

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-092**

Adopting a Policy for Paper and Paint Purchasing and Setting Goals for Paper Use

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. In March and April of 2002, the City of Portland and Multnomah County adopted The Sustainable Procurement Strategy: A Joint City of Portland and Multnomah County Effort to set the process and direction for a sustainable procurement effort.
- b. Task teams comprised of City of Portland and Multnomah County employees found that taking simple steps, such as reconsidering the paper we use – 105,000 reams of copy paper a year – or the type of paint we use – hundreds of gallons of new paint a year - will make a lasting difference.
- c. Existing PCRB rule 30-0009 adopted by Multnomah County supports the purchase of recycled content products. State statutes including Oregon Revised Statute 279.570 Preference for Recycled Materials, also “encourage the use of recycled products whenever quality of a recycled product is functionally equal to the same product manufactures with virgin resources.”
- d. Reducing the rate of consumption of natural resources and the extraction of virgin materials through the use of recycled content products is essential to maintaining the natural resource base required for sustainable economic development.
- e. Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic chemicals (PBTs) are toxic, persist in the environment and build up in the food chain posing risks to public health and the environment. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified dioxin as a priority PBT slated for elimination through national, regional, and local mandates. Pulp and paper bleaching processes that use chlorine compounds have been identified as producing dioxin as a by-product. Paper bleached without chlorine (PCF - Processed Chlorine Free or TCF – Totally Chlorine Free) adds no additional dioxin or other organochlorides to the environment, preventing pollution.
- f. In order to protect remaining endangered forests of the world, it is essential to encourage the paper industry to clearly identify the origin of the fibers used to manufacture their products and to certify that the fibers used are not from endangered forests.

- g. Alternative environmentally preferable paper is readily available in the marketplace. For example, paper that contains 50% and 100% post-consumer recycled content and is processed chlorine free can be purchased now. . Additionally, over 100 private organizations and public agencies nationally have committed to purchase paper that meet these criteria.
- h. Reducing paper use supports goals included in the adopted Local Action Plan on Global Warming and can be accomplished by a variety of means including: setting copier defaults to duplex mode; increasing the use of internal centralized printing and including duplex capability in new equipment purchases and/or contracts.
- i. Many of the materials used to make paints are derived from petrochemicals. Oil and natural gas extraction is responsible for a variety of environmental pollutants, including air emissions and discharge of toxic wastes into lakes and streams. Using rebleded paint minimizes waste generation, natural resource depletion, habitat destruction, and energy consumption from paint production.
- j. Over 1500 contractors, architects, and local governments use rebleded latex paint.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. To reduce overall printing and copy paper consumption by 10% by September 2005 and 15% by 2008 from fiscal year 2001 levels.
2. To require that all copier and general use paper product purchases by Multnomah County shall at a minimum meet EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines and Recovered Materials Advisory Notice standards. Additionally, Multnomah County shall set a target for a minimum of 10% of paper products used to be alternative environmentally preferable paper. To assure this goal is met, all copier and general use paper purchases by Multnomah County shall be made through Central Stores, unless a contract currently in effect requires purchase from a particular vendor.
3. To establish a preference for post-consumer recycled content paper products that are processed chlorine free with a goal that all copier and general use paper products will be processed chlorine free by September 2005.
4. To commit to achieving a minimum 50% post consumer content for all copier and general use paper products by September 2005.
5. To require the use of rebleded latex paints when latex paint is specified and appropriate for the application.

6. To direct the Chair to implement this policy and provide information to county employees about sustainable purchasing guidelines and methods to reduce paper consumption. The Chair will also provide a report to the Board on the goals established in this resolution by September 2005.

ADOPTED this 19th day of June, 2003

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

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John S. Thomas, Assistant County Attorney