biodiesel increases demand for, and ultimate supply of, alternative fuels here in Washington State.

### ***Flexible Fuel Vehicles***

King County **Fleet Administration Division** purchased 26 flexible-fuel vehicles (FFV), including 23 Ford Explorers, 1 Ford Taurus and 2 Chevrolet Tahoes, for a total of **\$545,000** in the past year. These vehicles are equipped to use ethanol, gasoline, or “E85,” the term for fuel blends of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Using E85 reduces carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), hydrocarbon and benzene emissions when compared to vehicles running on gasoline. The Division acknowledges that regional supply infrastructure may limit the availability of ethanol and E85. These vehicles were purchased through the State of Washington vehicle contract.

### ***Hybrid Vehicles***

King County purchases hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) to replace older model vehicles as they are retired. Hybrids offer lower greenhouse gas emissions and are fuel-efficient and cost-effective solutions for the **Fleet Administration Division**



***King County has 140 hybrid vehicles in its fleet***

of the King County **Department of Transportation (DOT)**. In the past year, they purchased **25 Toyota Prius** hybrid cars for **\$525,000** and **15 Ford Escape** hybrid SUVs for **\$360,000**. The County now maintains 110 Prius and 25 Escapes for a total of 140 hybrid vehicles. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul66.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul66.htm).

Hybrid vehicles are currently manufactured in limited quantities and there has been concern over the possibility that manufacturers might limit their availability to government fleets, despite the fact that **King County DOT Fleet Administration** and other jurisdictions have worked closely with manufacturers to increase demand for these products. The County primarily purchases vehicles using the State of Washington’s contracts, including FFV’s and hybrids, but in late 2004 (for 2005 models) King County issued two invitations-to-bid, for both the new Ford Escape hybrid SUV’s and Toyota Prius. These procurements achieved greater availability of cars to the County and other jurisdictions than had been allocated to Washington State customers. In 2005, **Fleet Administration Division** employed an intern to publicize the County’s use of hybrids and its research into fuel-cell technologies, thanks to the support of the Center for a New American Dream (CNAD), a national non-profit organization.



**Recycled rubber and plastic composite decking used on equipment trailers**

### ***Tire Retreading***

The County spent **\$260,000** to retread tires for trucks and other heavy equipment at the **Renton Maintenance Facility, Fleet Administration Division and Solid Waste Operations**. This not only avoided landfill disposal of tires, but also **saved** the County **approximately \$260,000** in new-tire expense in 2005, as retreading a tire is half the cost of buying a new tire.

### ***Rubber Truck Decking***

King County **Fleet Equipment Shop** has been using a recycled rubber/plastic composite product to line equipment trailer decks since 2001. This product, which replaces exotic hardwoods customarily used for this application, performs better than wood, provides a nonskid surface, is durable, and has recycled content. They use this product as a replacement decking and now require new equipment to be delivered with this material already in place, including one trailer last year. For more information about this purchase, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul90.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul90.htm).

### ***Air Filters***

In 2002, the **Renton Equipment Shop** of the **Department of Transportation** initiated a new program to reduce replacement costs of heavy equipment air filters and reduce the number of used filters being sent to the landfill. The Division has contracted with a local company, to “dry-clean,” the dirty air filters of heavy equipment with a sonic cleaning process. The Division **saved approximately \$1500** in the past year and extended the life of air filters that were previously sent to the landfill. For more information, visit the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul73.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul73.htm).

### ***Product Evaluation***

King County routinely evaluates new products and began testing the following in 2005:

#### ***Slag Cement***

King County is partnering with public and private groups to explore the use of slag cement for county projects. Slag is a by-product generated in the blast furnaces used to produce steel. Once a waste material, slag is becoming increasingly useful as a replacement for Portland-cement. This substitution can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and uses less energy to produce.

