

BEST RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY PURCHASING

1 Sustainability Purchasing Network Online

www.buysmartbc.com

The Network is a premier source for information for sustainability purchasers. In this section, you can gain access to our collection of information and tools. The following resources are currently available online:

- Guide to the Business Case and Benefits of Sustainability Purchasing (November 2006) A Guide to help you understand the triple bottom line benefits (financial, social and environmental) and costs of sustainability purchasing
- Total Cost of Ownership Workbook (May 2006) A resource workbook describing a TCO workshop tool, best practices, and application, with a list of further resources
- Total Cost of Ownership Presentation (May 2006) A power point presentation on Total Cost of Ownership which details (a) the concept of Total Cost of Ownership; (b) how TCO is applied in the purchasing process; and (c) an overview of a practical TCO tool
- Sustainability Purchasing Survey Report (November 2006) Survey findings documenting specific training, information and collaboration needs of BC based purchasing organizations
- Sustainability Purchasing Initiative Scoping Study (June 2005) A Study assessing the interests and capacity development strategies related to a Sustainability Purchasing Network of lower-mainland British Columbian businesses and organizations

More tools are being added on a regular basis. Check back regularly to access the newest most useful purchasing resources.

2 Greater Vancouver Regional District

www.gvrd.bc.ca

- Business Guide to Eco-efficiency: 10 Strategies to Maximizing Efficiency, Improving Profits & Competitiveness
- Sustainable Purchasing Guide (2005)
Page 38 Sample Letter to Vendors on Sustainability
- Sustainable Supply Chain Logistics Guide (2006)
Page 9 Logistics Practice and Benefit Chart
Pages 30-32 Supply Chain Performance Self-Assessment Questionnaire

The GVRD's Smart Steps for Business program web site contains a wide array of useful and regionally relevant Total Cost of Ownership tools, case studies, and discussion papers.

3 Center for a New American Dream

www.newdream.org/buy

- Conscious consumer program – vivid film tour of world economy and tips and resources for the individual consumer
- Institutional Purchasing Program – guide to getting started on an environmental purchasing program with excellent resources such as: (1) a Hybrid Electric Vehicle Cost Calculator (compares costs and emissions between HEVs and conventional vehicles); (2) computer equipment tendering criteria; (3) accessible presentation of guidelines and criteria for janitorial products; and

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(4) list of purchasing policies by jurisdiction, product category, environmental attributes, and type of policy

- Research paper on “Policy Updates Inspire Environmental Purchasing” – based on a review of more than 80 US purchasing policies, recommends successful strategies and policy elements to be included when developing or updating an environmental purchasing policy. See: http://www.newdream.org/procure/Updates_Inspire_Env_Purch.pdf

4 Alliance for Environmental Innovation

www.environmentaldefense.org/corporate_innovation.cfm

Check out the online Business Toolkit that contains:

- Paper Supplier Evaluation Form
- MERGE Product Design Software Tool (software that integrates environmental considerations quickly and easily into the design or redesign of formulated products and their packaging)
- Paper Calculator (calculates savings to the environment in changing from virgin to recycled paper)

Overall, an excellent resource for practical case studies (including Starbucks, Citigroup, McDonalds) related to hybrid vehicles, recycled paper and plastic, and sustainable seafood.

5 Maquila Solidarity Network

www.maquilasolidarity.org

- Ethical Licensing & Purchasing Policies: Implementation Guide
- How To Become a No Sweat City Guide
Page 26 Model No Sweat Municipal Purchasing Policy
- What can your company do to make sure that products are made under humane conditions?
Page 3 Eight Steps to Cleaner Clothes

These resources are particularly useful given that they focus on the ethical aspects of sustainability purchasing and in particular, working conditions and labour standards in the Asia-Pacific region.

6 State of Minnesota, Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

www.swmcb.org/EPPG/default.asp

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide in online format with extensive criteria and specifications organized by commodity category. There is a useful online survey and extensive information on alternative products and services. Printable format available for online content.

7 European Union

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/gpp/index.htm>

Buying Green! A Handbook on Environmental Public Procurement

A visually beautiful resource for those interested in the European context.

8 Responsible Purchasing

www.responsible-purchasing.org

- Buying Matters Report (2006)
- Case Studies – international focus
- Measurement Indicators
- Background information intended to support the improvement of EU sourcing from developing countries.

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9 Global Environmental Management Initiative

www.gemi.org/supplychain

Forging New Links: Enhancing Supply Chain Value through Environmental Excellence
Interactive online “Value Wizard” helps you identify value creation opportunities based on (1) company characteristics, (2) emerging environmental health and safety issues, (3) business processes, and (4) value drivers. Each approach will add specific recommendations to the user’s “Opportunity Bin”, which can be examined at any time.

10 Commission for Environmental Cooperation

<http://www.cec.org/files/pdf/NAGPI%20Policy%20Paper2e.pdf>

- Environmental Purchasing Policies 101: An Overview of Current Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies (2004) based on a review of over 80 North American policies
 - North American Green Purchasing Initiative ECO S.A.T. (2004)
 - Best Practices Guide with advice on policies, process and implementation
 - Listing of Existing Green Procurement Initiatives and various publications
- See Appendix A: Eco-Self Assessment Tool (SAT)
This tool is dense and complex but rich in detail for the keen investigator.

11 Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/aboutus/default.aspx

Purchasing for Sustainability: Guidance for Higher Education Institutions
A British publication that provides good general information and institution-specific information.

12 Governments Incorporating Procurement Policies to Eliminate Refuse (GIPPER)

www.pmac.ca/PDF/gipper.pdf

GIPPER’s Guide to Environmental Purchasing (2001) – Third Edition
Page 67-68 Appendix: Verification of Environmentally Sound Attributes of Product Content
This handbook is one of the first of its kind in Canada and remains a useful resource for the evaluation of specific purchases: cleaning products, construction and demolition materials, lighting, lubricants, office equipment, paint and paper.

Sustainability Purchasing Network Definition of Sustainability Purchasing

There are many terms that describe aspects of sustainability purchasing or procurement. Some of these are environmental purchasing, green purchasing, ethical purchasing, social purchasing, or responsible purchasing. The SPN defines sustainability purchasing as a management process used to acquire goods and services (“products”) in a way that gives preference to suppliers that generate positive social and environmental outcomes, and that integrates sustainability considerations into product selection so that impacts on society and the environment are minimized throughout the full life cycle of the product. Sustainability purchasing entails looking at what products are made of, where they have come from, who has made them, how they will be ultimately disposed – even considering whether the purchase needs to be made at all.