



ShopTalk

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Save Money and Protect the Environment Through Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Good purchasing practices can help you save money by reducing costs and decreasing waste. You can use "environmentally preferable purchasing" to select products with less impact on the environment without sacrificing product performance. Let your suppliers know your needs and concerns and use your dollar power to influence suppliers to make "green" products available. You will save money and benefit worker health in the process. Here are some ideas to consider:

✓ **Buy products that are least toxic.** We are exposed to toxins daily from our carpets, paints, cleaners, pesticides, and countless other products. Find alternatives to hazardous products to protect the health of your employees and the environment. You will see savings in reduced disposal costs, reduced liability, and a healthier, more productive workforce.

✓ **Look for certified products.** There are several organizations that certify a product's environmental claims.

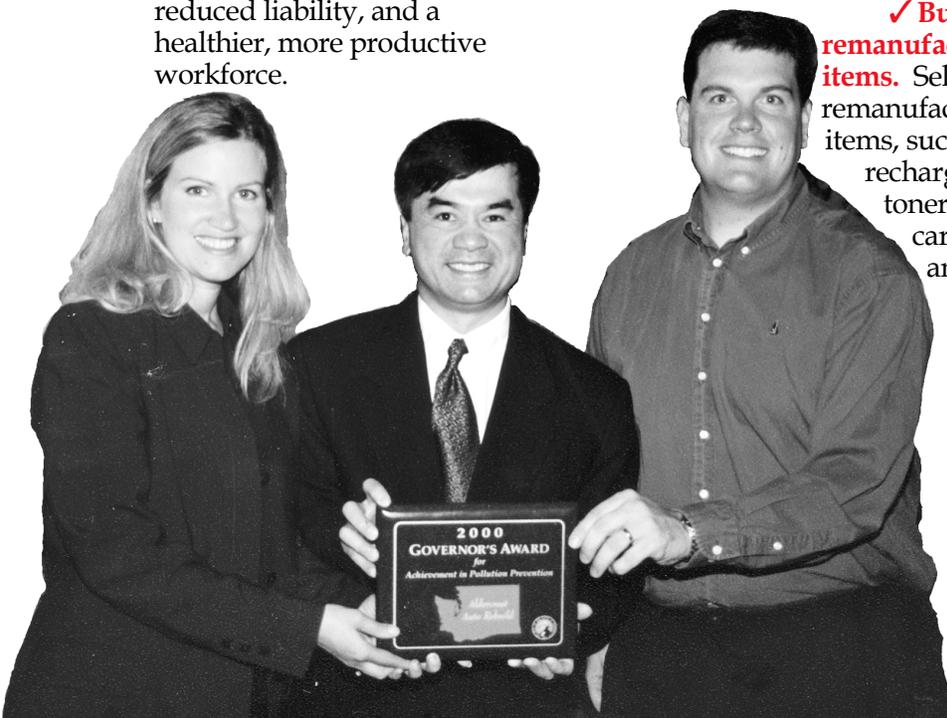
- Green Seal: sets environmental standards and certifies a variety of products.
- SmartWood: certifies forest products from "sustainable" or "well-managed" forests.
- Chlorine Free Products: certifies paper as totally chlorine free or process chlorine free.

✓ **Select energy efficient equipment.** Look for ways to reduce your energy costs, power demand, and the negative environmental impacts of power generation. Support alternative power production by purchasing electricity generated from alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power. This option is available in many areas, and can be selected through your local power company.

✓ **Buy remanufactured items.** Selecting remanufactured items, such as recharged toner cartridges and

refurbished furniture, reduces purchase costs and prevents items that are still useful from being disposed.

- ✓ **Buy recycled content products.** Support the market for recycled materials; they typically use less energy and natural resources than manufacturing new products. Consider using re-refined motor oil and recycled antifreeze as well as recycled content office supplies.
- ✓ **Evaluate ordering and inventory practices.** Avoid overstocking. If excess products spoil or become obsolete, you will have to pay for their disposal. Use the "first-in, first-out" method to select items from inventory.
- ✓ **Establish an environmental purchasing policy.** Evaluate your needs, consider reuse or repair before purchasing, and select environmentally preferable products.
- ✓ **Consider alternatives to purchasing,** like renting or leasing.
- ✓ **Evaluate packaging.** Avoid "over-packaging." Request reusable shipping containers and bulk packaging.
- ✓ **Always consider the full cost of a product** or piece of equipment, not just the purchase price. It may cost more initially to buy equipment that is energy or water efficient or more durable. But if you factor in costs such as energy use or maintenance, you may find buying the higher-priced product saves you money in the long run. Information is available to help you with environmentally preferable purchasing (see Information, page 2).



Purchasing products and equipment with less environmental impact helped Aldercrest Auto Rebuild win the 2000 Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention. Owners Nick and Julie Stack are pictured with Governor Gary Locke. Details on page 2.

Governor's Pollution Prevention Award Winners

Governor Gary Locke presented awards to the winners of the 2000 Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention on September 21, 2000 in a special ceremony in Olympia.