The **Department of Natural Resources and Parks Air Quality and Climate Initiative Program** introduced a supplier of slag content cement to county agencies. The **Roads Division** showed interest and the **Department of Transportation Roads Material Lab** conducted a full battery of tests on different slag blends and applications to determine their suitability and usability on King County road and infrastructure projects. **Roads Engineering** is now exploring ways to incorporate slag cement into a sidewalk project slated for construction in the spring of 2006 as a trial of this material. For more information, visit the website at: [www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/news.cfm](http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/news.cfm).

### ***Lead-Free Wheel Weights***

In 2005, due to concerns about the use of lead and increased availability of alternatives, the **Fleet Administration Division** of the **King County Department of Transportation** started testing an alternative to lead wheel weights on passenger cars and trucks. The product they chose consists of adhesive flexible plastic cartridges filled with steel media in various weights. These alternative products were introduced into the United States after the European Union banned lead wheel weights in July, 2005.

According to the **Fleet Equipment Shop Supervisor**, they are replacing traditional weights with this new type as each vehicle comes in for maintenance. To use these new weights, the shop bought a new, more precise, wheel balancer. The cost per unit is higher, but the shop reports that this product works well and merits continued testing. For more information, visit the website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul92.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul92.htm).



***King County is testing an alternative to lead wheel weights***

---



***Pervious concrete testing***

---

### ***Pervious Concrete***

**Roads Engineering Services** tested samples of a pervious concrete product for a potential sidewalk application. The samples did not meet the King County Road Standards for strength properties, as sidewalks are designed to endure the heavy weight of trucks that may drive up on them. They concluded that although this product has potential environmental and performance benefits, the cost is prohibitive at this time and that more testing is necessary. The main reason for the cost appears to be the risk an unknown material represents to the contractor. The material is sensitive to moisture and is difficult to mix to the correct consistency. More testing will be performed in 2006.

---

## Savings Summary

In 2005, the County **saved 675,000 dollars** by purchasing recycled and other environmentally preferable materials. The Environmental Purchasing Program has helped agencies identify opportunities to purchase environmentally preferable products that not only perform well, but also save money. In some cases, the product simply costs less and in other cases savings are found in avoided purchase costs because the alternative product is more durable. For example: the cost of a remanufactured toner cartridge is

less than one-half the cost of a new cartridge, plastic lumber avoids the consumption of virgin timber or old growth lumber, and it costs half as much to retread a worn tire as to buy a new one.

The table below represents estimated cost savings based on purchase price only, and does not reflect savings in maintenance and installation. Additional examples of savings can be found in Section IV, “Environmental Initiatives of County Agencies,” of this report.

<i>Commodity</i>	2005 Dollar Savings
Toner Cartridges	300,000
Tire Retreading	260,000
Shredded Wood	90,000
Antifreeze	15,000
Plastic Lumber	10,000
Air Filter Cleaning	1,500
<b>Total:</b>	<b>676,500</b>

---

### *III. Supporting Program Elements*

The Environmental Purchasing Program helps agencies develop practical ways to use recycled and other environmentally preferable products and processes through several program elements, detailed in this section.

#### *Agency Liaison Network*

The program uses a network of liaisons within agencies to provide users with information on environmentally preferable products and processes. These liaisons allow us to reach the people who do the daily work, and who can help us understand the roles and functions within each unit. This helps us to communicate new evaluation opportunities, institutionalize the routine use of these materials, and share evaluation results and specifications among agencies and other clients.

#### *Internet Information*

[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green)

The program delivers most of its information, including this report, to clients through email or the Internet.

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program has maintained a website since 1995 as a resource to participants in the King County program as well as others in the community. There were approximately **265,000** visitors to the program website in the past year. Clients visiting this website find information on King County's experience with recycled and environmentally preferable products, specifications, evaluations, contracts, and contact information.

Municipalities and other organizations throughout the nation and the world take advantage of this site and these contacts bring new information that county agencies and others can use

as we all develop new applications for environmentally preferable products.

