

Purchasing for Waste Reduction

Green Purchasing Roundtable

March 12, 2026



Alameda County

SUSTAINABILITY

Local Action, Global Impact.

Welcome! Introduce Yourself

- **Rename yourself in Zoom** (name + org)
- Click on **Google Doc link** in chat
- Add your name etc. and what you have done to cut down on disposables
- Scroll to view colleagues!



Agenda

- *Welcome and Intros*
- ***Presentations and Discussion – Strategies to Reduce...***
 - *Single-Use Batteries*
 - *Plastic Water Bottles*
 - *Aerosols, wipes, food ware and more*
- ***Sharing Your Experiences***
 - *Furniture, food ware and more*
- ***Resource Reminders and Links***
- ***Evaluations and Close***

(Re-)Introducing Our Presenters



Alicia Culver
*Responsible Purchasing
Network*



Kelly Panciera
*Responsible Purchasing
Network*

Housekeeping



- Feel free to enable video
- Please “chat” questions to all at any time
- We will record and the recording will be shared
- Make sure to sign in

Purchasing Guides: New and Coming Soon!

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

Meetings and Events



Use this Guide When Planning

- Trainings and workshops
- Committee and council meetings
- Employee celebrations and appreciation events
- Other meetings and events



Operations and Engagement Guidance

- **Promote Sustainable Travel:** Select meeting locations that are transit-accessible, close to participants, and support virtual engagement. In addition, minimize travel impacts by encouraging carpooling, public transit, and remote participation.
- **Facilitate Proper Waste Sorting:** Ensure waste streams can handle all generated waste. Clearly label recycling, and compost containers and place them together in convenient locations. Train custodial proper sorting.
- **Build Awareness:** Communicate the meeting or event's sustainability practices, benefits, and practices participants can support them.
- **Track Your Success:** Monitor waste diversion, recycling, and composting rates, as well as participating sustainable practices, to evaluate and identify opportunities for improvement.
- **Support Local Businesses:** Support local green businesses whenever possible for food, beverages, and supplies, and more. Check out the [Alameda County Green Business Program](#) for ideas.

Purchasing and Waste Prevention Guidance

SUPPLIES

Purchasing Guidance

- When using copy paper, ensure it contains 30% post-consumer recycled content and is certified by Seal or FSC, which is consistent with StopWaste's Sustainable Purchasing Guide for [White Copy Paper](#). Coordinate with your agency's SB 1383 lead to maintain required documentation.
- When buying other paper office products, ensure they meet StopWaste's Sustainable Purchasing [Paper Office Supplies](#).
- For recurring events, choose signage, banners, and decorations that can be reused (e.g., no special references, choose durable materials like cloth).

Waste Reduction Guidance

- Follow paper-reduction best practices by using electronic media, QR codes, electronic signage, and printing, reusable name tags, whiteboards, etc.
- For SWAG and other give-aways, offer raffles, reusable items, and food items (e.g., mints). For event special themes, consider a reusable souvenir cup as a keepsake.

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

Toner Cartridges



Use this Guide When Purchasing

- Monochrome or color laser toner cartridges for printers
- No matter the type of printer you have, the cost of the toner over the life of the printer is likely to far exceed the upfront price of that printer. Yet, you can lower toner costs while still getting quality products and reducing associated environmental impacts by choosing remanufactured and/or high-yield toner cartridges.



How to Purchase

Check with your central procurement office or administrative staff to find out if you have any contracts that employees are required to use to purchase toner cartridges – they might be included in office supplies contracts. When seeking these products in a store or online, check the product details to confirm the product meets the Minimum Requirements listed below. If toner is included as part of a managed print services contract, require the vendor to use toner cartridges that meet the following Minimum Requirements as well.

