

Environmental Purchasing Policy

Acquisitions of goods and services made on behalf of the Aquarium must reflect the conservation goals and values of the organization. The Aquarium believes the benefits associated with environmentally sustainable choices are worthwhile, and should be considered an important factor in all purchasing decisions. The Aquarium will use its purchasing power to promote environmental sustainability.

Where practicable and financially appropriate, the Aquarium will consider the following when making purchasing decisions:

Consumption Reduction

- Only purchase necessary items in appropriate volumes; and
- Consider alternate solutions including leasing, borrowing or purchase of used items.

Lifecycle Analysis

Environmental implications related to the manufacture, packaging, transport, operation, maintenance and end of life disposal of each product or service will be considered, including the following:

- Type and quantity of raw material used and pollution and other by-products created;
- Energy source and quantity consumed and resulting emissions and pollution;
- Product durability and adaptability; and
- Reusability, recyclability and waste created.

Environmentally Superior Choices

Products or services which are:

- Made from renewable, recycled or reclaimed materials;
- Environmentally certified with third party verification (e.g. Certified Organic, Energy Star, Green Seal, etc);
- Durable in nature; and
- Supportive of environmental conservation initiatives.

To support this policy and its implementation the Aquarium will:

- Develop a system where products can be reused, reallocated or donated;
- Work with our current suppliers, and seek new suppliers, to increase environmentally-preferred product availability;
- Allocate appropriate resources to support sustainable purchasing; and
- Review this policy every three years or earlier if necessary.

The Vancouver Aquarium is a self-supporting non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research and direct action.