In the past year, the program has received questions and comments from:

#### *The Nations of:*

Afghanistan  
Australia: Melbourne  
Bahamas  
Canada: Alberta  
Canada: Burnaby BC  
Canada: Calgary, Alberta  
Canada: Richmond BC  
Canada: Quebec  
China: Anshan, Liaoning  
China: HengShui, Hebei  
China: Shajing, Shenzhen  
China: Shanghai  
China: Xiaoshan, Hangzhou  
Cyprus: Limassol  
India: Kayamkulam, Kerala  
Iran  
Israel: Haifa  
Jordan: Amman  
Kenya  
Saudi Arabia  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom

#### *The States of:*

Massachusetts  
Minnesota  
Nebraska  
New Jersey  
North Carolina  
Washington

#### *The Counties of:*

Lee, FL  
Polk, FL  
Suffolk, NY  
Volusia County, FL

### *The Cities of:*

Alpharetta, GA  
Batavia, IL  
Bellingham, WA  
Boise, ID  
Bradenton, FL  
Cary, IL  
Chandler, AZ  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Columbus, OH  
Corvallis, OR  
Dalton, GA  
Denver, CO  
El Dorado Hills, CA  
Everett, WA  
Lake Forest Park, WA  
Lexington, KY  
Los Angeles, CA  
Madison, WI  
McClellan, CA  
Mercer Island, WA  
Nampa, ID  
Naples, FL  
New Orleans, LA  
New York, NY  
Reno, NV  
Sammamish, WA  
San Fernando, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
Seattle, WA  
Springfield, OR  
Staten Island, NY  
Terra Haute, IN  
Van Nuys, CA  
Washington, DC Worthington, OH

### *Universities/Schools:*

Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria  
Decker Colony School, Decker, Manitoba,  
Canada  
Galileo University, Guatemala  
Institute of Technology, Oaxaca, Mexico  
Tavernspite School, Tavernspite Whitland,  
Pembrokeshire, Wales  
Winthrop University, South Carolina

### *E-mail Environmental Purchasing Bulletin*

The program began producing an “**Environmental Purchasing Bulletin**” in 1997 to disseminate and exchange information about recycled and environmentally preferable products, events, contracts, and other resources. Recipients include participants in the program’s County liaison network, suburban cities of King County, and others across the nation. There are currently **over 800** direct recipients of this bulletin. Many of these originate their own listservs and newsletters and forward the bulletin to others. An index and the full contents of past bulletins can be found on the program website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bulindex.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bulindex.htm).

### *Bulletins for 2005:*

King County’s Use of Recycled Rubber Truck Decking  
2004 Annual Report  
Lead-Free Wheel Weights  
Cell Phone Recycling  
Green Purchasing - King County Leading By Example article  
Solar powered LEDs for bus shelters

### *Internet Discussion Groups*

We participate in several Internet discussion groups, where we exchange environmental purchasing information with other jurisdictions, many of which now subscribe to our Environmental Purchasing Bulletin. The participants come from across the nation and bring a wide range of experience, which we share with County agencies.

- **EPPNET** – Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Network, sponsored by the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). A discussion group on environmental purchasing issues.
- **Greenyes** – a discussion group on general sustainable issues.
- **Green Building E-Forum** – a discussion group managed by King County Solid Waste Division Green Building Program.

- **Waste Prevention Forum** – a discussion group managed by King County Solid Waste Division, and part of the National Waste Prevention Coalition.

## Public Involvement

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program offers its experience in support of the planning, policy-development, and procurement-education activities of local jurisdictions and other organizations.

The program provides technical assistance and networks with, cities, counties, state and federal agencies and other users. In 2005, program personnel participated in the following programs:

- **Responsible Purchasing Network Steering Committee**  
King County was selected to participate in a planning meeting last May in Washington DC, hosted by the **Office of the Federal Environmental Executive** and the **Center for a New American Dream** because of its leadership in environmental purchasing. King County’s EPP staff now serves on the steering committee to help shape the mission and work plan of the proposed national organization, called the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN). The RPN will be launched in the fall of 2006, and will promote environmentally preferable purchasing practices and provide assistance to other jurisdictions. ([www.responsiblepurchasing.org](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org))
- **Sustainable Purchasing Workshop**  
Environmental Purchasing staff participated in and promoted this City of Seattle buyer training event entitled “Sustainable Purchasing Strategies: Successful Smart Green Purchasing” in March, 2005
- **WasteWise Program Workshop**  
King County Environmental Purchasing staff presented at a regional conference entitled “Take a Look Inside - Improve Your Internal



**Responsible Purchasing Network meeting in Washington DC May, 2005**

Waste Prevention and Recycling Programs” hosted by the King and Kitsap County Waste-Wise programs, in March, 2005.

