Simplifying Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
Background & Selecting 3 Products

• Received grant to write model specifications on three products purchasers find difficult to purchase “green” versions of, and to promote EPP.

• Selected Products
  – copy and multipurpose paper
  – monochrome toner cartridges
  – office supplies
Developed Spec Writing Teams

• Purchasers and environmentalists interested in or experts on the different products.
Draft Model Specs Open for Review

• Open Review Period: May 19 – June 19

• http://nerc.org/model-epp-specifications
Strategies Used

• Depended on the expertise of the spec writing teams
• Used new and existing research
• Conducted research
  – Spoke to retailers
  – Searched the Internet
Lessons Learned in Paper

• 100% Post Consumer Recycled Content paper is becoming increasingly difficult for US and Canadian paper manufacturers to produce economically (8 companies making private label RC papers)
  – Single stream recycling creates dirty feedstock
    • Damages equipment
    • Increases production costs; requires more paper
    • Requires more bleach to make bright
Purchasing Guidelines
Recommended Vendor Requirements

• Definition of EPP products
• EPP product listings in catalog and on website
• Annual purchasing reports (segregating out EPP purchases)
• Minimal packaging and only use easily recyclable shipping and packaging material
• Consolidate deliveries
• No idling of delivery trucks
Additional Vendor Preferences

• Participate in vendor fairs

• Additional online catalog features

• Paper - Certifying manufacturing using green power sources

• Offer certification of manufacturing paper supply chain
Office Supplies EPP Specs

• Minimum and preferred EPP specs for list of highest expenditures and quantity purchases.

• Purchasing Guidelines
  – Use of Core List & Market Basket List (Powerful tool)
  – Allow for core list changes beyond volume/spend patterns

• Recommended Vendor Requirements
Lessons Learned in Toner Cartridges

Importance of understanding available products, their impact on the market, and current status of remanufacturing industry

• Remanufactured

• OEM

• Compatible Toner Cartridges or Clones

• Cartridges Compatible with – remanufacturers may refer to their toner cartridges as “compatible with” certain OEM printers and copiers. This is different than compatible toner cartridges.
Toner Cartridge Purchasing Guidelines

• Product Quality Requirements

• Bidder and Contract Vendor Requirements

• Bidder and Vendor Requirements on Remanufacturer
Thank You to Spec Writing Teams

• **Paper:** California: Karl Bruskotter, City of Santa Monica; New York: Bob Lazarro, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Oregon: Becky Wheeler, Eugene Oregon Purchasing Office; and Responsible Purchasing Network: Susan Kinsella.

• **Toner Cartridges:** New York: Beth Meer, Commissioner's Policy Office, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Vermont: Brian Berini, Buildings and General Services; Washington: Shirli Axelrod, Seattle Public Utilities and Jason Edens, City of Seattle; Responsible Purchasing Network: Alicia Culver and Susan Kinsella; Rochester Institute of Technology: Robert Matesic.

• **Office Supplies:** California: Karl Bruskotter, City of Santa Monica; New Jersey: AnnMarie Weidemann, Division of Purchase and Property, New Jersey Department of Treasury; and Oregon: Stacey Foreman, City of Portland.
Next Steps

• Finalize the specs and post on NERC’s website

• Hold a webinar to discuss and promote the specs

• Develop fact sheets on specs and distribute

• Request meetings with purchasing officials in 10 Northeast states to promote EPP and the use of the new specs