Winners were applauded for their successful efforts to prevent pollution and promote sustainable business practices. Their successes included reducing the amounts of hazardous substances used, reducing dangerous waste and emissions, and conserving natural resources.

"This award recognizes that businesses and government can work together to address current and future ecological challenges," said Locke. "The winners prove that businesses can improve processes, solve environmental problems and be viable in today's competitive market."

"We've come to realize that pollution prevention is only part of the task of protecting the environment," said Department of Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons, who also spoke at the event. "We need to look at whether our business practices can continue without affecting the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Congratulations to the winners:

- Aldercrest Auto Rebuild
- Boeing Aircraft and Missiles Group
- Fairchild Air Force Base (Continued Excellence)
- GM Nameplate, Inc.
- Habitat - Spokane Builders Surplus Store
- In Harmony Organic Based Landscape Services
- Klickitat Public Utility District
- RE Sources / The RE Store
- SEH America, Inc.
- Sleeping Lady
- The McGregor Company

If you would like to be included on a mailing list for this annual award program, e-mail Cathy Bouge at cbou461@ecy.wa.gov.

Innovations Help Aldercrest Auto Rebuild to Win Governor's Pollution Prevention Award

"Some people are never satisfied!" You could say that about Nick and Julie Stack, owners of Aldercrest Auto Rebuild in Lynnwood. The Stacks are always looking for ways to improve safety, economic, and environmental aspects of their auto body repair shop. Past improvements include a computerized paint-mixing system and a combination gun washer/solvent still. The Stacks are motivated by their desire to have a shop that produces the highest quality autobody work, and to run an environmentally friendly business for their workers and the community. As a result of their success, Aldercrest was awarded the Governor's Award for Achievement in Pollution Prevention.

How did they do it? Much of Aldercrest's success can be attributed to seeking new products and processes to improve worker safety, product quality, financial savings, and environmental protection.

Aldercrest owners and employees work closely with their suppliers to test new products. Nick provides feedback to the suppliers about how to make these products work better for the autobody shops. In doing so, he is able to try new things that nobody else has used. And the knowledge gained from Aldercrest has helped the suppliers improve their products.

For example, Aldercrest was one of three shops in the region to try out a new paint system that uses paint with no lead and minimal amounts of chromium. This computerized system allows the painter to mix the exact amount of paint needed for a job. This helps to save on product costs and reduces waste.

Another innovation occurred when Aldercrest's lead painter convinced the owners that a new gun washer was needed. The Stacks decided to find a gun washer system that would help them to further reduce solvent use and waste, reduce disposal costs, and reduce

worker contact with the solvent. The solution was a combination gunwasher/solvent still. The machine required a \$6000 investment, but Nick is convinced that the cost of the machine will be paid back in two years with savings from reduced solvent purchases and disposal costs. In addition, the new gun washer is safer for employees to use because workers no longer have to put their hands into the solvent.

Aldercrest is a prime example of a well-run economically viable business that successfully incorporates environmental protection and worker safety.

A New Way to Complete the Tier Two Report

Each year Washington businesses that store chemicals are required to submit a Tier Two-Hazardous Chemical Inventory Report to Ecology and local governments on or before March 1st.

Ecology is pleased to announce availability of a newly updated electronic reporting tool, *epcraMail* version 1.4. *epcraMail* allows reporters to enter chemical data, print out a completed form and export the data via a diskette. To determine system requirements, download *epcraMail* or for additional information visit Ecology's home page at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr or call 1-800-633-7585 or (360) 407-6893.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Information

For information on purchasing and using "green products," visit these websites:

Pollution Prevention Resource Center <http://www.pprc.org/pprc/pubs/topics/envpurch.html>
US Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/
King County Environmental Purchasing www.metrokc.gov/procure/green/index.htm

Ecology Staff Provide Assistance to Businesses

Increased Generator Contact (IGC) projects are conducted by Ecology staff to provide technical assistance to a large number of businesses in a selected area. Businesses are helped to identify ways to improve their environmental practices related to hazardous substance use, waste management, pollution prevention and water quality. These visits take less than an hour, and are intended to provide helpful information to businesses. If problems are noted, the business owner is advised of needed changes, but penalties are not issued.

Port Angeles was the focus of an IGC project last spring. Ninety-six sites including automotive shops, print shops, dry cleaners, and medical and dental offices were visited in a period of three days.

Participants were surveyed to find out their opinions of the visits. Port Angeles participants responded that the technical assistance providers were "helpful and friendly" and that Ecology staff were "knowledgeable and eager to help, but not pushy about it."

In September, businesses in Aberdeen and Hoquiam received IGC visits. Over a two day period, 86 shops were visited including auto shops, auto wreckers, print shops, photo shops, dry cleaners, dental offices, boatyards, machine shops, painting contractors and pest management businesses.

When asked what they liked most about the IGC visits, Aberdeen business people responded:

"It lets me know where I stand with my facility and if I'm doing everything within code."

"It was short and to the point. Look for problem areas, discuss and solve."

"I'm glad that they stopped by!"