- **Northwest Paper Forum, Pollution Prevention Resource Center**  
King County Environmental Purchasing staff served on a steering committee for a paper-purchasing workshop, held in March, 2005, coordinated by the Pollution Prevention Research Center to inform jurisdictions about opportunities to purchase environmentally preferable paper. ([www.nwpaperforum.org](http://www.nwpaperforum.org))
- **Medical Industry Waste Prevention Roundtable (MIRT)**  
King County Environmental Purchasing staff presented at a green purchasing seminar hosted by King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in June, 2005.
- **Sound Tourism Workshop**  
King County Environmental Purchasing staff presented at a session on environmentally preferable purchasing that addressed the profound influence tourism businesses can have on improving environmental and economic performance through purchasing strategies. May, 2005



**“Leading by Example Green Purchasing in King County, WA”**

King County EPP staff is often invited to participate in or speak at national events which they are unable to attend. In the past year, these included:

- **World Environment Day** (San Francisco) – green purchasing roundtable
- **Greening the Heartland Conference** (Chicago) – presentation on EPP
- **Profitability Conference** (Portland) – presentation on EPP

**Publicity**

A key to the success of the King County Environmental Purchasing Program has been the exchange of practical information with other users of these unfamiliar materials. Many of these exchanges have come as a consequence of exposure through national magazines, newspapers, and other publications.

Among the publications which featured the King County Environmental Purchasing Program in 2005:

- **Government Procurement Magazine**  
[www.govpro.com](http://www.govpro.com)  
“Trends and Resources,” December, 2005

- “Green Purchasing - Leading by Example.”  
October, 2005 cover story  
[www.govpro.com/Newsletters/Images/1005King.pdf](http://www.govpro.com/Newsletters/Images/1005King.pdf)
- “County Contract Paves the Way for Expanded Hybrid Us,” April, 2005
- “The Myth Defying Progress of the Green Purchasing Movement,” April, 2005
- “Finding the Best ‘Green’ Value: Strategies Balance Cost, Human Health, and Environmental Concerns,” February, 2005
- “A Green Success Story” February, 2005

- **Center for a New American Dream**  
[www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)  
Institutional Purchasing Program - Purchaser Profiles (website)  
[www.newdream.org/procure/profiles/eric\\_nelson.php](http://www.newdream.org/procure/profiles/eric_nelson.php)  
2004 Annual Report  
“Building green economies on the road”

- **Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center**  
[www.pprc.org](http://www.pprc.org)  
“What’s New in P2?” newsletter November, 2005

- **American City & County**  
[www.americancityandcounty.com](http://www.americancityandcounty.com)  
“Emission control: Do we have a problem?”  
February, 2005

### ***Model Procurement Policy***

Program personnel continued to promote the development of recycled and environmentally preferable procurement policies in suburban cities by providing policy guidance, including a model policy, through its website. Program personnel also provide direct technical assistance to suburban cities for policy implementation by sharing contracts, specifications, and procurement strategies. According to the Solid Waste Division, twenty-one cities have adopted policies, based on King County’s model, since 1992.

### ***Allied King County Programs***

Many King County programs offer information and technical assistance to help citizens, businesses and County agencies find ways to improve their environmental performance. The Environmental Purchasing Program has collaborated with the following programs for the dissemination of information in 2005:

#### **Roads Engineering, Department of Transportation:**

Provided assistance to their internal EPP/sustainable practices work program.

#### **Air Quality, Department of Natural Resources and Parks**

Worked with program staff to promote a slag in cement seminar and provide department contacts for testing.

