

Washoe County School District

Purchasing Lean & Green

Green Efforts Report 2010



In December, 2009, the Purchasing Department adopted the following environmentally-friendly purchasing policy:

The Washoe County School District's Purchasing Department embraces the responsibility to environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP). To support the effort of EPP the Purchasing Department will give preference to environmentally superior products where quality, function and cost are equal or better. In addition, the Purchasing Department will seek opportunities to increase sustainable and recycled product sourcing.

To date, the District has taken many strides toward our goal of environmentally preferable purchasing. The following is a summary of these efforts.

Office Supplies

The District's end users purchase a wide variety of recycled and/or environmentally-friendly office supplies. Purchases made this fiscal year thus far (since July 1, 2010) on recycled/environmentally-friendly office supply products alone totals over \$102,500.72.

Recycled Paper Products

Washoe County School District gives preference to recycled paper products when such product meets standards, costs no more than a comparable non-recycled product and can be substituted for a comparable non-recycled product.

Recycled Toner Cartridges

In April, 2010, the District awarded a contract to Global Industry Products for recycled toner cartridges. The contract includes a remanufactured/recycled cartridge for every machine used by the District (providing one is available).

Recycling Program

In September, 2010, Washoe County School District partnered with Waste Management on a district-wide single-stream recycling program. This program allows the recycling of virtually all trash with few exceptions, such as food waste. This program will result in a significant reduction in the amount of District trash sent to landfills.

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The Writing Instrument Brigade

The District's Purchasing Department is teaming with Terra cycle on an eco-friendly fund-raising project called "The Writing Instrument Brigade." This fund-raiser will work to collect used pens and various other writing instruments. Over 1 billion pens end up in our country's landfills each year, so the main goal of this effort would be to keep pens from entering the landfills.

Major On-going Projects

Washoe County School District boasts a multitude of projects that are environmentally preferable. A sampling of projects in process this fiscal year includes:

- Natural landscaping
- Use of recycled water for irrigation
- Use of natural, recyclable products for flooring such as rubber
- Use of low VOC paint products
- Occupant controllability of lights and HVAC
- Daylighting
- Installation of photovoltaic solar panels at multiple middle school locations
- Surplus furniture and equipment program

Summary

The initiatives described above are just a small portion of environmentally preferable programs that include a purchasing component that the District would eventually like to institute. In the coming months and years, Washoe County School District will continue to search out ways to effectively conduct business while caring for and considering the environmental impacts of our decisions.