Product Requirements- specify or seek:

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS	LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remanufactured toner cartridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Requirements plus one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 high-yield toner cartridge* • Has been tested and documented to be AT-registered imaging equipment and is 4 means the imaging equipment meets the standard when that toner cartridge recycling program sends its spent 2-certified remanufacturer or to an manufacturer (OEM) that incorporates 0 into new toner cartridges

Minimum Requirements plus one or more of the following:

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

Reusable Food Service Ware



Use this Guide When Purchasing or Renting

- Reusable food service ware items including, but not limited to: cups, mugs, pitchers, plates, bowls, trays, serving dishes, straws, storage containers, and utensils
- Catering services
- Event/meeting planning services



Compared to single-use disposable food service ware, reusables prevent waste and save money. Reusables are typically a great fit for dining-in applications (e.g., breakrooms, cafeterias); recurring meal programs; and meetings, events, and conferences where food will be served. When selecting the best type of reusable food service ware to invest in, take into account performance needs, heat tolerance (e.g., in microwaves or dishwashers), chemical tolerance (e.g., to dishwashing sanitizers), and durability.

Purchasing Requirements

When seeking these products in a store or online, check the product details to confirm that it meets the Minimum Requirements listed below. Also work with caterers and event/meeting planners to prioritize reusables that meet the following requirements. Formal procurement specifications should also incorporate the Minimum Requirements and any applicable Leadership criteria.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS	LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product is made only of glass, stainless steel, ceramics (e.g., stoneware, bone china, porcelain), solid wood, silicone, or polypropylene (#5) plastic*. • Product does not have a Prop 65 warning label indicating that the product contains a chemical that is known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. <p><small>*Referring to polypropylene products designed for reuse, not disposable polypropylene products.</small></p>	<p>Minimum Requirements plus one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product is GreenScreen certified • Microwave- and dishwasher safe • Product has a specific end-user accessibility profile, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to safely grip, hold, or open • Lightweight • Easy to see (high contrast colors) • Non-breakable when dropped • Designed to minimize potential burrs (e.g., insulated, secure lid)



- Alternatives to Bottled Water
- Cleaning Chemicals
- Computers & Monitors
- Disinfectants
- Imaging Equipment
- Indoor Furniture
- Janitorial Paper
- Lighting Products
- Meetings and Events (available now!)
- Paper Office Supplies
- Print Services
- Refrigerant-Using Equipment
- Rechargeable Batteries and Chargers
- Reusable Food Service Ware
- Servers
- Single-Use Food Service Ware
- Toner Cartridges
- White Copy Paper

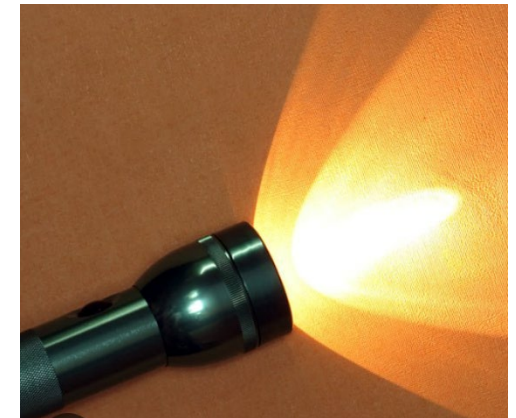


Purchasing Strategies to Reduce Battery Waste



Rechargeables Virtually Eliminate Battery Waste

- **Each rechargeable battery replaces 500-2000 single-use alkaline batteries**
- **Typical payback = 1 year**
- **Save hundreds of dollars over their lifetime**
- **Can reliably power many types of equipment** (flashlights, computer mice, cameras, paper towel/soap dispensers, etc.)
- **Recent pilot tests** reported rechargeable batteries had to be changed out **LESS** often than equivalent single-use batteries.



