

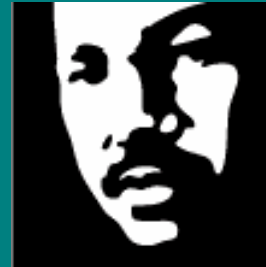
Purchasing environmentally preferable products from a government perspective

Johanna Kertesz



Many great EPP efforts

- King County, Washington
- State of Massachusetts
- State of California
- Responsible Purchasing Network
- Etc....



King County



Guiding Statute

- Minnesota Statute defines waste hierarchy
- encourages “reduction in the amount and toxicity of waste generated”



Other Minnesota Laws

- State Government Resource Recovery program
- Purchase of recycled, repairable, and durable materials
- Purchase and use of paper stock, printing



Local governments have passed
EPP-related ordinances and
resolutions

Minnesota's EPP Program



- 1 FTE dedicated to increasing EPP by **governments**
- Coordination with Dept. of Admin's MMD
- Several active counties and cities
- Work with existing groups and programs

Why government?

- Government has HUGE purchasing power



Drive the market for green products

Why government?

- “Lead by example” philosophy



Encourage other public entities, businesses, and citizens to buy green

EPP at the State Level

- State contracts
- Work with existing groups and programs
- ALP Trainings



State contracts

- Incorporate environmental specs
- Assist with RFPs and bid review
- Focus on big impact contracts
- Use environmental codes to track EPP off contracts



Increase availability of green products

State contract successes



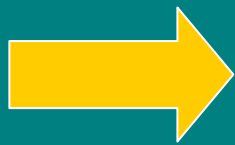
Tracking EPP

Environmental Codes

- EE = Energy Efficient
- LT = Less Toxic
- PB = Plant-based
- RB = Rebuilt
- RC = Recycled Content (post-consumer)
- RK = Reduced Packaging
- EM = Remanufactured
- RE = Repair
- US = Used
- WC = Water Conserving
- MU = Multiple Codes
- TO = Other
- NO = None

Work with State Agencies

- Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)
- Office Supply Connection



Increase awareness &
implementation of EPP

ALP Trainings

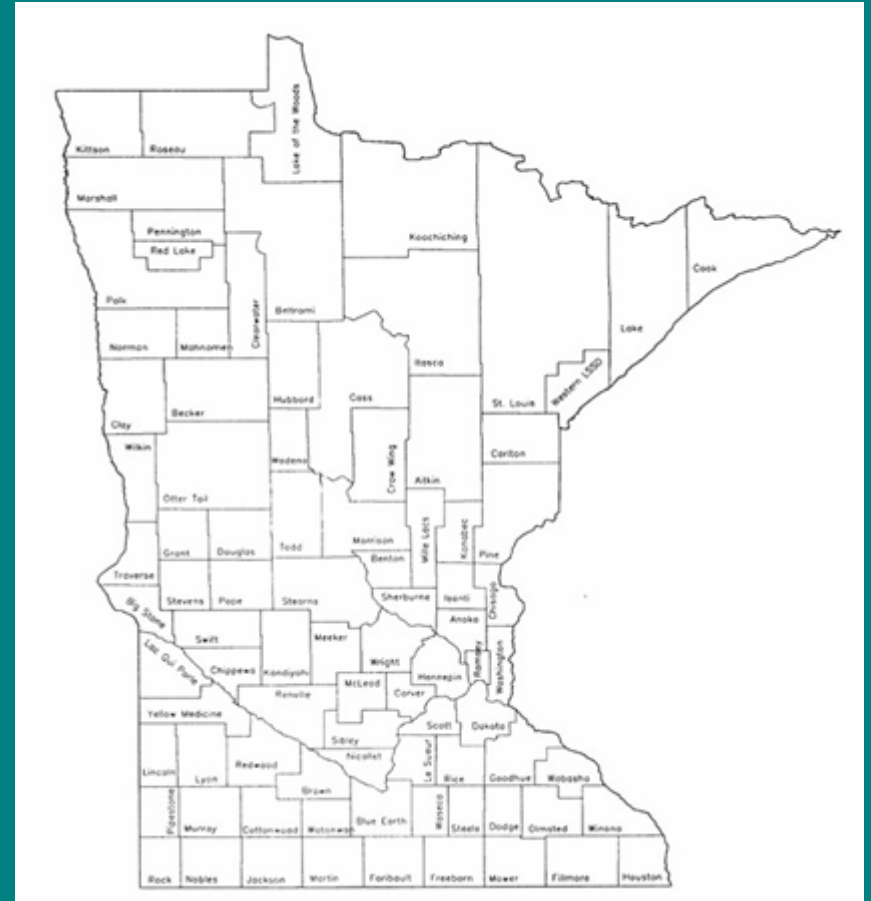
- Quarterly Authority for Local Purchasing (ALP) Trainings
- Intro to EPP for new state purchasers



