

DRAFT Green Purchasing Policy DRAFT

WPI recognizes that the products that the Institute purchases can profoundly affect the environment through their use and ultimate disposal. Purchased services may also have substantial environmental impact. The community is strongly encouraged to take a pro-active position in recognizing and exploring opportunities to procure “environmentally friendly” materials/equipment. It is the intent of WPI to integrate environmental considerations into acquisition decisions, while maintaining cost and value standards.

The intent of this policy is to reduce the adverse environmental impact of our purchased products and services. By including environmental considerations in our purchasing decisions, along with concerns about price, performance, and availability, we will remain fiscally responsible while promoting practices that do not harm human health, are less polluting, that minimize waste, maximize use of bio-based or recycled materials, conserve energy and water, and reduce the consumption or disposal of hazardous materials.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as requiring a buyer or contractor to procure products that do not perform well for their intended use or are not available at a reasonable price or in a reasonable period of time.

WPI Faculty and Staff can contribute to improving the environment by:

- Consolidating orders,
- Using electronic rather than paper catalogs,
- Making use of Life Cycle Cost Analysis where appropriate,
- Buying items that contain recycled material,
- Choosing items made from renewable resources,
- Opting for the non-hazardous alternative,
- Looking for the most energy efficient model,
- Buying locally,
- Buying only what is needed to minimize waste.

In determining whether a product is environmentally preferable, the following attributes should be considered:

- Durable, not single use or disposable
- Made of recycled materials
- Biodegradable
- Recyclable or capable of being safely disposed
- Made from raw materials obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
- Produced by companies with good environmental track records
- Cause minimal environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- Carcinogen-free and low toxicity
- Compostable
- Energy efficient
- Heavy metal free (e.g., no lead, mercury, cadmium)
- Made from rapidly renewable materials
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced packaging
- Resource efficiency
- Upgradeable
- Water efficient