



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: May 26, 2022

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Douglas Melnick

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the City of San Antonio's Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the SA Climate Ready Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), the City has committed to updating the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy (EPPP) by factoring in the lifecycle impacts (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions) when choosing products. To integrate lifecycle impacts into procurement decision-making, the City must review implementable best practices, appropriate more resources to updating and implementing the EPPP, and conduct a supply chain analysis to identify high-impact commodities. Between 2010 and 2022, sustainable purchasing practices have evolved from prioritizing items with post-consumer waste to evaluating and mitigating categories that produce the highest amount of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy, AD 9.2, was adopted as an administrative directive in 2010 after the passage of the Mission Verde Plan. The policy's purpose is to provide employees with rules and guidelines for environmentally-friendly purchasing and acquisition practices to minimize environmental impacts related to municipal operations. The aim is to prompt all City staff involved in the procurement of goods and services to use environmental responsibility as a factor in their purchasing decisions. Administrative Directive 9.2 provides guidance (e.g. environmental factors to be considered and evaluated), and encourages "green" or "sustainable" purchases when financially feasible.

When executed in 2010, additional resources were not provided to the Finance Department or the Office of Sustainability. Staff research into best practices shows that municipalities that have successfully implemented their purchasing policy have one to two dedicated positions for sustainable procurement. These positions provide ongoing assistance and training to city employees, track spending metrics, provide an annual "green spend" report, and develop case studies for low-carbon alternatives.

ISSUE:

The SA Climate Ready Plan identifies a target of carbon neutrality for San Antonio by 2050 and includes a target of 2040 for net zero municipal operations. In order to accomplish this goal, CoSA must mitigate all greenhouse gas emissions, including those that result from municipal purchasing activities.

The SA Climate Ready Plan calls for achieving net zero carbon by 2040 for municipal operations and identifies the following municipal strategy to address scope 3 emissions:

ENVIRONMENTALLY-PREFERABLE PURCHASING - Update the City's green purchasing policy to consider the lifecycle impacts when choosing products.

Other benefits of updating the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy:

- Advances the Circular Economy
- Leverages the City's purchasing power to move the market toward more sustainable products and services
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces energy and water consumption
- Reduces the amount of toxic releases during material extraction and manufacturing

This briefing will provide an overview of sustainable procurement policies, an update on the EPPP, and proposed next steps, including the need for a municipal supply chain analysis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for briefing purposes only.