Increase awareness &
implementation of EPP

EPP at the Local Government Level

- GREEN Group
- Work with existing groups
- EPP Workshops



GREEN Group

- **G**overnments for **R**esponsible **EPP** and **E**nvironmental **N**etworking
- Connects the Metro EPP community
- Meets quarterly

 Helps increase EPP within the Metro

Work with Local Governmental Groups

- Assist staff who are overextended in smaller cities and counties
- Contacts made thru county Solid Waste Administrators
- Work with existing groups to share EPP information and resources



Increase awareness & implementation of EPP

EPP Workshops

- EPP workshops for purchasers hosted by counties
- Intro to EPP, related benefits and savings
- Speakers from private, public, non-profit sectors



Increase awareness and
implementation of EPP

Local Government Successes

- Green cleaning at Hennepin County's HCMC
- Sustainable building features at Dakota County's Lebanon Hills Visitor Center



Common Barriers

- Leased buildings
- Resistance to change
- Budget/time constraints
- Uncooperative individuals

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide (EPPG)

- EPPG published in 1999, updated in 2000 and 2002
- Original EPPG in print and web versions
- Info on EPP alternatives



Provide information to facilitate EPP

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING GUIDE

what you buy matters more than you think



- Create a more user friendly guide, provide the information *purchasers* need to implement EPP
- Content and web layout updates currently in progress



Connect with purchasers
state-wide, increase EPP

The screenshot shows the GreenGuardian.com website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The page features a green header with the site logo and tagline: "Your go-to guide for waste and recycling in the Twin Cities." Below the header, there are navigation links for "residents", "businesses", "kids", "media parents & teachers", and "government". The main content area is titled "THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING GUIDE" and includes a search bar and a drop-down menu labeled "eppg looking for information on a particular material?". The drop-down menu is highlighted with a black oval and an arrow pointing to it from a purple text box. Below the search bar, there are several sections with icons and titles: "Why Buy?", "What to Buy? Products & Services", "Where/How to Buy? Useful Resources", and "Tools".

Each page includes this drop-down menu

- * EPPG Home Page
- Subheadings
- Why Buy?
- What to Buy?
- Useful Resources
- Tools
- Glossary

EPPG Symbols | GreenGuardian.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.greenguardian.com/government/eppgfull_symbols_list

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

EPPG Symbols | GreenGu... Hennepin County

for residents
for businesses
for kids
for the media
parents & teachers
for government


EPPG
Why Buy?
What to Buy?
Useful Resources
Tools
Glossary

grants

sign-up for greentips
your email here


eppg symbols


Header


 **Less Hazardous**
Products containing hazardous chemicals can pose health risks to employees and the public, as well as threaten the environment. In addition, hazardous products often require special and costly waste disposal* methods. Buy products that are labeled with none of the following signal words or those with the lowest level of hazard possible (but that still get the job done).

