

Prince George's County Council Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 6/17/2014
Reference No.: CR-029-2014
Draft No.: 2
Proposer(s): Lehman
Sponsor(s): Lehman, Toles, Olson, Franklin, Campos, Davis
Item Title: A Resolution concerning Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy for the purpose of implementing an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy in Prince George's County to reduce the amount and toxicity of solid waste generated by County departments and agencies; recycle materials recoverable from County operations; and maximize the procurement of recycled, energy efficient, and non-toxic products.

Drafter: Colette R. Gresham, Legislative Officer
Resource Personnel: Matthew A. Dernoga, Policy Analyst District 1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:		Executive Action:
Committee Referral:	5/13/2014 - PSFM	Effective Date:
Committee Action:	6/5/2014 - FAV(A)	
Date Introduced:	5/13/2014	
Public Hearing:		
Council Action (1)	6/17/2014 - ADOPTED	
Council Votes:	WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A	
Pass/Fail:	P	
Remarks:		

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety and Fiscal Management

Date 6/5/2014

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable as amended 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Toles, Davis, Harrison, Lehman, and Turner)

This resolution establishes an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy requiring the Purchasing Agent and all departments to take every reasonable effort to reduce the amount and toxicity of solid waste the County's departments and agencies generate, recycle materials recoverable from County operations; and maximize the procurement of recycled, energy efficient, and non-toxic products. Staff gave an overview of the policy which requires departments to purchase items with the highest recovered material content level practicable. County departments are encouraged to give strong consideration to purchasing durable items, items having minimal packaging, and items that are readily recycled when discarded. The policy also addresses toxics and pollution, energy efficiency, landscaping, training, cost, contractors and program evaluation. The Purchasing Agent shall monitor compliance with the policy.

During the work session the resolution was amended as follows:

On page 2, line 8 insert “; and WHEREAS, the procurement of products with nationally and regionally recognized environmentally preferred product labels and certifications such as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Sense, EPA Energy Star, U.S. Department of Energy appliance and equipment energy standards, Green Guard, Green Seal, Forest Stewardship Council, Environmental Product Declarations, U.S. Green Building Council, and Green Globes is an acceptable compliance method under an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy established by the County.”

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The enactment of CR-29-2014 may have a negative fiscal impact on the County as some environmentally responsible products/services may exceed the price of alternative products/services. However, consideration should be given, during the purchasing decision, to the extent by which the environmentally responsible product improves public health, minimizes pollution, and conserves natural resources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

Prince George’s County is a very large consumer of goods and services. The purchasing decisions of the County’s employees and contractors have an impact on the environment. By including environmental considerations in the County’s procurement decisions, along with traditional concerns with price, performance and availability, the County will remain fiscally responsible while incorporating practices that improve health, minimize pollution, and conserve natural resources. The proposed legislation establishes an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy to reduce the impact the County’s purchases will have on its natural resources, public health, and on current and future generations of County residents.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
