



2000 Buy-Recycled Series Park and Recreation Products

Want to go the extra mile for your community? Buying recycled-content playground equipment and other recreational products is cost-effective, easy to do, and a good way to keep our outdoors green. The same goes for your community's beaches. You can protect your sand dunes using plastic fencing made from recovered plastics, an easy and long-lasting solution for your shoreline.



To make it easier to buy recycled, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updates the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) every 2 years. Through the CPG, EPA designates items that must contain recycled materials when purchased by federal, state, and local agencies, or by government contractors, using appropriated federal funds. Among these items, EPA has designated several park and recreation products. EPA's research shows that the items designated in the CPG are of high quality, widely available, and cost-competitive with virgin products. EPA also issues a nonregulatory companion piece—the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN)—that recommends levels of recycled-content for those items.

If you specify or purchase park and recreation products, buying recycled can turn the materials we collect for recycling into budget-friendly products. Buying recycled isn't just good news for our parks and recreational areas—it also strengthens the economy by creating jobs and supporting your local recycling businesses.

EcoPurchasing means
considering attributes

such as



recycled content
toxicity
reusability
durability
repairability



before you buy
a product.



What Is The CPG?

The CPG requires federal agencies to buy items made from recovered materials.

Recycling is more than just dropping off your cans, bottles, and newspapers at the curb or at a local collection facility. Diverting recyclables from the waste stream is only the first of three steps in the recycling process. The second step occurs when companies use these recyclables to manufacture new products. The third step comes when you purchase products made from recovered materials. That's how we close the loop.

To support markets for the materials collected in recycling programs and to help these programs expand, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires agencies to buy recycled-content products designated by EPA. In addition, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13101 in September 1998, which called for an increase in the federal government's use of recycled-content and other environmentally preferable products.

Issued in May 1995, the first CPG designated 19 new products, including playground surfaces and running tracks, and incorporated five previously designated items in seven product categories. Procuring agencies are required to purchase these items with recycled content. The first CPG update (CPG II) was published in November 1997, and designated an additional 12 products, including plastic fencing. A second CPG update (CPG III) was published in January 2000 and designated an additional 18 products, including park benches and picnic tables and playground equipment.

Procuring agencies include all federal agencies, and any state or local government agency or government contractor that uses appropriated federal

funds to purchase the designated items. If your agency spends more than \$10,000 per year on a product designated in the CPG, you are required to purchase it with the highest recycled-content level practicable. The CPG also applies to lease contracts covering designated items.

Once designated, an agency has 1 year to develop an affirmative procurement program (or revise an existing one) for a designated item it purchases. By May 1, 1996, agencies were required to develop affirmative procurement programs to incorporate buy-recycled requirements for playground surfaces and running tracks. By November 13, 1998, agencies were required to revise their affirmative procurement program to incorporate plastic fencing. Agencies also must revise their affirmative procurement programs to add the items designated under CPG III by January 19, 2001. This effort might involve reviewing specifications for those products and eliminating provisions that pose barriers to procuring them with recycled content (such as aesthetic requirements unrelated to product performance).

The CPG acknowledges, however, that specific circumstances might arise that preclude the purchase of products made with recovered materials. Your agency may purchase designated items that do not contain recovered materials if it determines that: 1) the price of a given designated item made with recovered materials is unreasonably high, 2) there is inadequate competition (not enough sources of supply), 3) unusual and unreasonable delays would result from obtaining the item, or 4) the recycled-content item does not meet an agency's reasonable performance specifications.

How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Park & Recreation Products?

EPA also issues guidance in RMANs, which are designed to make it as easy as possible to buy the designated items. The RMANs recommend recycled-content levels to look for when purchasing park and recreation products, as shown in the table on the following page. Following the RMANs' recommended levels will help ensure your affirmative procurement program and standards meet the buy-recycled requirements.

Rather than specifying just one level of recycled content, the RMANs recommend ranges that

reflect actual market conditions. The recommendations are based on market research identifying recycled-content products that are commercially available, are competitively priced, and meet buyers' quality standards.

Refer to EPA's availability list entitled "Park and Recreation Products Containing Recovered Materials" for sources of the designated park and recreation items. See the last section of this fact sheet for this and other helpful resources.

CASE STUDY: The White House

In March 1993, President Clinton seized the concept of recycling and ran with it by installing a 5-foot-wide, nearly quarter-mile running track encircling the South Lawn of the White House. The running track was resurfaced with 13 tons of material made from recycled scrap tires (about 13,000 tires), with material and labor donated to the White House. Users report that the track provides a much improved running surface that is safe, attractive, and requires little maintenance. For more information, contact the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive at 202 260-1297.

CASE STUDY: City of West Palm Beach, Florida

The city of West Palm Beach, Florida, realized that children and the environment are its two most important resources. With this in mind, since 1995 the city has been purchasing a loose-fill rubber playground surface made from recycled scrap tires. The city is extremely satisfied with its performance and finds it clean, durable, and cost-effective. The softer material creates an air cushion that absorbs impact, which reduces the risk of injuries. Due to its resilience and low maintenance requirements, the city predicts that it won't have to be replaced as often as mulch or sand. In fact, the durability of the material was tested several years ago when a hurricane hit the area, bringing torrential rains and 125 mile-per-hour winds. Despite these extreme conditions, the surface suffered no damage. For more information, contact Robert Mitch of the city of West Palm Beach at 561 659-8044.