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/air-quality/>

#### **Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Local Hazardous Waste Management Program:**

Contribute to regular meetings.

[www.govlink.org/hazwaste/interagency/ipm](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/interagency/ipm)

#### **WasteWise, Recycling and Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division:**

Presented at a WasteWise Forum for other jurisdictions. Provided assistance to program staff and contributed to the program’s annual report.

[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/waste-wise](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/waste-wise)

#### **Green Building, Recycling and Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division:**

Presented information to the “Green Team,” and contributed to regular Green Team meetings, workshops and field trips.

[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenbuilding](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenbuilding)

#### **LinkUp, Recycling and Environmental Services, Solid Waste Division:**

Provided assistance to program staff and its consultants.

[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/LinkUp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/LinkUp)

---

## IV. Environmental Initiatives of County Agencies

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program helps County agencies find ways to use environmentally preferable products and processes in their work. This section contains information about the results of several environmental initiatives by which County agencies are saving money and resources, including green building, waste reduction and recycling, air quality and energy and water conservation.

### Green Building

#### **Green Building Program**

King County adopted its original Green Building Initiative in 2001. This initiative created an inter-agency Green Team and adopted the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system developed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) as a standard for all buildings the county constructs, remodels, and renovates. An ordinance was passed in early 2005 that solidified the county's commitment to green building practices in all county buildings using LEED to guide the use of green building practices in constructing and operating county facilities.

For more information about King County's **Solid Waste Division** Green Building Program and ordinance visit the website:  
[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenbuilding](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/greenbuilding).

### Waste Reduction and Recycling

#### **Salvaged Building Materials Contract**

King County agencies have diverted more than 12,000 pounds of waste building materials from the landfill, under a salvage contract established in June, 2004, with a local non-profit retailer that sells used building materials. These materials were generated by internal construction, renovation and demolition projects and are not normally handled by the county surplus property program. This contract initiated by the **Solid**

**Waste Division** has been extended until 2007 and now includes minor deconstruction services. For more information, visit the website at:  
[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul86.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul86.htm).

#### **Deconstruction Project**

King County was instrumental in requiring two wooden warehouses on Harbor Island, purchased by **King County Solid Waste Division**, to be deconstructed. More than 85 percent of the materials were recycled or salvaged for reuse. Items removed from the site for reuse were those made of glass or wood, such as windows, beams and rafters. Materials that were recycled included concrete and metals. The project was completed in 134 days with a final cost that was \$14,000 less than the county's initial estimate. For more information about construction recycling, visit the website at:  
[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/construction-recycling](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/construction-recycling).

#### **Cell Phone Recycling**

King County collected 200 phones in the first two months of its cell phone recycling program in 2005. King County agencies can now recycle their cell phones, chargers and accessories through a free cell phone recycling program that has about 60 collection sites throughout County work-sites. This program was developed as part of the County's Zero Waste of Resources Initiative and the **King County WasteWise program**. The recycler tests each unit, removes all the data from the phones, recycles the non-working phones and refurbishes the working phones. For more information, visit the website at:  
[www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/waste-wise/projects.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/about/waste-wise/projects.asp).

#### **Recycling and Reuse**

The **King County Department of Transportation** recycles and reuses a variety of materials to reduce the amount of material going into local landfills, give many of the items a second life, and save taxpayers money. These materials include bus shelter

glass, wood chips, concrete, electronics, building materials, paint and signs. For more information: [www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transtoday/2005news/nov/tt110705\\_recycle.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/transtoday/2005news/nov/tt110705_recycle.htm).

