

A Resolution Concerning Environmentally Preferable Standards for Municipal Purchases  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Introduction

Whereas the Village of Montour Falls seeks to promote sustainability for its operations, having already undertaken actions to improve the energy efficiency of its Village Hall, and;

Whereas the Village of Montour Falls seeks to save on long-term costs by investing in products, services, and technologies that promote efficiency, durability, and sustainability, and;

Whereas adopting certain purchasing practices as a matter of policy can improve working conditions and worker health e.g. by promoting healthier air quality;

Whereas the promoting of products and services that have preferable impacts on the environment assists the Village with achieving its sustainability goals as outlined in the June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Climate Smart Communities Pledge Resolution;

The Village of Montour Falls Board of Trustees hereby votes to adopt the following Environmentally Preferable Purchasing guidelines for municipal operations purchases.

Environmental Standards

In order to ensure ease and utility of comparison of various products and vendor RFP submissions when assessing “environmentally preferable,” the following standards are adopted:

1. In the case of appliances or devices which draw a significant amount of electricity, such as refrigerators, computers, etc. Energy STAR certification;
2. In the case of lightbulbs, NYSERDA’s Lighting Clearinghouse and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Lighting Research Center;
3. In the case of paper and paper products, including cardboard, “percent recycled”;
4. In the case of cleaning products and other chemicals for use in government buildings or operations, Green Seal’s GS-37 guidance document, “*Environmental Standard for General-Purpose, Bathroom, Glass, and Carpet Cleaners for Industrial and Institutional Purposes*”;
5. In the case of containers, receptacles, binders, and other municipal office supplies, the following standard shall apply for determining the “environmentally preferable” nature for such purchases:
  - a. Relative ease of composting the item;
  - b. Relative ease of recycling the item;

6. In the case of vehicles and other capital expenditures, the guidelines as proposed in the May 2, 2019 *Fleet Efficiency Policy* shall serve to determine the “environmentally preferable” nature for such purchases.
7. In the case of applicable infrastructure projects, the minimum standard for recycling and reuse of Construction and Demolition Waste material, as outlined in the June 6, 2019 Resolution Concerning the Disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste Materials, shall be used to assess “environmentally preferable as per §62-4 and §75-4 of the Village Code.
8. For all products, as outlined in §30-3 of the Village Code, preference shall be given to local vendors, products, and services which meet these preferences where feasible. Because the purchase of a local product typically correlates with lower lifetime emissions related to that product, locally sourced purchases shall also be understood to be “environmentally preferable”

### Implementation Strategies

§30-3 of the Village Code outlines municipal procedures for procurement, including provisions for selecting offers, products, bids, and services that are not the “lowest responsible offer” if appropriate justification can be offered. This guide should serve as a companion to the existing purchasing policy in the following ways:

Designated purchasers:

1. May exercise discretion not to adhere to the “lowest responsible offer” guideline if the product or service in question meets or exceeds at least one of the above defined environmentally preferable standards e.g. purchases of paper supplies do not need to meet the lowest price point available if they demonstrate an acceptable level of recycled material;
2. May exercise discretion to consider the environmentally preferable standards listed in this resolution, as well as how this may impact the overall life cost of a given product.
3. May direct the Village Sustainability Committee to perform additional research in order to consider whether certain products meet the above listed environmentally preferable standards. Preference shall be given to those products and services that demonstrate and effectively state the degree to which their product or service is environmentally preferable given the above standards.