Environmental Specifications for Batteries

SCOPE

- AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Battery is rechargeable
- Acceptable chemistries include only:
 - Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH)
 - Lithium ion (Li-ion)
 - Nickel-zinc (NiZn)



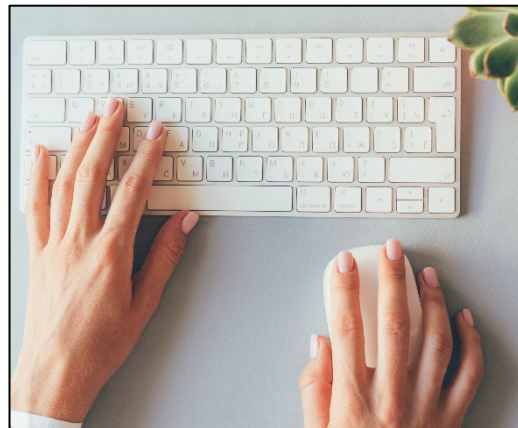
Specifications for Environmentally Preferable Batteries

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS (continued)



1.2V NiMH rechargeable battery must meet the minimum power rating in milli-amp-hours (mAh):

AA:	2,300
AAA:	800
C:	5,000
D:	10,000
9V:	175



1.5V-1.6V Li-ion and NiZn rechargeable batteries must meet the minimum power rating milli-watt-hours (mWh):

AA:	3,000
AAA:	900
C:	2,400
D:	7,000
9V:	600



Specifications for Environmentally Preferable Batteries

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Minimum Requirements plus one or more of the following:

- UL safety certification
- Labeled low self-discharge (LSD)
- Pre-charged to at least 80% capacity
- Has USB charging port built into the battery
- Battery or manufacturer's website or technical data sheet lists the number of times the battery can be charged (battery's "cycle life")



Specifications for Environmentally Preferable Battery Chargers

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Product Requirements – specify or seek:

Battery chargers must have the following sustainability attributes:

- One of the following certifications for electrical safety:
UL Listed, ETL Listed, and CSA Listed



- Labeled [RoHS-compliant](#)

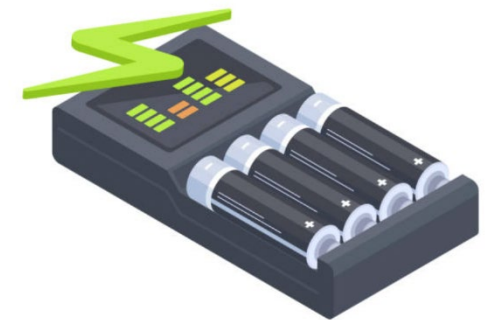


Specifications for Environmentally Preferable Battery Chargers

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Minimum Requirements plus one or more of the following:

- Quick charging
- Ability to charge multiple sizes of rechargeable batteries
- Ability to charge multiple battery chemistries
- Automatic charge protection
- Trickle charge
- Individual stations (i.e., not a paired or circuit station)



Other Battery Waste Prevention Strategies

- Consider hard-wiring powered equipment
- Purchase equipment (e.g., flashlights) with easily removable, built-in rechargeable battery



Free Battery Recycling Program

- **Call2Recycle is now The Battery Network**



<https://batterynetwork.org/>

- **Accepts many sizes and types of batteries**
 - Rechargeable and single-use batteries
 - Consumer-grade and small-scale equipment batteries
 - Products with built-in rechargeable batteries



***Local example:
City of El Cerrito***



Q&A



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Reducing Plastic Water Bottles

Strategies to Reduce Plastic Water Bottles



Why Make the Switch?

- Lower long-term costs
- Reduce plastic waste
- Limit microplastics exposure
- Support waste reduction goals
- Reserve bottled water for emergencies/outreach



Water Pitchers/Dispensers



Tap Filters



Drinking Fountains, Refill Stations, and Bottle-Less Water Coolers



Do You Need a Filter?

