

## PE3 Action: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

1 Points

2 Points

3 Points

4 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

A local government's commitment to climate action should extend to how it can influence climate action and efficiency outside its own operations. One important way to do this is through its purchasing. Demand for energy efficient and environmentally responsible products will improve market penetration. In addition, establishing an environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policy institutionalizes decisions on appliances, products, and materials.

### B. How to implement this action

EPP policies can be adopted can include standards for some or all the following components:

- Energy efficient appliances
- Energy efficient information technology equipment
- Efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment
- Recycled material content
- Recyclable materials
- Forest stewardship
- Locally-produced goods
- Organic goods and foods

Because this pledge element aims to reduce energy demand in local government operations, the EPP adopted must, at a minimum, include standards for purchase of energy-efficient equipment, using standards such as [ENERGY STAR](#).

### C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

This policy can be adopted in a short time. It will require coordination among various staff to determine policy scope, language, and specifications. It may require additional research to determine product specifications and identify model language, but this action is likely to require primarily administrative time and resources. Implementation of the policy may result in some cost premiums for products, though those premiums continue to diminish as demand has risen for energy efficient and environmentally preferable products.

### D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action can be implemented by any local government. The procurement or purchasing officer or department will be primarily responsible but likely in consultation with facilities staff.

### E. How to obtain points for this action

Local governments can earn points for this action by adopting a purchasing policy covering the environmental considerations outlined in Section B.

POSSIBLE POINTS

Energy efficiency standards included in policy	1
Recycled materials standards included in policy	1
Locally produced/organic goods standards included in policy	1
Forest stewardship standards included in policy	1

## F. What to submit

Submit documentation of the written policy as well as signed documentation of its adoption by the local government. Additionally, provide reference to and/or a copy of any definitions, specifications, and/or standards referenced in the adopted policy. The policy should have been adopted or updated within the past 5 years of the application date or include specifications that account for the availability of new, more efficient and/or more environmentally preferable products.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

## G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [US EPA About the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program](#)
- [US EPA Local Government Climate and Energy Strategy Series- Energy Efficient Product Procurement](#)
- [Center for a New American Dream, Environmental Purchasing Resources \(2003\)](#)
- [Forest Stewardship Council](#)
- [Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement - Factsheet on Climate and Construction](#)
- [Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement - Factsheet on Climate and Transport](#)

## H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.