- Caution: mild to moderate hazard
- Warning: moderate hazard
- Danger: corrosive, extremely flammable, or highly toxic
- Poison: highly toxic


If less-hazardous alternatives are not readily available, use the least amount of a hazardous product needed to accomplish a task. Use up all of the product before throwing the container or packaging away.


 **Conserves Energy**
Reducing energy use is important because most energy production contributes to problems such as carbon dioxide emissions (tied to global warming), mercury releases, acid rain, volatile organic compounds*, and nuclear waste. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy developed the Energy Star label to help purchasers identify energy-efficient products. These products reduce utility bills and help the environment.

 **Recycled Content**
Recycled-content products save energy and resources, while also keeping waste out of landfills and incinerators. Recycled-content products can be made with post-consumer content, pre-consumer content*, or a mix of both. Products made with post-consumer recycled content* support our recycling programs at home and at work. If people do not buy products with post-consumer recycled content, manufacturers will no longer want the paper, cans, glass, or plastic we separate from trash. Pre-consumer content comes primarily from manufacturer scrap, and as such does not directly support such recycling efforts.

 **Prevents Waste**
Minnesota generates over 5 million tons of municipal solid waste* annually, and this amount is increasing every year. Much of this waste comes from disposable and over-packaged products. Preventing waste can conserve natural resources and avoid the need to build new, expensive waste disposal* facilities. You prevent waste when:

- Reducing the amount of material you buy to accomplish any task;
- Reusing a product in its original form; or
- Using repairable, refillable, or durable products.

 **Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)**
VOCs* evaporate ("volatilize") easily at room temperature and often have a sharp smell. They are contained in many products, such as office equipment, adhesives, carpeting, upholstery, manufactured wood products, paints, solvents, pesticides, and cleaning products. Some VOCs can cause cancer in certain situations, especially when they are concentrated indoors. When VOCs hit sunlight, they create ozone, an air pollutant harmful to both people and plants. Many low-VOC versions of products reduce risks to human health and the environment.

