



The Evergreen School Environmental Purchasing Policy

The Evergreen School supports minimizing environmental impacts relating to our work by purchasing products that reduce waste, use less energy, have recycled content, are less toxic, are recyclable, or are more durable.

The following are the recommendations of the Green School Committee:

- CLOSE THE LOOP: Buy recycled. For high-use paper products (e.g. notebook and copy paper, toilet paper, and paper towels), purchasers are strongly encouraged to find paper with a high post-consumer waste (PCW) percentage. The post-consumer number is the percentage of paper that has been collected from recycling containers and used as pulp to make new paper. This paper is the most important for conserving resources and minimizing pollution and waste.
- REDUCE EMISSIONS: Find alternatives for highly toxic products, including highlighters, correction fluid, whiteboard markers, and cleaning products with chlorine bleach.
- RETHINK AND REDUCE: Consider all your options before purchasing- can you share? Buy used? Buy less? Do without? Will it last?
- SPEND MORE/ SAVE MORE: When you find that recycled products cost a bit more, remember that over the lifetime of the product the “cheaper” product may have a much greater environmental cost and you may need to re-purchase if it wears out! Spending more up front can be a smart investment.

Green School Environmental Purchasing

Environmentally sustainable means to make conservation practices an integral part of standard practice and to engage the community. To expand our conservation practices and to continue our efforts to live up to the King County Green Globe Award, Leader in Sustainable Schools, environmental purchasing **throughout the entire school** is another step we can take in our efforts to reduce our ecological footprint.

Environmental Purchasing: buying products that reduce waste, use less energy, have recycled content, are less toxic, are recyclable or are more durable.

Examples of product criteria:

Purchase recycled-content products

- Copier paper
- Letterhead
- Envelopes
- File folders
- All other paper
- Pencils-at least 100% total recycled content with at least 50% post-consumer. Or buy refillable pens and pencils.
- Binders
- Clipboards
- Self-stick notes
- Label

Purchase Durable products-long lasting, less maintenance and use less energy.

Purchase non-toxic products

Highlighters and Markers

- Water-based, certified AP non-toxic
- When purchasing dry-erase or permanent markers, choose “low odor”
- Or choose refillable, if available-KCDA

Correction Fluid

- Water-based, non-toxic, ozone-safe

Cleaning products

Art Supplies

- Non-toxic paints, modeling clay

Glue and glue sticks

Whiteboard cleaner

Reduce

- Do you really need that item?
- Consider having two or more purchasing periods so that you don't over stock items that later you may not need.
- Can you share items with other teachers?

