



Roadmap

Buying Products with Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Deciding to buy products with post-consumer recycled content (PCR) is an essential starting point. But what next? There are many types of products in the marketplace that contain PCR, including:

- Roll-out carts
- Outdoor furniture- picnic tables, benches, etc.
- Plastic lumber, piers, decking
- Infrastructure drainage pipes
- Recycling & garbage containers
- Office recycling bins
- Trash bags
- Other PCR-containing plastic products – including computers, telephones, and other electronics

As a government entity, there are many ways to buy products with PCR.

State Contracts

All states have procurement agencies (called by various names) that are responsible for negotiating and securing contracts for goods and services on behalf of state agencies. The offerings on these “state contracts” are accessible to any state agency, municipality, or public school, college or university, and in some cases also to non-profit organizations in the state.

To find out if the products you want are offered on state contract, directly contact the agency. You can search for products on many agency websites, but most do not single-out products with post-consumer recycled content.

The Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP) offers a web listing of [every state’s purchasing agency](#).

If you do not find your desired product on a state contract, ask them to bring the items you are interested in onto a contract. If you don’t ask, they won’t know that there is demand.

Federal Contracts

The federal government is a large purchaser of products with post-consumer recycled content. These products are found in the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG), which includes a searchable [product supplier directory](#).

Online Directories & Catalogues

Check out the [PCR product vendor list](#) on the NERC-APR Government Recycling Demand Champions website, created just for you! Other online buy recycled directories and large retailer catalogues may also contain products of interest to you.

Creating your own Specifications and Contracts

This is the most labor-intensive approach and requires the assistance of procurement professionals. If you go this route, be sure that the product specification calls for “post-consumer recycled content (PCR)” – **that specific term is essential** – and the minimum or required amount of PCR. For example, a minimum of 30% PCR, or required to be 100% PCR.

The Federal CPG has minimum recycled content recommendations for hundreds of products, but does not include that information for electronics.

Buying Electronics with PCR

The [Electronic Product Assessment Tool \(EPEAT\)](#) is a green procurement standard for computers, monitors, servers, cellphones, imaging equipment, and televisions. You can search by product type, and select a search filter that only shows products with post-consumer recycled plastic content.

For more information or assistance, contact [Lynn Rubinstein](#).

Visit the [Government Recycling Demand Champion Program](#) to be part of the green procurement movement!