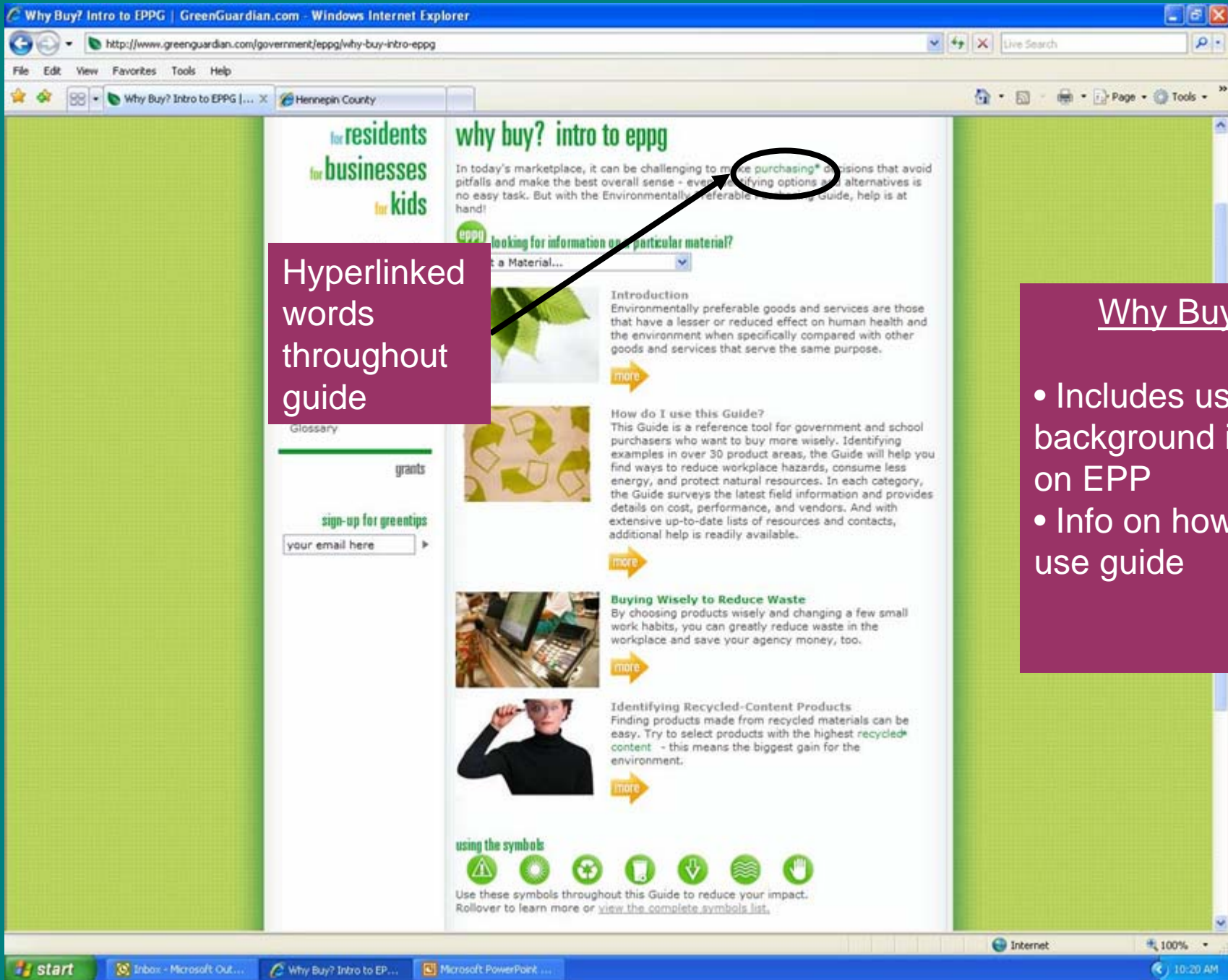
 **Conserves Water**
Less than 1% of the Earth's water is available for human consumption. There is