Usually Optional

- Municipal water is regulated
- Often used for taste or preference

Consider If:

- Older plumbing
- Lead concerns
- Water quality concerns



How to Choose the Right Alternative

Equipment Type	Best For	Cost	Considerations
Pitchers/Dispensers	Small offices, meeting rooms, supplemental use	Initial: Low Maintenance: Low	Manual refilling, portable, limited capacity, refrigeration required for chilled water, some models include filtration
Tap (POU) Systems	Breakrooms, kitchens	Initial: Low-Moderate Maintenance: Low	Installed at existing sink, no built-in cooling
Plumbed Fixtures (Drinking Fountains, Refill Stations, Bottle-less Coolers)	Permanent, higher-traffic access	Initial: Moderate-High Maintenance: Low	Requires plumbing, continuous supply, some models include filtration, chilled/hot water options

Key Purchasing Criteria: Filtration



- NSF/ANSI 42 (taste and odor)
- Consider NSF/ANSI 53 (lead)
- Filters are readily available and replaceable
- Consider availability of filter take-back program

Key Purchasing Criteria: Materials and Safety

- NSF/ANSI 61 (water-contact component safety)
- NSF/ANSI 372 (low lead content)
- Stainless steel preferred for water-contact surfaces
- BPA-/BPS-free plastics (where applicable)



Key Purchasing Criteria: Energy & Performance (For Plumbed Options)



- UL Listed (if applicable)
- ENERGY STAR (if applicable)
- ADA requirements
- Touchless activation

What About Field Staff?

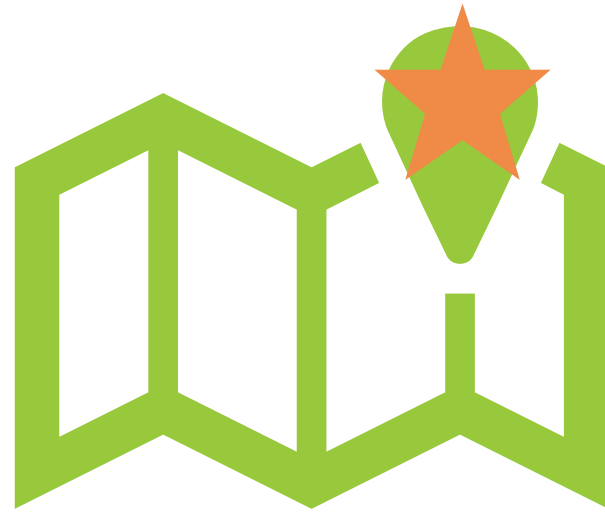
- Issue reusable water bottles
- Fill insulated coolers or vehicle-mounted water tanks from tap
- Provide refill stations at yards/depots
- Reserve bottled water for sites without tap access



Tips for Success



- Provide reusable cups and/or water bottles
- Use dishwashers for easy cleaning of reusables
- Assign maintenance responsibility
- Incorporate into meeting/event planning



***Local examples:
Cities of Dublin & Alameda***





Q&A

Other Purchasing for Waste Prevention Strategies



Start With Surplus



The Property & Salvage department reuses furniture and equipment and operates the recycling program at County facilities.




Pick up office furniture for less when you buy from the County.

NEW StopWaste Sustainable Purchase Guides

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

Reusable Food Service Ware



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Sustainable Purchasing Guide – Reusable Food Service Ware 1

<https://www.stopwaste.org/resource/sustainable-purchasing-guide-for-reusable-food-service-ware>

Sustainable Purchasing Guide

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Waste Reduction Guidance

- Follow paper-reduction best practices by using electronic media, QR codes, electronic signage, double-sided printing, reusable name tags, whiteboards, etc.
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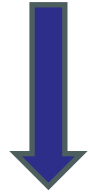
Avoid Aerosols



A study by San Francisco Department of the Environment found aerosol cleaners 27X more expensive than concentrated “green” cleaners.


Work Without Wipes

- **Single-use wipes are convenient, but costly and wasteful.**
- **Wipes can clog pipes when flushed down the toilet.**
- **Wipes are used for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, mopping floors, cleaning and sanitizing hands, and more.**
- **Single-use wipes can often be replaced with washable cloths, sponges and mops as well as bottled hand soap and sanitizer.**



Switch to High-Yield Toner and Ink Cartridges

While there is no standardized labeling of high-yield cartridges, look for products with HY, UHY, LL, X, or XL in their description or ordering code. They often contain 2-3X as much ink or toner as an equivalent standard-yield cartridge but cost only a fraction more.