How Do I Purchase Recycled-Content Park & Recreation Products? (Continued)

EPA's Recommended Content Levels for Park & Recreation Products

Park & Recreation Product ¹	Recovered Material Content ²
Park Benches & Picnic Tables:	
—Plastic ³	90–100% (postconsumer)/100% (total)
—Plastic Composites	50–100% (postconsumer)/100% (total)
—Aluminum	25% (postconsumer)
—Concrete	15–40% (total)
—Steel ⁴	16% (postconsumer)/25–30% (total)
	67% (postconsumer)/100% (total)
Plastic Fencing for Specified Uses ⁵	60–100% (postconsumer)/90–100% (total)
Playground Equipment	
—Plastic ³	90–100% (postconsumer)/100% (total)
—Plastic Composites	50–75% (postconsumer)/95–100% (total)
—Steel ⁴	16% (postconsumer)/25–30% (total)
	67% (postconsumer)/100% (total)
—Aluminum	25% (postconsumer)/25% (total)
Playground Surfaces:	
—Plastic or Rubber	90–100% (postconsumer)
Running Tracks:	
—Plastic or Rubber	90–100% (postconsumer)

1 EPA's recommendations do not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing these items manufactured from another material. They simply require that a procuring agency purchase these items made with recovered materials when these items meet applicable specifications and performance requirements. Federal agency installations of these products must comply with applicable state or local construction codes, as well as standards set by the Consumer Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2 The recommended recovered materials content levels are based on the dry weight of the raw materials, exclusive of any additives such as adhesives, binders, or coloring agents.

3 "Plastic" includes both single and mixed plastic resins. Park benches and picnic tables made with recovered plastic may also contain other recovered materials such as sawdust, wood, or fiberglass. The percentage of these materials contained in the product would also count toward the recovered materials content level of the item.

4 The recommended recovered materials content levels for steel in this table reflect the fact that the designated items can be made from steel manufactured from either a Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) or an Electric Arc Furnace (EAF). Steel from the BOF process contains 25–30% total recovered materials, of which 16% is postconsumer steel. Steel from the EAF process contains a total of 100% recovered steel, of which 67% is postconsumer.

5 Designation includes fencing containing recovered plastic for use in controlling snow or sand drifting and as a warning/safety barrier in construction or other applications.

How Can I Get More Information?



Information Available From EPA

This fact sheet and the following publications on buying recycled-content products are available or can be accessed in electronic format on the Internet at <www.epa.gov/cpg>. Use Internet e-mail to order paper copies of documents. Include the requestor's name and mailing address on all orders. Address e-mail to: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov.

Paper copies also may be ordered by calling the RCRA Hotline. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672. The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., e.s.t.

- ❖ **EPA Expands Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG)** (EPA 530-F-00-017). This factsheet provides general information about the CPG and the development of affirmative procurement programs.
- ❖ **Federal Register (FR)** notices promulgating CPG I (60 FR 21370/EPA530-Z-95-006) and RMAN I (60 FR 21386/EPA530-Z-95-007), May 1, 1995. FR notices promulgating CPG II (62 FR 60961/EPA530-Z-97-009) and RMAN II (62 FR 60975/EPA530-Z-97-010), November 13, 1997. FR notices promulgating CPG III (65 FR 3070) and RMAN III (65 FR 3082), January 19, 2000.
- ❖ **Park and Recreation Products Containing Recovered Materials** (EPA530-B-99-009). This list identifies manufacturers and suppliers of playground surfaces, running tracks, and plastic fencing containing recovered materials. (Each listing is based on information provided by the manufacturer and does not constitute an endorsement by EPA.)
- ❖ **A Study of State and Local Government Procurement Practices that Consider Environmental Performance of Goods and Services** (EPA742-R-96-007). This report provides important program elements and case studies of state and county agencies purchasing environmentally preferable products and services. For a copy of the report or more information on EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program, contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 401 M Street, SW. (7409), Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 260-1023. Fax: 202 260-4659. Visit the EPP Web site at <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp>.



Other Sources of Information

- ❖ **Buy Recycled Business Alliance.** The Alliance includes over 3,200 companies and organizations committed to increasing their use of recycled-content products and materials in their day-to-day operations. The Alliance offers educational materials, a quarterly newsletter, and product-specific guides. Public purchasing entities can join for free. For more information, contact Kevin Barry, National Recycling Coalition, 1727 King Street, Suite 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720. Phone: 703 683-9025, Ext. 210. Fax: 703 683-9026.

