

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Practices Policy

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Governance. The Board of Directors (“Board”) for Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (“District”) consists of five members (“Directors”) of the Board. As the governing body of the District, the Board reviews and approves District policies. The Board has delegated responsibility for policy administration to the District’s Executive Director (“ED”), including but not limited to the development of procedures and internal controls to implement the policies.

Purpose of the Policy. It is the policy of the District to institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness; purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to workers, vulnerable populations, and community safety; purchase products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their production, shipping, use, and discard; and purchase products that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, use unbleached or chlorine-free manufacturing processes, are lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably-harvested forests.

The adoption of an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Practices Policy will help conserve natural resources; minimize environmental impacts such as pollution and use of water and energy; eliminate or reduce toxics that create hazards to workers and our community; support strong recycling markets; reduce materials that are landfilled; increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable products that protect the environment; identify environmentally preferable products and distributions systems; reward manufacturers and vendors that reduce environmental impacts in their production and distribution systems or services; and potentially serve as a model for successfully purchasing environmentally preferable products that encourages the use of agricultural fibers, chlorine-free manufacturing processes, wood from sustainably harvested forests, and other environmentally friendly practices, and that encourages other purchasers in our community to adopt similar goals.

Policy Revisions. The Board reviews District policies annually. Any Director or the ED may make recommendations for changes to a policy at any time, but all policy changes require approval by the Board.

Statement of Non-Discrimination. The District conducts its business on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, political affiliation or beliefs, sex, age, physical handicap, medical condition,

marital status or pregnancy (as those terms are defined by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act – Government Code Section 12900-12996). Additionally, the Board has adopted a Statement of Diversity and Inclusion to ensure diversity and environmental justice are key components of the District’s strategic planning and programmatic work.

II. STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following concepts are hereby recognized and will be used to guide the District in its implementation of environmentally preferable purchases and practices:

Producer Responsibility and Source Reduction

- Products have an environmental standard issued by a third-party or government agency where available.
- Vendors or manufacturers agree to take back old product or packaging to be recycled or cover the cost of recycling/disposal.

Recycled Content

- Products contain recycled content that meets or exceeds the California State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign requirements.
- Products contain recycled content that meets or exceeds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, if higher than the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign requirements.
- Products contain recycled content as recommended in the Department of General Services Buying Green Guide.

Energy and Water Savings

- Products are ENERGY STAR® rated for energy efficiency under an ENERGY STAR program. A "designated product" is designated under the Federal Energy Management Program as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency.
- Products are WaterSense certified, if certification is available.

Toxicity and Pollution

- Materials used in products are non-hazardous to the extent feasible.
- Products do not emit harmful air emissions or volatile organic compounds to the extent feasible.
- Products are readily bio-degradable and non-persistent in the environment after use, where practicable.

Buildings and Grounds

- All District-owned or managed building and renovations follow the green building practices for design, construction and operation, where appropriate, as described in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design *Green Building Rating System*.

Habitat Preservation

- Raw materials used in products are sustainably harvested or contain recycled content, to the extent feasible.
- Raw materials used in products are renewable resources (e.g., not based on a fossil fuel), to the extent feasible.

Continual Improvement

- Training is provided to new and existing employees.
- Organization regularly evaluates and/or improves implementation of EPPP policy.

Policy Change Log:

Date	Action
02/04/2021	Board adopted policy.