Most of the businesses in Port Angeles, Aberdeen and Hoquiam were already using good environmental practices, but Ecology staff offered some suggestions for even more improvements.

Ecology staff members would like to thank all businesses that participated in these IGC visits. Keep up the good work! If you would like to request a similar technical assistance visit, or you have questions about Ecology's regulations, please call your regional Ecology office listed on the back page.

Shoptalk on the Web

A new Internet version of *Shoptalk* was launched in May of this year. Thanks to all of you who have given us your comments. Responses have been positive. Users like the Internet version of *Shoptalk* at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/shoptalkonline/index.html> because they can easily:

- Search quickly to find the information needed.
- Print an article or an entire issue.
- Link to related information.
- Contact Ecology staff via e-mail.

Many visited *Shoptalk* on-line, completed the feedback questionnaire and became eligible to win passes to one of Ecology's Dangerous Waste Generator Workshops. The final winners are Beverlee Ruhland of Solvay Interlox and Robin Hunt of Honeywell Electronic Materials.

Subscribe to *Shoptalk* on-line and you will receive an e-mail message with a direct link to the Internet site for future issues. For more information, contact Joanne Phillipson at (360) 407-6740 or joph461@ecy.wa.gov.



2001 Dangerous Waste Management Workshops

Each year, Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program provides low-cost Dangerous Waste Management Workshops. The workshops cover proper hazardous waste management and compliance with the State *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. The morning session will cover dangerous waste management issues for all generators—small, medium and large. Afternoon sessions will cover in-depth issues for medium and large quantity generators. The training uses presentations interwoven with small group exercises, discussions, and question-and-answer sessions. Get your questions answered in a casual, friendly atmosphere, while you learn:

- ✓ Waste reduction methods that can increase profits.
- ✓ How to benefit from lowering your generator status.
- ✓ The "designation" process for identifying a waste's hazards.
- ✓ Principles of proper dangerous waste management.
- ✓ Quick, correct steps to completing your Annual Report.
- ✓ Ways to avoid common compliance violations.

The all-day workshops are scheduled as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>
January 17	Vancouver
January 19	Lacey
January 23	Mount Vernon
January 25	Silverdale
January 30	Spokane
February 1	Yakima
February 7	Seattle
February 8	Seattle

The full-day training and lunch costs \$40. To reserve your space and lunch, **you must register and pay by January 10, 2001** by calling Tonya Wolfe at (360) 407-6718.

Questions and Answers:

Q What are special wastes?

A In Washington State "Special wastes" are state-only dangerous wastes that can be excluded from full dangerous waste regulations when certain conditions are met (WAC 173-303-073). Special wastes are defined in WAC 173-303-040.

You must first designate dangerous waste to see if it is special waste. The waste must be in a solid state (not liquid, aqueous or gaseous). It can have any of the following waste codes:

- Listed Source PCBs - W001
- Corrosive Characteristic - WSC2
- Toxic Criteria - WT02 (category D only)
- Persistent Criteria - WP02

Special waste must be disposed in hazardous waste or municipal solid waste landfills as specified in section - 073, recycled on-site or off-site, or treated in a way that is consistent with Ecology's treatment-by-generator guidance.

Q What are the advantages to managing "special waste?"

A Special waste qualifies for more streamlined management requirements, such as:

- The Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest is not required for shipping, but some document must

accompany the waste. Department of Transportation rules still apply.

- There are no specific training requirements, but workers must be informed of special waste hazards. OSHA/WISHA requirements may apply.
- Generators may treat special waste on-site in units other than tanks or containers.
- Accumulation requirements are simplified.
- The accumulation time limit is 180 days, instead of 90 days, for waste amounts over 2,200 pounds.

Q What dangerous waste generator requirements apply to special waste?

A Generators of special waste must comply with these regulations:

- Notification and annual reporting.
- Designation of dangerous waste.
- Land disposal restrictions (for solid acid wastes).
- Spill and discharge management.
- Special burning for energy recovery requirements.
- Pollution prevention plans.
- Hazardous waste fees.

For more information, contact your Ecology regional office. You can also find *Management Requirements for Special Waste* on Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/961254hwtr.html> or call Dave Zink at (360) 407-6752 and request publication number 96-1254-HWTR.

Ecology Regional Offices

Remember, your business is liable for all hazardous wastes generated. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, call your nearest Ecology office and ask for a hazardous waste specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for the toxics reduction staff, also at the following numbers:

Bellevue: (425) 649-7000

Lacey: (360) 407-6300

Yakima: (509) 575-2490

Spokane: (509) 456-2926

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Shoptalk

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Editor: Joanne Phillipson (360) 407-6740
E-mail address: joph461@ecy.wa.gov
Production Team: Cathy Bouge, Joan Morris
Technical Editor: Chipper Hervieux
Contributors: J.C. Armbruster, Patricia Jateczak, Kathleen Kaynor, Joanne Phillipson, Laura Schleyer, Sadie Whitener
Distribution/Mailing List Changes: Cathy Bouge (360) 407-6719 E-mail address: cbou461@ecy.wa.gov

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Washington State
Department of Ecology
Hazardous Waste and
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P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

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