

Recycled Content Purchasing Preference Policy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Question:** Does the policy include consideration of recycled content in product packaging?

Answer: No. The recycled content purchasing preference shall only be applied to the product.

2. **Question:** What products are designated by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) Program?

Answer: The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) Program, designates products that are or can be made with recovered materials and recommendations for recovered content, both post-consumer material content and/or total recovered material content. For purposes of the policy, the current product categories as designated by the [Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines \(EPA CPG\)](#) are within scope.

3. **Question:** Can you provide a definition for the terms "post-consumer" and "total recovered" content levels?

Answer: Post-consumer material means a material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been discarded for disposal or recycling, having completed its life as a consumer item. Post-consumer material is a part of the broader category of "recovered material".

Total recovered content also includes materials and by-products generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.

4. **Question:** How would an agency determine that applying this preference will not encourage the use of more recycled content material, based on inadequate competition, economics, environmental constraints, lack of quality or availability?

Answer: Although the overall goal of the statute and policy are to encourage the use of more recycled content material, the statute allows consideration and award without regard to the weighting factor when the weighting factor does not encourage the use of more recycled material. Agencies can make this determination through the competitive process. If, through the competitive procurement process, the agency finds that there is inadequate competition, lack of quality or availability, etc. the agency would not be required to apply a preference. If there is adequate market research that can be documented prior to a competitive process, the agency would not be required to include the preference language in the solicitation. In all cases, agencies should document the procurement file and WEBS.

5. **Question:** Does the preference apply if a bidder exceeds only one of the minimum levels (post-consumer or total recovered content)?

Answer: Yes.