

## Sustainable Purchasing:

- **What is it?**  
Sustainable purchasing supports the City's Sustainability Policy by considering the "Triple Bottom Line" (environmental, economic, and social impact) in purchasing decisions. Useful tools include: Life Cycle Costing to determine Lowest Economic Cost; Specifications that include environmentally preferable characteristics; and Third Party Certifications (e.g., ENERGY STAR) to identify environmentally preferable products.
- **How is progress measured?** City departments work with selected vendors to provide reports on green purchases. The Finance Department also tracks vendors used for discretionary purchases, based on distance from Corvallis and ownership of the business. This helps determine whether a purchase has a positive impact on the community and minimizes shipping.
- **City best practices:** The City encourages the use of recycled materials in many supplies. For example, it uses recycled asphalt in street construction and recycled wood and rubber for playground materials. Most departments purchase 50 100% recycled-content paper for internal use. Green Seal-certified cleaning supplies are used in most operations. These products clean effectively while minimizing negative impacts for custodial staff. The City is a member of the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN). Staff has attended webinars offered by RPN and other organizations on sustainable purchasing.
- **Steps for 2009:** Train City employees on Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines and how to analyze costs; Determine product and service areas of greatest need and impact; Investigate product options.

