

Buying Recycled Products

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Background

- Talked about markets at meeting in December
- Markets are improved since December

Pricing

November - June

- Aluminum cans up more than \$.03 per pound
- Mixed paper up more than \$18 per ton
- Cardboard up slightly
- PET up more than \$.04 per pound
- Natural HDPE up more than \$.12 per pound
- Colored HDPE down slightly
- Steel more than doubled in price

Market Development

- While markets are improved, there has been little effort in market development in recent years
- We are taking only modest steps to create new markets and improve existing markets
- Buy recycled programs, which were a major part of recycling programs, are receiving little, if any, promotion in 2016

History of Buy Recycled

- Maryland was one of the earliest states to enact legislation to buy recycled paper (House Bill 153 – 1977)
- Other states followed suit, and at one time, every state had laws, policies or executive orders on recycled products. Key is implementation!
- Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act required federal purchases of recycled products. EPA has established guidelines for 61 products. The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive promoted the program

History of Buy Recycled

- Northeast Authority and MES have conducted more than 175 training programs on buying recycled
- State and national efforts to identify recycled product manufacturers and vendors
- Private sector efforts included the Buy Recycled Business Alliance, Paper Task Force, National Office Paper Recycling Project and Recycled Paper Coalition (cooperative purchasing)

History of Buy Recycled

- State and local governments promoted buy recycled for consumers
- Strong programs in place, but how are programs being implemented?

Buy Recycled and EPP

- EPP (green purchasing programs) developed from buy recycled efforts
- Buy recycled programs have often fallen by the wayside
- Standards such as Forestry Stewardship Council muddy the waters
- Buy recycled only program that directly affects recycling markets

Benefits of Buy Recycled

- Creating markets
- Reducing disposal
- Convinces manufacturers to increase use of recycled materials
- Conserves resources and energy
- Creates jobs and economic development opportunities



Benefits of Buy Recycled

- Meets organizational goals and requirements
- Leadership by example
- Positive rather than reactive approach
- Public relations
- Cost savings



Key Elements

- Organizational commitment (all key actors)
- Market research on available products; widest range of products possible
- Understand price, quality and availability
- Ask for recycled products
- Reasonable specifications (minimum content, etc. Focus on quality, matching product and end use, performance based standards)

Key Elements

- Testing
- Contractors and grantees
- Cooperative purchasing
- Closed loop
- Buying for waste prevention
- Green purchasing
- Record keeping and evaluation

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