

What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

What is 'Environmentally Preferable Purchasing'?

Environmentally preferable purchasing is choosing products and services that have a lesser effect on human health and the environment when compared with others that serve the same purpose.

How can I purchase environmentally preferable products?

Along with traditional buying considerations such as performance, price quality, availability, and service consider the environmental attributes of a product or service. Environmental attributes are those features of a product or service that can make it preferable to purchase when compared to others. The best time to consider environmental attributes is when you are developing specifications and the award language. The key is to focus on those particular environmental attributes that are **verifiable and measureable**. Your organization will reap the lasting benefits by taking into account positive environmental attributes when making buying decisions.

What are some of the benefits of environmentally preferable purchasing?

- Less toxic products improve worker health and safety, reduce regulatory liability, and lower disposal cost
- Energy-efficient and water-conserving products save natural and financial resources
- Products that are reusable, more durable, or repairable generate less waste and conserves resources
- Recycled products save natural resources and keep recycling programs going by supporting markets for the recycled material
- Safer products and services keep people and our environment healthy

Questions to consider:

- Is the product less hazardous?
- Does it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- Does it produce less waste?
- Are there harmful by-products?
- Is it reusable or more durable? Is it made from recycled materials? Is it pre- or post- consumer waste? Can it be recycled?
- Does it conserve energy or water?
- Is it made from plant-based raw materials?
- Is there an independent third-party certification of the environmental attributes?
- What happens at the product's end of life? Does it require special or costly disposal?
- Will the manufacturer take it back to dispose of it?
- What is the total cost of ownership?

Paper and Mailing Supplies

All printer/copy paper should contain no less than 30% post consumer recycled content. Paper should also be processed without chlorine or chlorine derivatives. Recycled content should be given preference over color choices. Look for the Forest Stewardship Council label on all paper products. All copiers and printers should be set to double-sided.

Office Supplies

Office supplies that have the least amount of packaging should be purchased. Request that suppliers provide packaging filler that is recyclable. Ensure that packaging material is made from recycled content.

Refillable ink and toner cartridges should be used and all toner cartridges must be recycled if no longer usable.

Reused office furniture, office supplies, and other equipment are preferred over new products. Employees should be encouraged to look for gently used supplies.

Equipment and Electronics

Purchase equipment such as printers and copiers that are compatible with the use of recycled ink and toner cartridges.

Any new electronics should be Energy Star rated. All equipment should be completely shut down every evening.

Cleaning Supplies

More information on cleaning products is available in our Resource Sheet "Resource Management – Cleaning Products." In general, avoid products that contain the following ingredients:

- Fragrance
- Carcinogens, mutagens, or teratogens
- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Petroleum-based solvents
- Ozone-depleting compounds (CFC's)
- Heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.
- Substances that bio-accumulate
- Phosphates

Cleaning products should also have the following attributes:

- Reusable or recyclable packaging
- Recycled content packaging
- Reduced flammability
- Reduced packaging

Helpful Resources

See the Certifiably Green Denver website for more helpful resource sheets:

www.denvergov.org/CGD

EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp

EPA's EPP Tool Suite

www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/tools/index.htm



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