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**Owner:** David Carlson: Gvp Sourcing & Clin Inter Ofcr  
**Policy Area:** REHG-Resource, Engineering and Hospitality Group  
**Departments:**  
**Applicability:** Providence St. Joseph Health Systemwide

## PSJH-REH-1008 Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)

<b>Executive Sponsor:</b>	David Walker, SVP, Chief Resources Officer
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	David Carlson, GVP Strategic Sourcing & CRI
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jennie Kim, Director Contract & Supplier Management

### Scope:

This policy applies to the non-profit entities of Providence St. Joseph Health and its Affiliates [\[1\]](#) (collectively known as “PSJH”) and their workforce members (caregivers, volunteers, trainees, interns, apprentices, students), independent contractors, vendors and all other individuals working at the ministry, whether they are paid by or under the direct control of the facility; employees of affiliated organizations (collectively, “workforce members”). Where an organization is not wholly or majority owned, exceptions may apply. This policy applies to all affected and interested persons, as defined below, in positions that have influence over the affairs of PSJH and who have a direct or indirect financial interest in PSJH. This is a management level policy reviewed and recommended by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for approval by senior leadership which includes vetting by Executive Leadership Council with final approval by the President, Chief Executive Officer, or appropriate delegate.

### Purpose:

PSJH’s Mission and values compel us to be good stewards of resources and a model of stewardship. Our core value of Justice requires, “We strive to care wisely for our people, our resources, our earth.” In keeping with our Mission and Values, in 2020, PSJH announced a goal to become carbon negative by 2030. Achieving this goal will require reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all aspects of our organizational operations. PSJH has a secondary goal to keep at least 50% of all waste out of landfill or incineration by 2030.

PSJH seeks to reduce emissions and waste generated through our supply chain by making purchasing decisions that support PSJH’s Mission and Values. Specifically, PSJH seeks to address emissions caused by manufacturing, distribution, transportation, and disposal, as well as decrease the use of packaging and disposable items. It is the policy of PSJH to make purchasing decisions that align with PSJH’s goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste, and seeking opportunities to minimize chemicals of concern.

# Definitions:

1. *Chemicals of Concern*. Chemicals identified by the EPA as harmful to human health. Details on each listed below can be found in the California Proposition 65: <https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/proposition-65-list>
2. *Energy-Efficient Product* means a product that is in the upper 25% of energy efficiency for all similar products, or that is at least 10% more efficient than the minimum level that meets federal standards.
3. *Greenhouse Gas* (GHG) any of the gases whose [absorption](#) of [solar radiation](#) is responsible for the greenhouse effect, including carbon dioxide, [methane](#), [nitrous](#) oxide, and fluorinated gases.
4. *Recycled Content* means the percentage of recovered material, including pre-consumer and post-consumer materials, in a product.
5. *Source Reduction* refers to products that result in a net reduction in the generation of waste compared to their previous or alternate version and includes durable, reusable, and remanufactured products; products with no, or reduced, toxic constituents; and products marketed with no, or reduced, packaging.

# Policy:

This policy establishes guidelines to align sourcing, purchasing, and contracting functions with PSJH's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The policy applies to all divisions that make sourcing, contracting, and purchasing decisions, and all end-users and buyers who select items, contracts, or services.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROCUREMENT GENERAL GUIDELINES:

	<p><b>WASTE REDUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek opportunities for source reduction: purchase products that are durable and long-lasting, low maintenance, reusable, and/or re-processable.</li> <li>• Aim to purchase products that are recyclable, that have reduced and/or recycled content packaging, and that include recycled content in materials.</li> <li>• Include waste minimization as a criterion for awarding contracts, justified by performance data.</li> <li>• Include contract language with suppliers to include information about the types and weight of any/all component materials in the products we purchase.</li> <li>• Include contract language with waste suppliers to provide weight and volume of waste on invoices.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase energy and water efficient products and equipment, and secure contracts that prioritize energy and water efficiency.</li> <li>• Seek third-party verified efficiency ratings for equipment.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AGRICULTURE/FOOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These guidelines apply to all food and beverage purchase and service (cafeterias, patient meal services, catering, unit-based food and beverage purchasing, food delivery, etc.):</li> </ul>

- Purchase items with lower greenhouse gas emissions (meats with lower GHG emissions, local foods, and sustainable foods)
- Avoid excessive packaging and disposable service ware. If disposable is required, choose compostable
- Prioritize healthy, low-chemical food and beverages
- Source from local suppliers where available



### CHEMICALS OF CONCERN REDUCTION

- Avoid or minimize procurement of products with chemicals of concern used in supplies, equipment, food, cleaning products, building materials, etc. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Heavy metals (including cadmium, mercury, lead hexavalent chromium)
  - PBBs (polybrominated biphenyls and PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers)
  - Bisphenol A, Bisphenol S
  - Polyvinyl chloride
  - Flame retardants (non-electronic and electronic)
  - Ortho-phthalates (including DEHP)
  - California Proposition 65 chemicals
  - Antimicrobials (use only where necessary)
  - Persistent, bio-accumulative, and toxic chemicals (PBTs)
- Do not purchase products containing mercury without justification, documentation, and review and approval by division leader.



### TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY

- Supply distributors: prioritize contracts to distributors who minimize fuel and energy use and provide data on mileage and GHG emissions.
- Business Travel - Prioritize contracts and vendors that reduce GHG emissions associated with business travel (airlines, rental car companies, hotels).
- Employee Commuting – Select commuting incentives that reduce GHG emissions.
- Fleet vehicles - Purchase or lease electric (preferred) or fuel-efficient fleet vehicles

### ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- In all procurement decisions:
  - Along with quality, safety, user preference, and price, consider environmental impacts of product/service as element of discernment
  - Prioritize decisions that minimize fossil fuel use and maximize use of renewable energy sources
  - Whenever possible, select suppliers/contractors with sound environmental practices, including GHG reduction, energy management, and waste management
- Metrics and Data Tracking: Request reporting from participating suppliers to include but not limited to:
  - Waste production
  - Material transparency – identification and quantification of materials in products
  - Presence of chemicals of concern
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Validation of “green” claims

PSJH supports the established guidelines and recommendations provided by the [Environmental Protection](#)

[Agency \(EPA\)](#), [Practice Greenhealth](#) and [Healthcare Without Harm](#) organizations.

This policy is intended to guide PSJH caregivers involved in the procurement process at any level in including environmentally preferential options in contract specifications. This policy should not be construed to require the purchase of products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, are not available at a reasonable price or timeframe, nor that otherwise conflict with local, state, or federal legal or regulatory requirements.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

Policy owners and contact persons will facilitate annual reviews with cross functional divisions to define, align, educate, and implement strategic initiatives that will support the growth and development of environmentally preferable purchasing.

### Applicability:

<sup>[1]</sup> For purposes of this policy, “Affiliates” is defined as any not-for-profit or non-profit entity that is wholly owned or controlled by Providence St. Joseph Health (PSJH), Providence Health & Services, St. Joseph Health System, Western HealthConnect, Kadlec, Covenant Health Network, Grace Health System, Providence Global Center, NorCal HealthConnect, or is a not-for-profit or non-profit entity majority owned or controlled by PSJH or its Affiliates and bears the Providence, Swedish Health Services, St. Joseph Health, Covenant Health, Grace Health System, Kadlec, or Pacific Medical Centers names (includes Medical Groups, Home and Community Care, etc.).

### Attachments

No Attachments

### Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
Cynthia Johnston: Compliance Spec PSJH	05/2021
Cynthia Johnston: Compliance Spec PSJH	05/2021
Cynthia Johnston: Compliance Spec PSJH	05/2021

### Applicability

AK - Providence Alaska MC, AK - Providence Kodiak Island MC, AK - Providence PEC/PTCC, AK - Providence Seward MC, AK - Providence St. Elias Specialty Hospital, AK - Providence Valdez MC, CA - Mission Hospitals, CA - PSJH Physician Enterprise Northern, CA - PSJH Physician Enterprise Southern, CA - Petaluma Valley Hospital, CA - Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana MC, CA - Providence Holy Cross MC, CA - Providence LCM MC San Pedro, CA - Providence LCM MC Torrance, CA - Providence Saint John's Health Center, CA - Providence Saint Joseph MC, Burbank, CA - Queen of the Valley Medical Center, CA - Redwood Memorial Hospital, CA -

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, CA - SoCal Region, CA - St. Joseph Hospital - Eureka, CA - St. Joseph Hospital Orange, CA - St. Jude Medical Center, CA - St. Mary Medical Center Apple Valley, MT - Providence St. Joseph MC, Polson, MT - St. Patrick Hospital, OR - Clinical Support Staff (CSS), OR - Connections, OR - Credena Health (CH), OR - Home Health (HH), OR - Home Medical Equipment (HME), OR - Home Services, OR - Home Services Pharmacy (HSRx), OR - Hospice (HO), OR - Providence Ctr for Medically Fragile Children, OR - Providence Health Oregon Labs, OR - Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital, OR - Providence Medford MC, OR - Providence Medical Group, OR - Providence Medical Group, OR - Providence Milwaukie Hospital, OR - Providence Newberg MC, OR - Providence Portland MC, OR - Providence Seaside Hospital, OR - Providence St. Vincent MC, OR - Providence Willamette Falls MC, Providence Home and Community Care, Providence St. Joseph Health, Providence and Kadlec Express Care, TX - Covenant Children's Hospital, TX - Covenant Hospital Levelland, TX - Covenant Hospital Plainview, TX - Covenant Medical Center, TX - Covenant Specialty Hospital, WA - EWA Providence Medical Group, WA - Kadlec Regional Medical Center, WA - NWR Providence Medical Group, WA - Providence Centralia Hospital, WA - Providence DominiCare, WA - Providence Holy Family Hospital, WA - Providence Mt. Carmel Hospital, WA - Providence Physician Services, WA - Providence Regional MC Everett, WA - Providence St. Joseph's Hospital, WA - Providence St. Luke's Rehabilitation Medical, WA - Providence St. Mary MC, WA - Providence St. Peter Hospital, WA - Providence Surgery Center, Pacific Campus, WA - SWR Providence Medical Group, WA - Sacred Heart Med Ctr & Children's Hospital, WA - Swedish Medical Center

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