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**REPORT
ON THE
PURCHASE
OF
RECYCLED PRODUCTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000**

**Prepared for: Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources Committee
and Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**

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**by: Department of Administrative & Financial Services
Bureau of General Services
Division of Purchases**

Printed on Recycled Paper

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INTRODUCTION

Title 5 subsection 1812-A requires the Bureau of General Services, Division of Purchases to prepare a report on the State of Maine's efforts to purchase supplies and materials composed in whole or in part of recycled materials. This report must also include information on any procurement policies, incentives, educational programs, promotional efforts or other activities proposed for these supplies and materials.

The last report was submitted in January of 1999. It presented a summary of items purchased and described the many steps taken by state government to improve use of recycled products. This report will provide the latest usage information and the possibilities for the future.

It should be noted that buying items with "recycled content" is not difficult. The stereotype of poor or inferior quality has been replaced by acceptance and identifiable advantages of products with recycled content. Many products are no more expensive, some even less costly, than the virgin counterparts. Division staff is discovering that many "new" items have significant recycled "components" or raw materials. The statistics are difficult to quantify and Division has no system to track the impact on value/amount of these items.

Businesses across the state and nation offer recycled products without limitation, using recycled content products labeling as a marketing tool. An organization like the Maine Buy Recycled Alliance, affiliated with the Maine Chamber of Commerce, provides resources, information and assistance to further the recycling initiative. Their continuing support in closing the loop has contributed greatly to the increasing variety and availability of products with recycled contents. Special thanks is due the State Planning Office whose waste reduction section has assisted the Division in information gathering as they foster recycling of waste.

MAR 1 - 2013

PAPER PRODUCTS W/RECYCLED CONTENT

Title 5, MRSA, section 1812-B established a requirement that, as of October 1, 1993, not less than 50% of the money spent on paper and paper products in any fiscal year must be used for products with recycled material content.

The statute requires a fiscal year comparison. The calculations used are for fiscal year 1998 and fiscal year 2000, based on existing record keeping practices.

TYPE	PREVIOUS REPORT FY 98	AMOUNT FY 2000
File Folders/Pockets	-0-	\$ 53,026.00
Calendars	\$ 34,967.00	\$ 17,558.38
Offset Paper	-0-	\$ 4,226.65
Boxes, Corrugated, Liquor		
Bags, Kraft, etc.	\$ 23,843.00	\$ 20,836.00
Computer Paper & Labels	\$ 45,856.00	\$ 26,129.00
Paper (fine printing & copier)	\$ 444,378.00	\$ 473,203.00 ¹
Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue		
Napkins & etc.	\$ 198,528.00	\$ 100,849.56
Envelopes, pads, cards, etc.	\$ 96,741.00	\$ 149,588.00 ²
Printing (all types)	\$2,349,794.00	\$ 3,417,208.11 ³
Fax Paper	-0-	-0-
Misc.	\$ 4,846.00	-0-
Total	\$3,198,952.00	\$4,202,624.60

During this period of time, the total amount of paper and paper products purchased was:

All paper products	\$ 982,881.88
Printed products	\$ 4,533,516.67
Total	\$ 5,516,398.55

¹ Printing paper and envelopes have remained low, due to a reduction on in house duplicating services four years ago. Conversely, Printing has increased due in part to this shift to commercial vendors for needs.

Copy/duplicating

² IBID

³ IBID

Based on these totals, 76% of all paper and paper products purchased have a recycled material content meeting U.S. Environmental Protection guidelines. This is the highest total Maine State Government has ever achieved.

OTHER RECYCLED PRODUCTS

TIRES

Passenger vehicles, light and medium truck tires are available in a retreaded form. New passenger vehicle tires can be purchased at such low prices, in comparison to retreads, that use of retreaded passenger tires does not occur.

