



Environmental Purchasing Bulletin

Best Practices: Practix

Report on King County EPP

October 23, 2006

King County EP Bulletin #99

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- 2005 Annual Report
- Past EP Bulletins

Please e-mail Karen Hamilton if you have comments, suggestions, or questions about the bulletin, or would like your name removed from the mailing list.

Introduction

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program was the focus of a recent research project by Tom Gattiker, a Boise State University professor, and is featured this month in the Practix Guide, Best Practices in Purchasing & Supply Chain Management. Practix reports are part of the **Center for Advanced Purchasing Studies (CAPS)** research. CAPS is a research information program jointly sponsored by the Institute for Supply Management and the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. This attention from academic and research institutions signals that the institutionalization of environmental purchasing as a recognized field of academic research and jurisdictional policy is underway. Once again, the leaders in the field are finding best-practices at King County. Personnel from King County were interviewed for this 6 page case study.

Best Practices: Practix Report on King County EPP



Environmental Purchasing for Indirect Materials

by Tom Gattiker, Boise State University
Published October, 2006

Environmental Purchasing for Indirect Materials Executive Summary

"This article focuses on environmental purchasing, or "green" purchasing, in the indirect or nonproduction material area. Factors that make indirect material challenging with respect to environmental purchasing are, first, the variety of materials, users and applications present in most organizations and, second, the decentralized nature of the spend. The organization that was studied employs numerous practices to facilitate environmental purchasing of indirect materials. At the governance level, the organization has established an environmental purchasing policy, which includes the provision that all departments must evaluate environmentally preferable materials. The organization has two formally designated environmental purchasing coordinators. A key to the coordinators' success appears to be their

view of the job as consulting, rather than internal selling. Another important practice is that the organization makes available both a green and a traditional item for the same application (i.e., it has a blanket contract for both). Finally, for many materials, it is important to have end-user training, which is often conducted by manufacturer or distributor representatives. Turning to sourcing practices, due to the complexity of determining environmental preferability, the organization avoids detailed RFPs, which consider multiple environmental criteria; it favors screening materials based on a few criteria in conjunction with extensive user evaluations. However, as third-party environmental standards become available, the organization is transitioning to the use of these standards in conjunction with competitive bidding."

You can [view the report](#) on-line for free (login required)

For More Information

PRACTIX, Good/Best Practices in Purchasing & Supply Chain Management

[Practix Report](#)

You will have to login (free access).

The Center for Advanced Purchasing Studies (CAPS)

[CAPS Research](#)

CAPS' research is aimed at executives with strategic responsibilities for the supply/sourcing/procurement effort.

Article: "[Supply and Da Man](#) –

Companies that green their supply chains can find savings galore"

By Joel Makower, July, 18, 2006

Environmental Purchasing Program

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program assists County agencies in implementation of King County [Executive Policy CON-7-1-2](#), which requires agencies to use recycled and other environmentally preferable products wherever practicable.

The program assembles information about these products and makes it available to specific agency users who can evaluate them and develop applications in County projects.

These environmental purchasing bulletins contain information about the results of product evaluations and other accomplishments of County agencies. We hope this information will help you find ways to use environmentally preferable products in the work of your agency and that you will contact us if we can help you with further information or if you have suggestions.