

# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



## FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

South Carolina's hospitality industry is a large consumer. Each facility purchases goods and services, creates and manages waste, uses energy and water, and just like an individual leaves an environmental footprint. Operating in an environmentally responsible fashion, the state's hospitality industry can lead by example with everyday, cost-effective practices that help protect and preserve South Carolina's environment as well as the quality of life for all South Carolinians. This "Best Management Practices" (BMP) fact sheet is part of a series.

# Environmentally Preferred Purchasing

The hospitality industry is a huge consumer of goods and services. Everything a hotel, motel, restaurant, bar or other hospitality facility purchases has an environmental impact.

Environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) is the process of selecting products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

EPP, also known as green purchasing, encourages buyers to identify and purchase products and services that reduce waste, prevent pollution, eliminate or reduce toxins, conserve energy and water as well as contain recycled-content materials.

### Develop a policy.

The first step your facility may want to take is to develop a green purchasing policy. Assign this task to your Green Team. See the BMP fact sheet "Setting Up a 'Green Team,' Developing an Environmental Policy" at [www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green\\_hospitality/pubs/bmp\\_env\\_team.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/green_hospitality/pubs/bmp_env_team.pdf).

This group of employees, comprised of individuals from each area or department of the facility (e.g., housekeeping, kitchen/restaurant/bar; office; operations/maintenance; grounds; management) will

bring different ideas, perspective and expertise to create, promote and implement the policy.

The policy should be simple and straightforward, outlining specific practices that your facility plans on implementing. For a sample green purchasing policy, visit [www.mmo.sc.gov](http://www.mmo.sc.gov) to see the S.C. EPP Policy.

Clemson University has developed its own policy. To view it, go to [www.clemson.edu/cfo/businessmanual/as58pol.html](http://www.clemson.edu/cfo/businessmanual/as58pol.html) or [www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing\\_guides/all/policies](http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/all/policies). Remember to educate all of the staff on the goals and objectives and their responsibilities.

### Green purchasing is not difficult.

Buying environmentally preferred products and services is not difficult. Many manufacturers and retailers offer green products – from recycled-content paper towels and green cleaners to environmentally friendly computers and lighting.

Many programs, such as ENERGY STAR, which provides information on energy-efficient equipment, and WaterSense, which provides information on water-saving products, are in place and can provide reliable, up-to-date information to help your facility with its purchases.

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The Green Hospitality Program is offered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). To learn about the program or for help setting up, implementing or improving green practices, call the Office at 1-800-768-7348 or visit [www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality](http://www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality).

Listed below are six programs that provide information to help facilities with their green purchasing efforts.

- \* **ENERGY STAR** is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy that helps consumers save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient practices and products. The program lists ENERGY STAR qualified products in more than 60 categories including appliances, heating and cooling, water heaters, electronics, lighting, commercial food service and other commercial products (e.g., roofing, windows, doors and insulation). For more information on ENERGY STAR, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- \* **WaterSense** is a partnership program sponsored by EPA to help consumers save money and protect the environment through water-efficient products. Many WaterSense labeled products and services are available including bathroom and sink faucets, showerheads, high-efficiency toilets and landscape irrigation. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).
- \* **Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)** is a program of the Green Electronics Council to help consumers evaluate, compare and select electronic products based on their environmental attributes. The system currently covers desktop and laptop computers, workstations and computer monitors. For more information, visit [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net).
- \* **The Green Vehicle Guide**, a program offered by EPA, provides information about the environmental performance (e.g., fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions) of vehicles and provides consumers with comprehensive search and sort capabilities. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles).
- \* **Green Seal** is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the

environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. The organization evaluates and certifies products. Visit [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org) for more information on Green Seal standards.

EPA's EPP program provides wide-ranging information and guidance on green purchasing including helping consumers: find and evaluate information about green products and services (e.g., building and construction, carpets, cleaning, electronics, fleets, food services, landscaping, office supplies); calculate the cost and benefits of purchasing choices; and manage green purchasing processes. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/epp](http://www.epa.gov/epp).

### Why buy recycled?

Recycled-content products offer excellent quality and are available at competitive prices. Making products from recycled material saves natural resources, energy and water and also helps secure stable markets for the recyclables that are collected. When buying recycled, always look for products made from the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content. Post-consumer refers to materials that consumers used and recycled rather than the manufacturers' discards. For more information on buying recycled, visit [www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/buying\\_recycled\\_beyond.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/pubs/buying_recycled_beyond.pdf).

EPA also offers comprehensive information on buying recycled including helping consumers understand terms and labels as well as identify recycled-content products by providing an on-line product directory. For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/buyrecycled.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/rrr/buyrecycled.htm). To learn more about how your facility can implement a successful buy recycled program visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/buying-green.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/buying-green.html).



The **S.C. Green Hospitality Alliance** is a free, voluntary program designed to: 1) help South Carolina's hospitality industry reduce the environmental impact of its operations as well as incorporate environmental stewardship and sustainability in its business practices; and 2) promote and recognize member hotels, restaurants as well as other hospitality facilities for their environmentally conscious practices. The Alliance was developed in partnership by the S.C. Restaurant & Lodging Association and DHEC's Green Hospitality Program.

For more information, call DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348** or visit [www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality](http://www.scdhec.gov/greenhospitality).

