



PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 30, 2014

Contact: Mary Ann Remolador, Assistant Director, maryann@nerc.org

Model EPP Purchasing Specs Now Available

The Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. (NERC) recently completed a project funded by the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, which will make it easier for purchasers to buy “green” copy and multipurpose (20 lb.) paper, monochrome toner cartridges, and office supplies. With funding from the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, NERC developed EPP specifications and purchasing guidelines that reflect the current marketplace and provide an easy-to-use resource for purchasers.

In general, public purchasers are working with fewer staff and smaller budgets, are expected to be up-to-date on an extremely large number of product categories, and manage an intense workload often defined by the expiration dates of multiple vendor contracts. The EPP Specs were developed for the three product categories that purchasers consider to be the most difficult to buy green.

Each of the EPP Specs was developed with the assistance of expert teams of EPP professionals, public purchasers, and product experts. The EPP Specs and purchasing guidelines reflect product specifications based on current market conditions. “NERC used a collaborative process for developing the EPP Specs and the results were very successful,” stated Lynn Rubinstein, Executive Director, NERC.

The EPP Specs are accessible by searching on NERC’s website (www.nerc.org) under EPP, and can be used in part or in their entirety for bid requests and vendor contracts. In addition, EPP Specs were developed for monochrome toner cartridges and office supplies. These documents, as well as fact sheets for each of the specs, a webinar recording, and a PowerPoint presentation are also available.

Karl Bruskotter, an Environmental Programs Analyst for the City of Santa Monica, California commented that, “I am excited to have contributed to this very worthy project. I hope that any organization interested in NERC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

greening these particular goods will find the [EPP specifications and] purchasing guidelines useful. Here in Santa Monica, we have already used them in two bid solicitations.”

NERC would like to thank the expert team members for sharing their time and expertise in the development of the EPP Specs:

Copy and Multipurpose Paper Expert Team

- Karl Bruskotter, Environmental Programs Analyst, City of Santa Monica (CA)
- Susan Kinsella, Consultant, Responsible Purchasing Network; and Executive Director, Conservatree
- Robert Lazzara, Environmental Program Specialist, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Becky Wheeler, Eugene, Oregon Purchasing Office

Monochrome Toner Cartridges Expert Team

- Shirli Axelrod, Waste Prevention and Green Purchasing, Seattle Public Utilities (WA)
- Brian Berini, Senior Purchasing Agent, Vermont Buildings and General Services Financial Operations
- Alicia Culver, Executive Director, Responsible Purchasing Network
- Jason Edens, Senior Program Administrator, City of Seattle (WA)
- Susan Kinsella, Consultant, Responsible Purchasing Network; and Executive Director, Conservatree
- Robert Matesic, Project Manager, Imaging Testing Laboratories, Rochester Institute of Technology
- Beth Meer, Special Assistant, Commissioner's Policy Office, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Office Supplies Expert Team

- Karl Bruskotter, Environmental Programs Analyst, City of Santa Monica (CA)
- Alicia Culver, Executive Director, Responsible Purchasing Network
- Stacey Foreman, Sustainable Procurement Coordinator, City of Portland (OR)
- A state procurement specialist who requested anonymity

#