



RESPONSIBLE (GREEN) PURCHASING PROGRAM

OUTREACH UPDATE

The Purchasing Office has made Green Purchasing Presentations at the following events in the past year:

- National Forum for Black Public Administrators - Outlook 2010
- Austin Service Providers and Trade Associations - Doing Business Green
 - Asian Contractor Association (ACTA)
 - Austin Area Black Contractor's Association (ABCA)
 - U.S Hispanic Contractors Association (USHCA)
- Green Garden Certification
- National Institute for Government Purchasing - National Forum
- Texas Green Network - Southwest Key Center
- BIG Austin 2009 - Small Business at Work
- Sustainable Food Board
- Community Mentor Protégé Initiative (CMPI)
- *Scheduled:* Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - July 22, 2010

The Purchasing Office has Attended these events over the past 12 months:

- Texas' Changing Economic Climate - Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)
- Slow Money Austin Showcase Event
- UT Sustainable Business Summit
- People Fund - Clean Economy as Engine for Social Equity
- Eco Series - Pecan Street Project
- Austin Clean Energy Group - Smart Grid, Carbon Markets
- Net Impact Austin: 2 UT Chapter and 3 Professional Chapter Events
- Texas-Israel Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Austin Community Climate Protection Plan
- Austin Solar Energy Entrepreneur's Network
- Green Home Expo
- U.S. Business Council on Sustainable Development
- Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Distinguished Speakers



Other Accomplishments of the Responsible (Green) Purchasing Program:

- Approved: 2 Commodity Guidelines - (Sustainable Landscaping, Cleaning Products and Services)
- In Process: 8 Commodity Guidelines - (Paper, Document Imaging, Printer Cartridges, Paint, Carpet and Flooring, Oils and Lubricants, Furniture, Lighting)
- Successful "Brass Ring" Projects with UT Undergraduate Student Interns
- Increased emphasis and use of "Best-Value" versus "Low-Bid" solicitations
- City-wide resource for developing sustainable specifications for specifications
- Purchasing Refresher - All AIMS Users and Buyers
- Green Purchasing Overview, Compliance - 15 Presentations, 27 Departments
- *Scheduled:* Climate Action Team - Responsible (Green) Purchasing Review - July 9, 2010

Austin Climate Protection Program (ACPP) Annual Update for "Procurement and Materials Management" - 2010

reading
Since 2008, and in conjunction with the Austin Climate Protection Program, the Purchasing Office has been implementing a Responsible (Green) Purchasing Program to help the City identify more sustainable alternatives to traditional goods and services. As a City-wide initiative, the "Green" Purchasing Program has made contributions among all City departments to track, measure, and encourage the use of sustainable products and services with the following attributes:

1. Locally Produced Products and Services
2. Reduced Packaging and Concentrated Products
3. Contain a High-Percentage of Recycled Materials or that are Easily Recyclable
4. Bio-based or Bio-Degradable Products
5. Energy and Water Efficient Products
6. Use Alternative Fuels or Renewable Energy in the Manufacturing or Operations
7. Lower Carbon Footprint of the Delivered Goods or Services
8. Eliminate Hazardous or Toxic Chemicals, Promote Use of Organic Products

A significant portion of our efforts have been focused on the internal operations of the City's Purchasing Office including adopting "best-value" evaluation methods for contract award. A tracking system for identifying the type and dollars spent on products with sustainable attributes has been implemented. Additionally, we are finalizing the first set of ten "Commodity Guidelines" which include sample sustainable criteria reinforcing the City's commitment to commercially viable, environmentally preferable, fiscally neutral specifications for sustainable alternatives for commonly purchased goods and services. We plan to launch the Commodity Guidelines on the Purchasing website at the end of calendar year 2010 as a tool to help Buyers, Vendors, and department Users standardize purchases that have a significant impact on the City's carbon footprint. In early 2010, the City Management approved Departmental Climate Protection Plans which included sections on purchasing and materials management. "What we buy" and "how we buy" are important factors for departments looking to reduce their GHG emissions. *Oct 1 mandatory*
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For the past year, community outreach has been another major component for the Green Purchasing Program. We have made concerted efforts to speak with environmental leaders, trade associations, non-profit groups, and chambers of commerce in Austin to help the local vendor community understand the City's sustainability initiatives, register existing local businesses as vendors, and reinforce the fact that there are opportunities for businesses to grow by marketing more sustainable products and services. A critical component of the success of the City's sustainability programs will be whether there are local and small businesses ready, willing, and able to provide environmentally, socially, and economically responsible products to the City.

In addition to supporting the goals of the Climate Protection Program, the Purchasing Office also helps support other City sustainability initiatives including the Zero Waste Initiative, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Resolutions, Water Conservation, and Watershed Protection Programs. The Responsible (Green) Purchasing Program is a City-wide resource committed to helping reduce the negative social and environmental impacts of our purchases. For additional information on the City's Responsible (Green) Purchasing Program, please contact Aiden Cohen at Aiden.Cohen@ci.austin.tx.us.