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Symbols

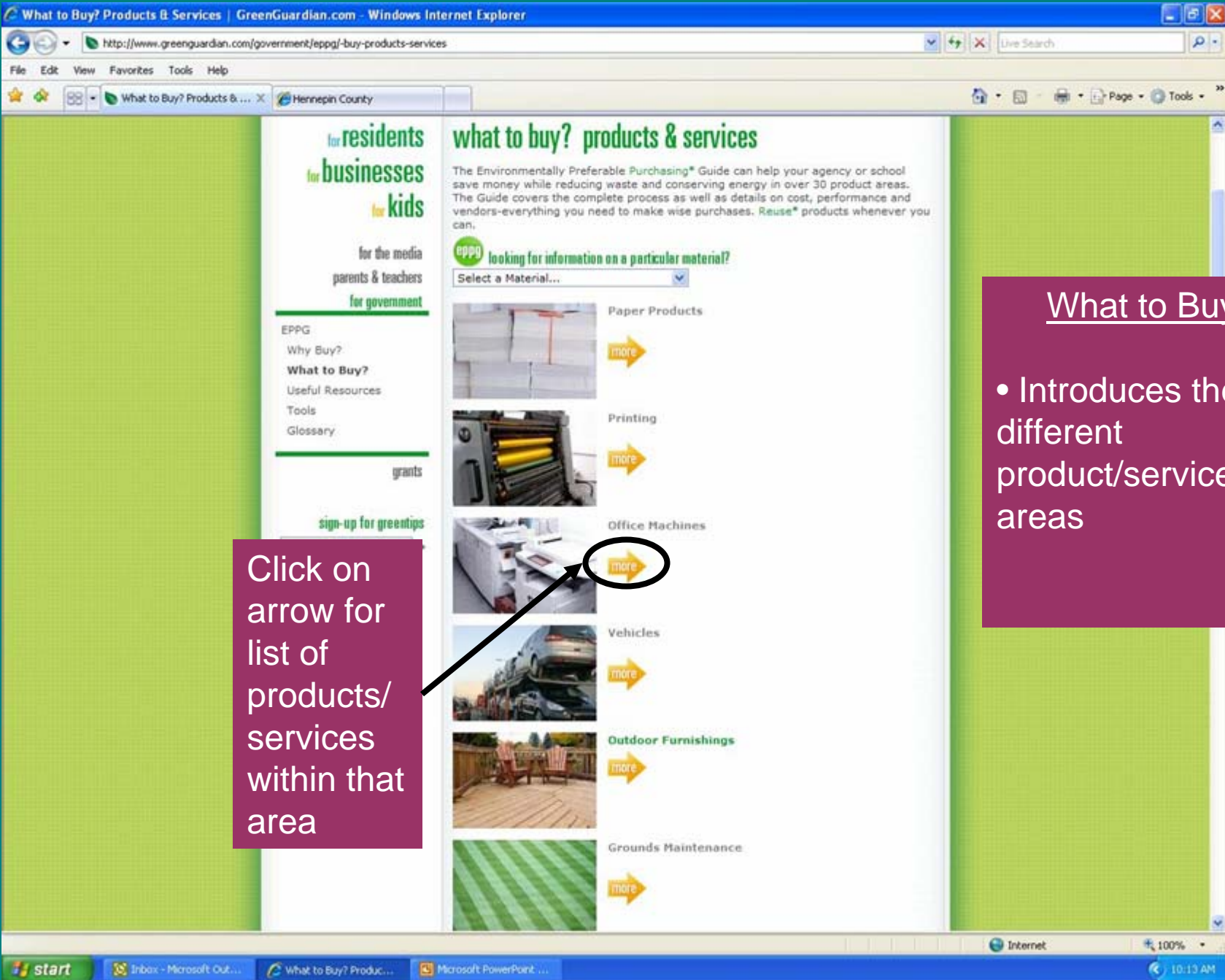
Detailed info on what each symbol represents; relevant symbols included at bottom of each product page



Hyperlinked words throughout guide

Why Buy?

- Includes useful background info on EPP
- Info on how to use guide



What to Buy?

- Introduces the different product/service areas

Click on arrow for list of products/services within that area

Building Maintenance | GreenGuardian.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.greenguardian.com/government/eppg/buy-products-services/building-maintenance

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Building Maintenance | Gr... X Hennepin County

for residents
for businesses
for kids

for the media
parents & teachers
for government

EPPG
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grants

building maintenance

EPPG looking for information on a particular material?

Select a Material...

Integrated Pest Management: Indoors
Too often when confronting infestations of weeds, insects, or rodents, workplaces resort to using chemicals. Experience quickly teaches that this approach provides at best a temporary solution. Worse, reliance on chemicals creates potential health and environmental risks both indoors and outdoors.

more

Office Cleaners
Every month, Minnesotans wash a staggering 700 tons of liquid cleaners down the drain. Typically, these cleaners are loaded with chemicals. Once through the drain, the chemicals usually run into the local wastewater system. But treatment can not always remove every contaminant. Some of the chemicals eventually flow into our rivers and lakes.

more

Plastic Waste Bags
A staple in most workplaces, plastic waste bags offer an ideal opportunity for environmentally preferable purchasing. Whether for use in trash cans or recycling bins, high quality recycled-content plastic waste bags are widely available. Their use conserves energy and promotes recycling. Workplaces can save money by instructing staff to replace bags only when they are too dirty or full for the work setting in which they are used.

more

Garbage and Recycling Services
Smart government waste management does more than simply set an example for Minnesota residents and businesses. Such practices can also keep a county, city, school district, or state agency out of the courtroom. Minnesota is a recognized leader in promoting waste management services that protect resources and avoid the need for expensive environmental clean-ups of contaminated surface and groundwater resources.

