

**WASTE SOURCE REDUCTION AND
RECYCLED PRODUCT CONTENT PROCUREMENT POLICY**

3/26/91

BACKGROUND

Supervisors should assist in the reduction of waste produced and the building of regional markets for products with recycled content. County leadership in this area is considered essential to promoting similar waste management practices and recycled-content product purchasing management practices and recycled-content product purchasing among private businesses and the general public. This also reflects the County's waste reduction and recycling philosophy and commitment to progressive waste management solutions.

This policy concerns itself with the source of wastes produced and the source of materials used to manufacture products the County purchases and uses. The objective is to ensure that the waste stream is reduced to the maximum extent feasible and that no product manufactured with recycled or "secondary" material is discriminated against for reasons other than function; and further, to direct that such products are to be preferred over goods made strictly with virgin material when recycled-content products can meet the necessary standards of performance. The purchase of recycled-content products is necessary to close the recycling "loop". Improving the economics of recycling is also essential to guarantee the long-term health of the County's recycling investment.

PURPOSE

To decrease the amount of waste generated and to decrease the amount of waste disposed by landfill.

To increase the recycled content of products purchased and used by the County of Napa, its contractors and its grantees.

To reduce waste in the manufacture and use of products and packaging purchased by the County

To provide guidance to County staff evaluating the purchase of products for County use.

POLICY

WHEREAS, the volume of material disposed of at Napa County landfills has been increasing annually; and

WHEREAS, sanitary landfill space is at a premium, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to site new landfills; and

WHEREAS, much of the material that enters the waste stream can be minimized; and
WHEREAS, much of the material that enters the waste stream can be recycled, reused or incorporated in the manufacture of new products; and

WHEREAS, Napa County's participation in and promotion of recycling programs can significantly reduce the volume of material entering the waste stream thereby extending landfill life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, for recycling programs to be effective, markets must be developed for products which are reusable, or are designed to be recycled, or which incorporate post-consumer materials in their manufacture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Napa County do hereby adopt the following Policy:

I. DEFINITIONS

1. Definition of Waste Source Reduction:

- A. Source Reduction. Any action which causes a net reduction in the generation of solid waste. "Source reduction includes, but is not limited to, reducing the use of non-recyclable materials; replacing disposable materials and products with reusable materials and products; reducing packaging; reducing the amount of waste generated; increasing the efficiency of the use of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic and other materials. "Source reduction" promotes the durability, reusability and recyclability of product selection. "Source reduction does not include steps taken after the material becomes solid waste."

2. Definition of Recycled Content:

- A. Post-Consumer Recovered Material. A finished material which would normally be disposed of as a solid waste, having completed its life cycle as a consumer item. Examples of post-consumer recovered materials include, but are not limited to, used newspaper, office paper, yard waste, plastic bottles, oil, asphalt, concrete and tires.
- B. Pre-Consumer Recovered Material. Material or by-products generated after manufacturing of a product is completed, but before the product reaches the end use consumer. Examples of pre-consumer recovered materials include, but are not limited to, obsolete inventories of finished goods, rejected unused stock and paper waste generated during printing, cutting and other converting operations.

This category does not include mill or manufacturing trim, scrap or "broke", which is material generated at a manufacturing site and commonly reused within the manufacturing process. For example, pre-consumer paper waste sources not considered "recycled" components of a paper product include, but are not limited to, fibers recovered from waste water, trimmings of paper rolls, sawdust, chips, wood slabs and other wood residue from a manufacturing process and such materials sold between mills.

- C. Total Recovered Material. The total pre- and post-consumer recovered material contained in a product.

II. WASTE SOURCE REDUCTION AS A PRIORITY

It is County policy, whenever practicable, to purchase products which will minimize the amount of solid waste generated. The purchase of products shall promote the durability, reusability and recyclability of the products. Important criteria in selecting products shall also be:

1. The ability of product and its packaging to be reused, reconditioned for use or recycled through existing collection programs.
2. The volume and toxicity of waste and by-products a given product and its packaging generate in their manufacture, use, recycling and disposal. Products and packaging designed to minimize waste and toxic by-products in their manufacture, use, recycling and disposal shall be preferred.

III. RECYCLED CONTENT PREFERENCE

It is County policy, whenever practicable, to purchase products which contain in order of preference:

1. The highest percentage of post-consumer recovered material available in the marketplace.
2. The highest percentage of pre-consumer recovered material available in the marketplace.

In addition, in purchasing paper products, it is County policy, whenever practicable, to purchase products which at a minimum met the State of California's definition of "recycled paper products", i.e., at least 10 percent post-consumer recovered material and at least 50 percent total recovered material.

IV. EQUIPMENT COMPATIBILITY

Equipment purchased or rented by the County shall be compatible, whenever practicable, with the use of recycled-content products.