Annual contracts for the retreading of medium/heavy truck equipment (payloaders, backhoes, tractors, etc.) tires are prepared by the Division of Purchases, primarily for the Department of Transportation. FY 2000 usage was \$78,156.00

PLASTIC

Plastic trash bags used in state government are made using recycled plastic such as trimmings from other trash bags, milk jugs, etc. The total purchases in the FY 2000 were \$91,715.00. The bag products under contract had 20% recovered and 10% post consumer recycled content.

Maine participates in a multi-state purchasing cooperative, headed by New York, for the purchase of traffic cones with post consumer recycled content. Maine spent \$16,660.00, buying traffic cones, down from the last report but still significant. This contract is available to municipalities as well.

EQUIPMENT/PARTS

The use of reconditioned equipment continues within state government. Activity was spread across many lines. Large computer components and aircraft engines were some of the major items purchased that were reconditioned or refurbished. In many cases our core is returned, closing the recycling loop.

Maine State Government buys a wide variety of items directly from suppliers in the market place. Remanufactured/refurbished auto parts such as alternators, generators, and brake parts are frequently purchased. The Department of Transportation recycles anti-freeze on site, closing the loop within its own garage.

GLASS

Reflective glass beads, purchased for use in paint to make road stripes reflective, has a content of 95% recycled glass from soda bottles. The purchases from fiscal year 2000 were:

Quantity 875 tons = \$429,660

* See cooperative purchasing under "initiatives"

METAL STOCK

Aluminum license plate stock and sign blanks with a 98% recycled content, were purchased again this year. The material purchases totaled \$ 285,751.00. The Chickadee plate is made from this material and the DOT signs on State Highways have recycled content.

TONER CARTRIDGES/PRINTER RIBBONS

Recycled toner cartridges are now available from many sources. A statewide contract has been established and is used.

This particular commodity created an excellent opportunity for completing the recycling loop. Division staff manages a contract, which requires the supplier to reuse spent cartridges recovered from state facilities. This avoids the cost of disposal for the state agency, while providing a consistent source of reusable cartridges for the supplier.

Similarly, a contract has been established to facilitate the recycling of printer ribbons. This program though fairly new, has become less effective due to the proliferation of laser printing technology.

WIPING CLOTHS

FY 01 represents the third time Division staff tracked reclaimed wiping cloths. Maine has purchased \$5,612.00 in reclaimed wiping cloths, avoiding landfills when a disposable product is used. This number has decreased significantly over the previous report.

NEW PRODUCTS

Two new products were added to the list of those purchased with recycled content. Cellulose fiber mulch was purchased at a value of \$23,897.26. File "pockets" were also acquired for use in specialized filing systems. Total value of files and file pockets was \$53,026.00

RECYCLING

The Bureau of General Services operates a number of recycling programs to close the loop and thus make more products available for purchase. One program recycles telephone directories from the capital area state agencies. Custodial staff coordinates the collection of obsolete books, which State Postal Center staff transports to actual recycling point. Cardboard and office paper is also regularly recycled.

In addition to the traditional paper and cardboard recycling programs, the State recycled old aluminum license plates, receiving over \$15,000 for the aluminum. Other scrap metal was sold at a value of over \$12,000.

INITIATIVES

The Division of Purchases has been very active on several fronts concerning recycled products, market development and education:

- A. Cooperative Purchasing – The Division of Purchases is a charter member of the Northeast Purchasing Cooperative, a group of states within the northeastern United States. Traffic cones with post consumer plastic were cooperatively contracted by several New England States, Maine included.

Maine has coordinated the purchase of reflective glass beads for road paint for several years. This effort involved developing standardized specifications for Maine, Vermont and New Jersey. New bids are scheduled for early 2001 for this product.

- B. Municipality Involvement – The Division of Purchases has expanded its efforts with municipal governments and using state agencies. Nearly all products available to state government can be purchased by local and county governments through the Central Warehouse or directly from the supplier, at prices at or near state agency cost. This information has been posted on the Division's Internet Home Page. Soon, Internet ordering will be available to state agencies and local government users, simplifying the current process and likely expanding participation.
- C. The Division of Purchases provides nearly 700 copiers to State Agencies across the state. For eight years, the paper furnished for these machines has had recycled content. This was done without fanfare to avoid potential "perceived" operational difficulties. This has been a huge success, with no substantiated performance difficulties linked to recycled content of the paper. Though a little more expensive than virgin content copier paper, there is strong support for use of this product.

