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GOVERNMENT. PROCUREMENT

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EARNED VALUE
MANAGEMENT

LEASING

POST AWARD
DEBRIEFING

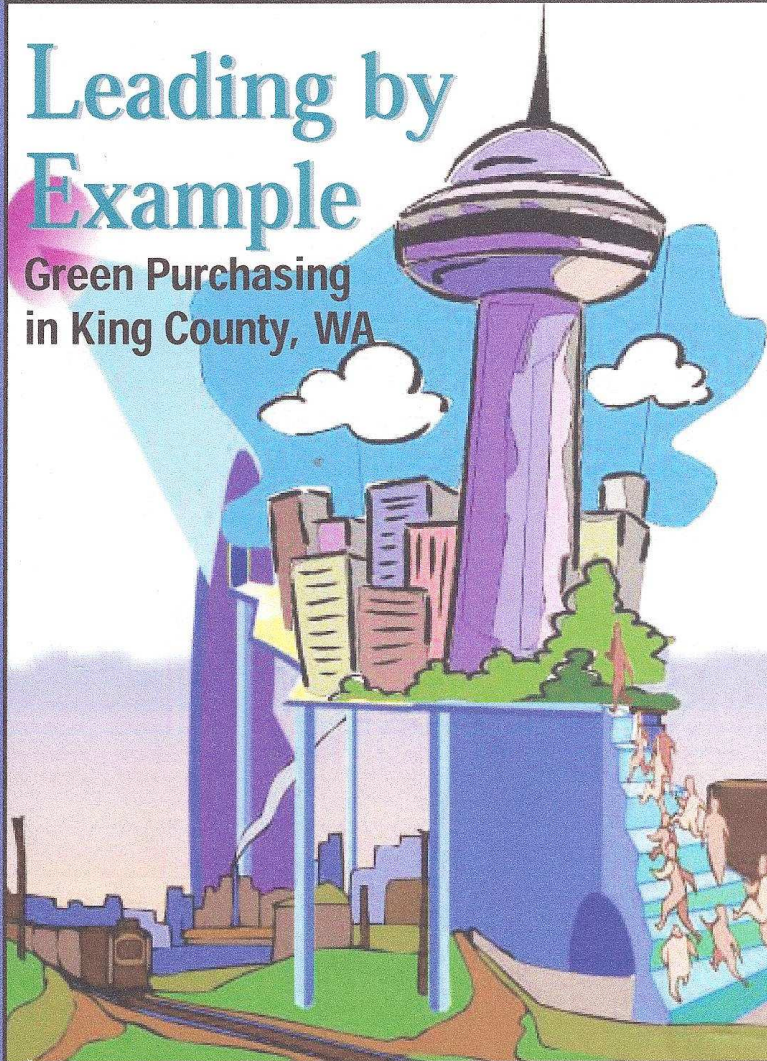
ENERGY COST
SAVINGS

P-CARDS

NATIONAL
PURCHASING
INSTITUTE

Leading by Example

Green Purchasing
in King County, WA



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end user). It can require writing new specifications, identifying additional suppliers, and developing the appropriate expertise on the bid-evaluation team. The environmental purchasing managers facilitate the process by conducting any additional research, sharing information among the various parties, and documenting the benefits of the resulting effort.

Purchasing Examples

Each year, King County makes dozens of environmentally preferable purchasing decisions. Each purchase is documented to record the resulting benefits and any recommendations for future purchases. Information about each purchase is available on the King County Environmental Purchasing Web site www.govinfo.biz/5196-252. A few sample purchases are highlighted below.

■ **Asphalt Cold Patch** - To repair potholes and cracks in asphalt road surfaces, the county uses a product made from 75 percent post-consumer asphalt that releases significantly fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs) than traditional patching methods. The highly durable product also saves time when roads need to be repaved because it does not require any additional preparation, unlike other patching methods. In 2004, the county used approximately 46 tons of the product.

■ **Biobased Lubricants, Fuels** - Vegetable based lubricants and hydraulic fluids, unlike their petroleum-based counterparts, are readily biodegradable, low in toxicity, less hazardous to workers, and less expensive to clean in case of a spill. Given King County's proximity to numerous waterways and the potential threat to wildlife that could result from a spill, the county has been using biobased hydraulic oils in a lot of its outdoor equipment. The county bought more than 1,750 gallons of biobased fluids in 2004. The county also bought almost 60,000 gallons of biodiesel in the first half of 2005 to blend with the Ultra Low

Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) it uses to fuel the county's 1,200 bus fleet. The biodiesel is mixed with the ULSD to produce a blend that is five percent biodiesel (B5). By the end of 2006, all 1,200 buses will run on the B5 blend, which will require a purchase of half a million gallons of biodiesel to mix with ten million gallons of ULSD. The biodiesel purchase is one of the largest in the country and is being partially funded with a grant from Seattle City Light.

■ **Electronics Recycling** - To prevent the heavy metals and other toxins present in most electronic products from entering the environment, King County developed an electronics recycling contract to ensure electronic equipment was properly recycled at the end of its useful life. In 2004, the county recycled more than 350 computer monitors, 173 televisions, 9,800 pounds of other electronic equipment, and more than 3,000 pounds of batteries.

■ **Hybrid Vehicles** - Seeking to reduce fuel use and the associated emissions, King County has built a fleet of 140 fuel-efficient hybrid electric vehicles. Its fleet includes 115 Toyota Prius and 25 Ford Escape hybrid vehicles. According to Win Mitchell, Fleet Management Director, their use is expected to save 14,000 gallons of fuel annually. In addition, the county ordered more than 200 hybrid buses, which are expected to save an additional 350,000 gallons of fuel each year.

■ **Hydrostripping Services** - In an attempt to save money and reduce the environmental impact associated with making new road signs, the county issued a contract to use high pressure water to remove paint and reflective laminates from old road signs so they could be repainted and reused. While the contract was not

World Wide Resource

The King County Environmental Purchasing Program is highly respected around the world for its green purchasing success. In 2004, the county received comments and questions from throughout the United States and international inquires from:

- Argentina
- Canada
- China
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- India
- Iran
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Puerto Rico
- Scotland
- Spain
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- Vietnam

as successful and widely used as originally hoped, the contract still saved approximately \$1,100 during the 18-month reporting period.

■ **Plastic Lumber** - The sideboards of King County dump trucks used to be outfitted with high-quality, old growth Douglas fir. The county is now using recycled-plastic lumber instead. The plastic lumber has a higher initial cost, but it is significantly more durable. The plastic sideboards are replaced at a rate of one sideboard per month compared with the two wooden sideboards per week. As a result, the county saves \$10,000 per year in material costs while helping preserve ancient, old growth forests.

■ **Rubber** - High wear areas such as the decks on the county's equipment trailers are constructed from rubber, a dimensional lumber produced from scrap tires and recycled plastic. Initially, rubber is slightly more expensive than the exotic hardwoods it replaces, but its increased durability produces long term savings. The decking now lasts as long as the trailer rather than having to be replaced three or four times throughout the trailer's life. It is also a safer product that provides significantly more traction during cold or wet days.

■ **Toner Cartridges** - The county has been buying remanufactured toner cartridges meeting original equipment manufacturer specifications since 1991. In 2004, the county purchased more than 7,500 toner cartridges saving an estimated \$450,000 because the cost of