

Environmental Purchasing Policy

Acquisition decisions made on behalf of the Vancouver Aquarium must reflect the conservation goals and values of the organization. The Aquarium will use its purchasing power to promote environmental sustainability; this will extend to the acquisition of both products and services.

The Aquarium believes the environmental benefits associated with environmentally sustainable choices are worthwhile, and should be considered an important factor in all purchasing decisions.

While pricing and cost comparisons remain important factors, purchasing decisions will also include environmental sustainability; considering whole life costs, available choices and environmental risks.

Wherever practical and financially appropriate, the Aquarium will take the following into account when making environmentally friendly purchasing decisions:

Lifecycle Considerations

- type and quantity of raw material and energy used to manufacture, as well as pollution and other by-products
- type and quantity of product and equipment packaging
- energy and pollution related to product transportation
- product durability and adaptability
- environmental implications of operation, maintenance and energy requirements
- resultant waste disposal issues.

Environmentally Detrimental Choices

Products or services which:

- contain known polluting substances or heavy metals
- are disposable in nature (single use items)
- are detrimental, due to the nature of their lifecycle, to an environmentally sensitive area.

Environmentally Superior Choices

Products or services which are:

- recyclable and/or made with recycled content
- certified organic or sustainable when harvested from nature
- made from reclaimed materials, or from by-products from other processes
- less polluting and more energy efficient than their regular counterparts
- durable in nature
- environmentally certified
- supportive of environmental conservation initiatives.

Consumption Reduction

- only purchase necessary items in appropriate volumes.

To support this policy and its implementation the Aquarium will:

- develop a system where products can be reused or reallocated within the organization, or donated
- develop a system to support suppliers that are committed to environmental responsibility and improvement
- review this policy every three years or earlier if necessary
- allocate appropriate resources to support sustainable purchasing