

## Put the Purchasing Power of Government to Good Use

By adopting recovered materials procurement guidelines Kansas state agencies can use their purchasing power to develop markets for products made from materials that would otherwise become solid waste and to set an example for the public as well as the private sector.

State agencies can take the lead in initiating purchasing practices that will stimulate recycling and yield many other important benefits, including:

- *more jobs*
- *a stronger economy*
- *reduced need for new landfills*
- *reduction in green-house gas emissions*
- *Improved ability to meet environmental goals and regulations*
- *Conservation of natural resources*
- *Reduced dependency of fossil fuels*

To learn more about procuring products made from recycled materials or to explore a recovered materials supplier database, visit the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/cpg/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/cpg/index.htm).



**Remember that recycled procurement translates into more jobs, economic development, and a healthier Kansas.**



Bureau of Waste Management  
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KDHE

## Eliminating Government Waste

A Guide to Buying Recycled Content Products



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Bureau of Waste Management

## Closing the Loop

### A Mountain to Climb

Each year Kansans produce around 3.2 million tons of trash, which is enough to bury a football field nearly three miles high in garbage. Yet, we recycle only about 20 percent of this. With waste growing at 6 percent per year, that mountain will double over the next 12 years unless there's a revolution in the way we think about waste.

While recycling waste is important, it is only half the story. Buying recycled products is key to creating the demand which supports a healthy market for recovered materials. This in turn helps deliver recycling targets.

### Choosing Recycled Content Products

The purchase of recycled products is crucial to the success of Kansas' recycling program, as well as recycling in general. By purchasing recycled products, Kansas state agencies are helping to create long-term stable markets for the recyclable materials collected from Kansas homes, businesses and institutions. While most Kansas agencies currently purchase some recycled content paper products, recycled products come in many shapes, sizes and forms including: carpeting; construction materials; toner cartridges; vehicle fluids; pens and pencils; landscaping materials; furniture; retread tires; and promotional items.



***If You're Not Buying Recycled; You're Not Really Recycling.***

### Federal and State Regulations

Many states agencies, including Kansas, are now required by law to buy products that can be made with recycled materials, as designated by Section 6002 of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG).

The federal requirement is further supported by K.S.A. 65-3401 and K.S.A. 65-3406, which encourage the wise use of resources through development of strategies that reduce, reuse, and recycle materials. K.S.A. 753740b stipulates that at least 25 percent of the paper purchased by the state must be recycled content paper.

Additionally, many agency have similar rules and regulations regarding the purchase of recycled content products. For example, KDHE Secretary's Policy 99-22, directs that KDHE implement and expand existing recycling, waste reduction, and energy conservation activities; to maximize the purchase of products made from recovered materials; and reduce, reuse, and recycle office materials at all KDHE offices statewide.

### Why Buy Recycled?

The purchase and use of products made with recycled material is the last step in the recycling process and provides many important benefits, including: creating jobs and strengthening the economy; reducing the need for new landfills; preventing emission of many air and water pollutants, including greenhouse gas emissions; saving energy by reducing the need to extract and process raw

materials to manufacture new products; stimulating the development of greener technologies; and conserving natural resources.

### What About Cost and Quality?

Kansas can join the many other states and local governments that have incorporated recycled products into their purchases. State government can play a key role in changing attitudes and habits concerning waste. Products made from recycled materials



***Did you know that the recycling industry in the U.S. already grosses \$236 billion in annual revenue and employs 1.1 million people.***

are available and affordable. Thanks to technological innovation, products made from recycled materials now compete on equal footing in quality and price with products made from virgin materials. This allows government to achieve good value for their expenditures.

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