Web site: www.nrc-recycle.org
E-mail: brbainfo@nrc-recycle.org

- ❖ **U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).** GSA publishes various supply catalogs, guides, and schedules for recycled-content products available through the Federal Supply Service. For copies of the following two documents and other publications, contact GSA, Centralized Mailing List Service (7CAFL), 4900 Hemphill Street, P.O. Box 6477, Fort Worth, TX 76115-9939. Phone: 817 334-5215. Fax: 817 334-5561. You can also access GSA Advantage!, GSA's Internet-based online ordering system, to order any GSA product at <www.fss.gsa.gov/cgi-bin/advwel>.
 - **Park and Outdoor Recreational Equipment, Federal Supply Schedule Group 78, Part 1, Schedule C, Classes 7830.** Lists a variety of park and recreation products available for purchase.
 - **Environmental Products Guide.** This guide is designed to help procurement officials identify environmentally preferable products and services. It contains nearly 3,000 items, including many recycled-content products.
- ❖ **National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO).** NASPO's Internet-based Database of Recycled Commodities (DRC) includes information from states on their recycled product procurement. Data include product distributors, manufacturers, brand names, recycled and postconsumer content, "Energy Star" rating, units purchased, unit of measurement, unit price, and type of procurement. Visit the NASPO Web site at <fcn.state.fl.us/bpsr/drc_notice.html>.
- ❖ **Greening the Government: A Guide to Implementing Executive Order 12873.** This guide provides detailed information on establishing and implementing federal affirmative procurement plans. Updated in the summer of 1997, it is available without charge from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 1600S, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460. Phone: 202 564-1297. Fax: 202 564-1393. Web site: www.ofee.gov
You can also download an electronic version on the Internet at <www.ofee.gov/html/guide/html>.
- ❖ **Official Recycled Products Guide.** This directory lists more than 5,000 manufacturers and distributors of recycled-content products. Contact: Recycling Data Management Corporation, P.O. Box 577, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Phone: 800 267-0707. Fax: 315 471-3258.
- ❖ **Recycled Plastic Products Source Book.** This booklet lists more than 1,300 plastic products from approximately 300 manufacturers. For more information, call the American Plastics Council (APC), 1801 K Street, NW., Suite 7010, Washington, DC 20006. Phone: 202 974-5400. Fax: 202 296-7119. Visit the APC Web site at <www.plasticsresource.com>.
- ❖ **Recycled Rubber Products Catalog.** This catalog lists products manufactured from recovered rubber and provides information on how to obtain them. For more information, contact the Scrap Tire Management Council, 1400 K Street, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005. Phone: 202 682-4880. Fax: 202 682-4854.

How Can I Get More Information? (Continued)



Internet Sites

Government Sites

- ❖ **The Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines:** <www.epa.gov/cpg>. This site describes EPA's effort to facilitate the procurement of products containing recovered materials, including information on CPG, RMANs, and the Buy-Recycled Series.
- ❖ **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP):** <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp>. EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing program encourages and assists federal agencies to purchase environmentally preferable products and services. The site explains EPA's proposed guiding principles for including environmental performance in purchasing decision-making, and posts case studies of successful pilot projects in both the public and private sectors.
- ❖ **Federal Trade Commission:** <www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm>. The Federal Trade Commission issued Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims in May 1998.
- ❖ **The Fedmarket Procurement Assistance Jumpstation:** <www.fedmarket.com/sales_resources/bids/federal.html>. This site contains links to many sites containing procurement information.
- ❖ **Jobs Through Recycling:** <www.epa.gov/jtr>. EPA's Jobs Through Recycling program stimulates economic growth and recycling market development by assisting businesses and supporting a network of state and regional recycling contacts. This Web site provides information on financing and technical assistance for recycling businesses, as well as other market development tools.

- ❖ **King County Recycled Product Procurement Program:** <www.metrokc.gov/oppis/recyclea.html>. This site describes the tools and techniques developed by King County, Washington, agencies for purchasing recycled products.
- ❖ **Municipal Solid Waste:** <www.epa.gov/msw>. This site includes information on recycling, source reduction, and reuse. Contains state municipal solid waste data and the latest facts and figures on waste generation and disposal.
- ❖ **WasteWise:** <www.epa.gov/wastewise>. WasteWise is a free, voluntary EPA program through which organizations eliminate costly municipal solid waste, benefitting their bottom line and the environment. The program provides hands-on assistance to members to help them purchase or manufacture recycled-content products, prevent waste, and recycle solid waste materials.

Product Information

- ❖ **Recycling Data Network Information Services:** <www.epa.gov/cpg/links.htm>. This commercial Web site provides access, on a subscription basis, to a recycled-content products database of over 4,500 listings in 700 product classifications. It also provides a reference library and a newsletter. Managed by the publisher of the Official Recycled Products Guide, the product database is considered to be the largest of its kind.
- ❖ **California Recycled-Content Product Database:** <www.ciwmb.ca.gov/RCP>. This site contains information on why to buy recycled-content products, how to procure them, and provides access to a database with information on products, as well as manufacturers, distributors, reproducers, mills, and converters across the country who procure or produce these products.

In addition, contact your state solid waste management agency for information about local and regional businesses that produce or distribute recycled-content products.

United States
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(5306W)
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1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20460
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