In Stock

★★★★★ 4.3/5 (1382)

HP 67 Black Original Ink Cartridge, 3YM56AN#140


- Choose from a legendary printing brand
- Up to 120 pages
- Cartridges ship in packaging that is 100% recyclable

See all promo offers ▾

Compare 3YM56AN#140

★ 3% back in HP Rewards ?

MSRP
\$22.99



In Stock

★★★★★ 4.4/5 (3325)

HP 67XL High Yield Black Original Ink Cartridge, 3YM57AN#140

- Print more pages with a high yield cartridge vs. standard[10]
- Fits like the standard cartridge
- Up to 240 pages
- Cartridges ship in packaging that is 100% recyclable

See all promo offers ▾

Compare 3YM57AN#140

★ 3% back in HP Rewards ?

MSRP
\$35.99

Cut Paper Waste

- **Replace small/desktop printers with multi-function devices that can easily print and copy double-sided documents as well as scan and email to reduce paper consumption.**
- **Consider using programs such as DocuSign.**



Alameda County's Model Source Reduction and Packaging Language

5. Source Reduction and Packaging (only applicable when products are furnished):

The County has a strong commitment to source reduction, minimizing waste generation, and reducing the County's expenditure on waste disposal and recycling. Bidders shall provide bulk packaging, reusable, or minimal packaging in providing products to the County. Packaging will be both made from recycled materials and be recyclable. Contractors should explore and provide opportunities for the reuse of packaging materials. In the bid response, Bidders shall include a written summary of their planned efforts to minimize the amount of packaging and shipping materials and should describe the post-consumer recycled content of those materials.

6. Pallets and Large-Volume Packaging:

Pallets and large-volume packaging materials will be taken back by the Contractors.



Measure D Can Pay for Municipalities' Waste Reduction Purchases

- **Alameda County Waste Reduction and Recycling Act**
- **Financed by tonnage fee assessed at county landfills**
- **Gives AC municipalities funds to pay for waste reduction initiatives**
- **Examples of eligible Measure D expenses include:**
 - Water bottle refill stations (plumbed) and reusable water bottles
 - Rechargeable batteries and recharging stations
 - Reusable cups, plates, utensils and serving ware
 - Purchase and installation of a dishwasher at a city facility
 - Hand dryers





Q&A



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Local examples: All of you!

Follow link in chat to our Local Examples slide deck

Share your experiences purchasing / implementing strategies to reduce:

- **Furniture**
- **Food ware**
- **Bottled water alternatives**
- **Other items from today** - *batteries, aerosols, wipes, etc.*
- **Other/ miscellaneous**

We will invite some of you to speak up (we won't force you 😊)

Resources for You

- Resources will be **shared via email** after the event
- Some will use a 1-week **expiring link** (reach out if you need it later)
- We will also follow up with all registered for event **once all of the Sustainable Purchasing Guides are posted**

Sustainable Purchasing Guide



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Reach out for Technical Assistance!



Karl Bruskotter

Sustainable Procurement Advisors

1:1 Technical Assistance to Cities



Alicia Culver

Responsible Purchasing Network

Source for In-depth Technical Expertise

KarlBruskotter@gmail.com
Alicia@responsiblepurchasing.org



Sarah Church & Karen Cook
Alameda County Office of Sustainability

Green Purchasing Roundtable
Coordination, 1:1 TA to cities

Karen.Cook@acgov.org
Sarah.Church@acgov.org

Thank You!

Please fill out an evaluation

Karen.Cook@acgov.org

Sarah.Church@acgov.org

Alicia@Responsiblepurchasing.org

KarlBruskotter@gmail.com