

Executive Order 09-07
DeKalb County, Georgia's Policy
For Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

WHEREAS, DeKalb County acknowledges that it is a large consumer of goods and services and all of its purchases have an environmental impact resulting from the combined impact of a product's manufacture, use and disposition; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County desires to purchase products that are recyclable or reusable or contain recycled materials if the quality and fitness of such products are equal to un-recycled products; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County desires to remain fiscally responsible while promoting practices that improve public health and safety, reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, and reward manufacturers and vendors who reduce the adverse environmental impact of their production and distribution systems by including environmental considerations in purchasing decisions, along with traditional concerns with price, performance and availability; and

WHEREAS, enacting an environmentally preferable purchasing policy is tied to the protection of the County's public health, safety and welfare and other legitimate purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Chief Executive Officer hereby establishes an environmentally preferable purchasing policy that will govern DeKalb County's purchase of products that are beneficial to the environment, as follows:

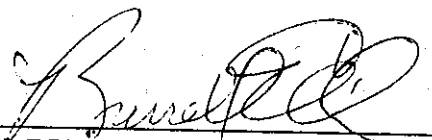
1. "Environmentally preferable" means products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products and services serving the same purpose. These products and services have a reduced environmental impact because of the way they are manufactured, used, transported, stored, packaged, and ultimately disposed and will not harm human health, are less polluting, and/or minimize waste, maximize the use of bio-based or recycled materials, conserve energy and/or water and reduce the consumption or disposal of hazardous materials.
2. Wherever practicable, DeKalb County will purchase environmentally preferable products and services as long as the products and services meet the County's performance needs and are available within a reasonable period of time at a reasonable cost.
3. Wherever practicable, DeKalb County departments are encouraged to include in contracts specifications for environmentally preferable products.
4. Wherever practicable, DeKalb County will consider the following environmental factors when making purchasing decisions: pollutant releases, toxicity (especially the use of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals), waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, depletion of natural resources, recycled content and disposal methods.

5. Wherever practicable, DeKalb County will consider the following fiscal factors when making purchasing decisions: use reduction (i.e. buy only what is really needed), product performance and quality, life-cycle cost assessment (i.e. lowest total cost when taking into account planning, design, construction, managing, operation, maintenance and disposal or disassembly costs over the useful life of the program or facility) and impact on staff time and labor.
6. Wherever practicable, DeKalb County will consider the following social factors when making purchasing decisions: human health impacts and providing leadership to the community on environmentally sustainable practices.
7. When comparing costs, DeKalb County will not focus exclusively on the initial price, but will evaluate and compare total costs over the life expectancy of the item/service, which includes the initial cost, along with maintenance, operating, insurance, disposal, replacement and potential liability costs.
8. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring a purchaser or contractor to procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate competition, or are not available at a reasonable price or in a reasonable period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chief Executive Officer that all DeKalb County Departments adhere to the aforementioned policy as it relates to environmentally preferable purchasing.

This order is effective immediately.

So issued this 28th day of October, 2009.


W. BURRELL ELLIS, JR.
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia