

14 Appendix F: Green Procurement Criteria for Products

Green products are produced in a way that consumes fewer natural resources, involves less energy and water and minimises hazardous and other waste. They may require less energy to operate, contain fewer toxic or hazardous substances, or be recyclable. They generally offer long-term cost savings through efficient use of energy, longer lifespan and the production of less toxic waste that is expensive to transport, dispose of and obtain permits for. When assessing how green a product is, consider all aspects of the product's lifecycle; including the acquisition of materials, manufacturing, distribution, use, maintenance and disposal (see Pollution Reduction in section 2.3 for a list of substances to avoid, p.34). Also calculate the total annual cost of the product across its lifetime to identify value for money. Questions to ask when assessing products are:

Certification

- Has the product been certified by a credible institution?
- Does the national government in the host region or an internationally recognised specialist in the field support the certification?
- If not, what are the requirements for certification?
- Why has the product not been certified?

Acquisition of Materials

- Were natural resources used in the product sustainably harvested?
- Were other materials used produced in an environmentally responsible manner?
- Were materials purchased from small, medium, or micro-enterprises

Manufacturing

- Were products from threatened plants or animals, or resources from threatened environments used to manufacture the product?
- Were recycled materials used to manufacture the product?
- Were production methods energy, water and resource efficient?
- Were production methods designed to minimise waste and pollution?
- Was the use of toxic and hazardous materials minimised?
- Was hazardous waste disposed of safely?
- Are staff informed about environmental practices in place?
- Do manufacturers comply with human health standards and practice employment equity?

Distribution

- Is packaging minimised?
- Can packaging be reused or locally recycled by the end user?
- Do manufacturers accept packaging for reuse?
- Is packaging made of recycled materials?
- Is the transport strategy designed to minimise waste and pollution and use energy efficiently?
- Are transport suppliers small, medium, or micro enterprises?

Use and Maintenance

- Does the product have a long lifespan?
- Are clear operating and maintenance instructions available?
- Can the product be easily and cost-effectively maintained and repaired?
- Can the product be upgraded easily?
- Is the product designed to use resources efficiently?
- Is the product designed to minimise waste?
- Is the product less polluting than its competitors?
- What is the payback period of the product?

Disposal

- Is the product or are its parts reusable? Can it/they be sold?
- Is the product recyclable or biodegradable?
- Is it recyclable locally?
- Can the product be returned to the manufacturer for reuse or recycling?
- Does the product contain any banned or restricted substances?
- Does the product contain hazardous materials requiring special disposal?
- Do disposal methods include small, medium, or micro enterprises?

Source: *Leaving a Greening Legacy, Guidelines for Event Greening, Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs*

