



SF Environment

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Annual Report
Implementation of San Francisco's
Precautionary Purchasing Ordinance - 2008
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San Francisco Department of the Environment
Presented to the Commission on the Environment, City & County of San Francisco
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I. Introduction

A. Executive Summary

The San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) and the Office of Contract Administration (OCA) have taken lead roles in implementing the City's Precautionary Purchasing Ordinance. Since the ordinance was passed in 2005, SFE has instituted environmentally preferable specifications for 27 product subcategories in 10 citywide commodities contracts. In terms of dollars spent, overall purchases of SF Approved Green Products increased by 54% in 2008 when compared with 2007. Specifically, purchases of green cleaning products increased by 556%; purchases of janitorial papers increased by 39%, purchases of recyclable/compostable foodware increased by 23%, and purchases of rechargeable batteries increased by 17%. Major accomplishments for 2008 include: The publication of the nation's first listing of low-mercury, long-life, energy-efficient lamps covering all major manufacturers; completion of the first SF Approved Green Products catalog, inclusion of environmental requirements in the citywide information technology (IT) store contract, the completion of two new SF Approved Product lists, a new contract award for energy-efficient electrical fixtures, active participation in national standards development for janitorial cleaning products, implementation of email marketing and survey software, and an experimental web site that serves as a clearing house of City staff reviews of green product effectiveness. Future activities include work on at least three new contract areas—carpets, paint, and compostable trash can liners—plus continued work on improving existing specifications and user buy-in.

B. Mandate

The Precautionary Purchasing Ordinance (SF Environment Code Chapter 2) establishes goals and procedures for environmentally preferable purchasing (green purchasing) by City departments. This ordinance was groundbreaking in its application of the Precautionary Principle (Environment Code, Chapter 1), and in its mandate that purchasers for the city may *only* buy commodities from "approved alternative product lists" for certain products.