

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy

Township of Warwick, PA

Date: March 5, 2015

Protection of the earth's environment is essential for healthy communities. The Township of Warwick is committed to avoiding harms to human and environmental health, and to improving environmental quality.

The Township of Warwick has identified environmental stewardship as a main priority in their day-to-day municipal operations. The purpose of environmental stewardship is to minimize waste, prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, reduce costs, and model environmental protection practices within the local government sector.

Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to competing products and services.

Specifically, environmentally preferable products and services are those that:

- Reduce waste, such as through the reduction of material use, reusable or recyclable products and packaging; recycled-content, remanufactured, or more durable products and packaging; reduced use of disposables, or other methods.
- Reduce energy use or utilize sustainable or renewable energy.
- Reduce water use or reduce the creation of contaminated or polluted wastewater.
- Support healthy food systems by sourcing local, seasonal, nutritious and sustainably produced food.
- Use green chemicals (chemicals that are inherently less hazardous) and release little to no toxic by-products across their lifecycle.

When selecting among products, the Township of Warwick will prefer products that address our environmental priorities listed above in addition to meeting our performance and cost goals. EPP principles may not be the sole factor in determining product selection but will be weighed with other quality, service, and total cost components.