### **“Brightwater” Sewage Treatment Plant**

The **King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Wastewater Treatment Division** continues to move forward with design and construction of a new sewage treatment plant called “Brightwater.” The treatment plant site selected is located in Woodinville, WA. In 2005, the King County Council authorized the Executive to begin building pipelines intended to carry recycled water from the planned Brightwater plant to large water users such as factories, farms, parks and golf courses. Also, a vendor was selected to provide the treatment plant with filters for reclaiming water. These will remove particulate matter and produce high quality water for beneficial reuse. Demolition has begun on the site and construction is scheduled to begin in 2006, with the plant expected to begin operations in 2010. Many of the various buildings will follow the US Green Building Council’s LEED rating system guidelines, supported by King County’s Green Building Ordinance. For more information, visit the website at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/brightwater> or the Reclaimed Water Program at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/reuse/>.

## **Air Quality**

### **Hybrid Buses,**

King County **Metro Transit** unveiled the largest U.S. fleet of 214 60-foot hybrid buses in 2004. The buses operate with a blended hybrid diesel-electric system. After one year and an estimated eight million miles, the hybrid buses are demonstrating a 32 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the conventional diesel fleet. The hybrids are also proving to be 41 percent more reliable than their articulated diesel counterpart, which means they have less down-time and require fewer parts and repairs. Passengers also seem to like them. Metro says the most common feedback show general satisfaction

with their smoother and quieter ride. For more information, visit the website: [www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2006/131hybridBuses.aspx](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news/2006/131hybridBuses.aspx)

## **Energy and Water Conservation**

### **Fuel Cell Technologies**

Construction of a one-megawatt fuel-cell power-plant demonstration project at King County’s **South Treatment Plant** in Renton, Washington was completed in 2004. This is the nation’s largest molten-carbon fuel cell which generates electricity from methane gas. This fuel cell creates cleaner air and reduces power costs and the electricity generated is used on-site to reduce operating costs. The project manager calculates the savings at \$450,000 a year in electricity costs. In 2005, King County earned an award for environmental excellence from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). More information about the fuel cell project is available on the website at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/fuelcell>.

### **Water Conservation**

King County agencies continue to find ways to conserve water. Approximately 9.7 million gallons were saved last year at the King County **Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention**, primarily through an ongoing program to install low-flow shower heads. More than 8.2 million gallons were saved through reduced watering at King County **Department of Natural Resources and Parks** facilities. And more than 1 million gallons were saved by installing low-flow nozzles at King County **Metro Transit’s** bus-washing facility and reducing the bus-washing schedule. For more information, read the press release at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/press/2005/1103Reclaimedwater.htm> or visit the **Water Conservation Program** website at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/waterconservation/>.

### **Energy Conservation, (DNRP)**

In 2005, King County partnered with Puget Sound Energy (PSE), a local utility, to help the county save money through increased efficiencies in electricity and natural gas use. PSE is partially funding a resource conservation manager to assist this

---

program here in the county. The value of the program comes from making many small changes with little to no investment in equipment. For more information, read the Executive's press release at:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/press/2005/0328psepartnership.htm>.

### ***Climate Change Conference***

King County hosted a Climate Change Conference in late 2005. Representatives from a broad cross-section of local governments and state agencies, education, business, the tribes, agriculture, nonprofit organizations and communities were brought together by the **King County Executive**. Participants conferred about climate change impacts and potential adaptations of services to expected conditions.

More information about this conference is available at:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/climate-change/conference-2005.htm>.

### ***Solar Powered LEDs for Bus Shelters***

In 2005, King County **Metro Transit** began installing solar light-emitting diode (LED) bus shelter lighting systems. Solar-powered lighting allows Metro to install lighted bus stops without the expense and construction of connecting the facility to the regional power grid and LED technology consumes far less power than typical lighting systems. For more information about this project, visit the website at: [www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul94.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/bul94.htm) and the case study at:

[http://energypriorities.com/entries/2005/08/carmanah\\_metro.php](http://energypriorities.com/entries/2005/08/carmanah_metro.php).



Text: 60# Text, 30% post-consumer recycled content  
Cover: 80# Cover, 30% post-consumer recycled content



60280jp.indd



**King County**

Department of Executive Services  
Finance and Business Operations Division  
**Procurement and Contract Services Section**  
**Environmental Purchasing Program**

[www.metrokc.gov/procure/green](http://www.metrokc.gov/procure/green)