Challenges

The Division of Purchases and Maine State Government as a whole have made considerable progress. Growth has been excellent in many products but the easy products are now regularly purchased. Many additional products that have recycled content are difficult to identify. New motor vehicles for example have recycled metals and plastics throughout. The culture change is such that it is now good business to recycle and it has become a standard practice. It would be a significant effort to attempt to quantify the amount of recycled content from other items such as personal computers, vehicles, etc.

The 10% price preference on paper products is used from time to time and is a reasonable incentive to continue the high volume of recycled paper procurements as demonstrated by this year's achievement. This 10 % preference is still needed to achieve the statutory requirement where 50% of the paper products by Maine State Government have recycled content.

There was one recycled product that State Government discontinued using. Recycled computer diskettes were not sufficiently reliable to achieve customer acceptance. The contract for these items was not renewed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division of Purchases has had success in buying products with recycled content. State agency users have become aware of the quality and advantages of those products. The volume in paper products (except printed matter) has decreased slightly. The use of technology has had an impact decreasing the amount of certain paper products used, particularly copier paper and envelopes/labels.

The efforts of the Bureau of General Services, which includes the Division of Purchases, will continue. Existing statute provides the opportunity for good, sound procurement techniques to be applied. The price preference applied to paper products should continue. When this preference is applied conservatively, using judgment to insure against adverse affects on ordering agencies, it allows for increased procurement of paper products.

The gains in several product categories have been significant and will continue, while at a slower pace. It is not practical, from a procurement and budget point of view, to expand the price preference beyond paper. The momentum of the recycling effort will sustain these trends.

PURCHASED - SHORT LIST

1998 Report

2000 Report

Steel Post	\$ 41,000.00		\$ -
Offset Paper	\$ 7,446.00		\$ 4,226.65
Boxes, Bags, Kraft Paper	\$ 23,843.00		\$ 20,836.00
Computer Paper & Labels	\$ 45,856.00		\$ 26,129.00
Paper (printing & copier)	\$ 444,378.00		\$ 411,957.56
Paper Towels, Tissue, Napkins	\$ 198,528.00		\$ 100,849.56
Envelopes, Pads, Cards	\$ 80,134.00		\$ 149,588.00
Printing (all types)	\$ 2,349,793.00		\$ 3,417,208.11
Retread Tires and Retreading	\$ 42,931.00		\$ 78,156.49
Trash Bags (plastic)	\$ 111,682.00		\$ 91,715.18
Reflective Glass Beads	\$ 271,864.00		\$ 429,660.00
Re-refined Motor Oil	\$ -		\$ -
Aluminum Stock	\$ 499,200.00		\$ 285,751.25
Toner Cartridges/Ribbons	\$ 108,209.00		\$ 50,574.65
Wiping Cloths	\$ 16,856.00		\$ 5,612.94
Traffic Cones	\$ 26,750.00		\$ 16,660.00
Remanufactured Equipment	\$ 30,263.00		\$ -
Recycled Diskettes	\$ 5,700.00		\$ -
Refurbished Automotive Items	\$ 88,412.00		\$ 50,000.00
Refurbished Aircraft Items	\$ 81,853.00		\$ 316,004.40
Used Equipment	\$ 119,910.00		\$ 3,638.29
Re-Inking Ribbons	\$ 686.00		\$ 29.02
Pencils	\$ 1,131.00		\$ -
Calendars	\$ 34,967.00		\$ 17,558.28
Cellulose Fiber Mulch	\$ -		\$ 23,897.26
File Folders/Pockets	\$ -		\$ 53,026.00
Total	\$ 4,631,392.00		\$ 5,553,078.64