more

Paint
American businesses and households spend approximately \$18 billion annually on nearly 15 million tons of paints and

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Click on arrow to access detailed info on this product

Product Area Page

- Includes products/services that fall under the general heading

Office Cleaners | GreenGuardian.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.greenguardian.com/government/epgg/buy-products-services/building-maintenance/office-cleaners

Office Cleaners | GreenG... x Hennepin County

GreenGuardian.com Search this site
Your go-to guide for waste and recycling in the Twin Cities.

home > for government > eppg resources and websites > office cleaners

office cleaners

overview
Every month, Minnesotans wash a staggering 700 tons of liquid cleaners down the drain. Typically, these cleaners are loaded with chemicals. Once through the drain, the chemicals usually run into the local wastewater system. But treatment can not always remove every contaminant. Some of the chemicals eventually flow into our rivers and lakes.

In addition to waste issues, many cleaners contain chemicals that have harmful fumes capable of burning or eyes on contact. For workers who use them regularly, repeated long-term exposure may cause chronic illnesses or allergic reactions.

overview
laws & guidelines
performance
availability
cost
specifications
vendors
resources
sources

print all

Less Hazardous
Choosing less-hazardous products can minimize harmful impacts to custodial workers, improve indoor air quality, and reduce water pollution.

Prevents Waste
Buying cleaners in concentrates and returnable packaging reduces packaging waste.

End of Life Management
Buying less-hazardous cleaners may reduce your hazardous waste* costs when it comes time to properly dispose of any leftover cleaners.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide published by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, 4/00. The SWMCB includes members from the Minnesota metropolitan counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington, with ex-officio members from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
Last Revised April 18, 2008 - 10:34am

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Click on each link for detailed info on:

- Laws/Guidelines
- Performance
- Availability
- Cost
- Specs
- Vendors
- Resources
- Sources

Product Page

Provides overview of product including environmental and health issues, plus links to other info

Where/How to Buy? Useful Resources | GreenGuardian.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.greenguardian.com/government/eppg/where/how-buy-useful-resources

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Where/How to Buy? Usef... X Hennepin County

for residents
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grants


sign-up for greentips
your email here ▶


where/how to buy? useful resources


eppg looking for information on a particular material?
Select a Material...

 **Materials Exchange**
Materials exchange* promotes the reuse* of items that are usable in their current condition, but might otherwise be thrown away.
[more](#)









 **State and Local Surplus Programs**
Surplus* programs give unwanted items a second chance and keep them out of landfills and incinerators.
[more](#)

 **Minnesota State Contracts and the Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture**
Any city, county, town, school district, or other governmental unit can become a member of the Cooperative Purchasing* Venture and gain access to certain contracts established by the State of Minnesota.
[more](#)

 **State of Minnesota Office Supply Connection**
For government purchasers, Office Supply Connection is an online one-stop shopping service offering over 23,000 office products to all state and local governments, federal agencies, the University of Minnesota, and public schools. The State of Minnesota also maintains a contract* with S & T Office Products, Inc., offering purchasers access to wholesale inventory.
[more](#)

 **Cooperative Purchasing: U.S. Communities Program**
Participating in a cooperative purchasing* program provides an excellent means for public agencies to save time, money and resources when making product purchases and contracting for services.
[more](#)

using the symbols

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Where/How to buy?

Links to info on various national, state, and local programs

Up next in Minnesota

- Expansion of the GREEN Group
- Roll out of revised EPPG, state-wide promotion
- Connection with larger organizations of purchasers (i.e. MN Chapter of NIGP)

Make it work!

Key themes:

- Networking and Outreach
- Facilitation and Convenience

Make it work!

- Establish EPP staff, management support
- Build partnerships
- Connect with purchasers
- Develop EPP tools

The Bottom Line



**Feel free to contact me with any questions
or comments!**

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**Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency**