

Cobb County Environmental Purchasing Policy

Addendum 1.0 – Purchase Energy Efficient Equipment

The benefits of purchasing EnergyStar® labeled and FEMP recommended products include:

- Reduced energy costs without compromising quality or performance
- Significant return on investment
- Extended product life and decreased maintenance

1.1 Where applicable, energy-efficient equipment shall be purchased with the most up-to-date energy efficiency functions. This includes, but is not limited to, high efficiency space heating systems and high efficiency space cooling equipment. When practicable, the County shall replace inefficient lighting with energy efficient equipment.

1.2 EnergyStar® Certification

EnergyStar is a labeling program derived from a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). All products displaying the EnergyStar label meet Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) standards. Typically, this means that labeled products are in the top 25 percent of all similar products when ranked by energy efficiency, and use 25 to 50 percent less energy than their traditional counterparts.

Products purchased by the County, and for which the U. S. EPA EnergyStar certification is available shall meet EnergyStar certification, when practicable. When EnergyStar labels are not available, energy efficient products shall be purchased that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program.

1.4 Solicitation for Equipment or Products

Wherever practicable, when equipment or product purchases where FEMP recommended standards or EnergyStar labeled products are available, County departments and agencies are expected to include an energy-efficiency requirement component to their solicitation to purchase those products that meet the recommended standards. Examples of these products include computers, monitors, printers, photocopiers and facsimile machines.

1.5 Sample Solicitation Language

Notice to Bidder: In line with the County policy for the procurement of energy-efficient equipment and products, preference will be given to those products that meet the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) standards or possess an EnergyStar® label.

For energy consuming products where there are no FEMP recommended criteria or EnergyStar label, departments must consider the purchase products that conserve electrical power and/or natural gas to the maximum extent possible, based on minimum life-cycle costs.

1.6 Cost Analysis

Even where energy-efficient products have a higher purchase price than their less efficient counterparts, these products usually save money because they use less energy, often have a longer life, and typically incur less maintenance cost.

These savings, such as from lower energy bills, are achieved throughout the entire lifetime of the product. Thus, when deciding how much money an EnergyStar labeled product will save, it is necessary to consider both initial cost (the purchase price) and the costs that will be incurred throughout the life of the product (such as energy and maintenance costs). This is known as Life Cycle Cost.