



Green Purchasing State Profile

State of Rhode Island



Green Purchasing Policies

The **State of Rhode Island General Laws** (RIGL) include a selection of environmentally preferable purchasing requirements, appearing under Title 23, governing Health and Safety, and Title 37, Public Property and Works. These include:

RIGL 37-2-76, State purchase of recycled products. Promotes the purchase of recycled products and mandates annual reporting by the Department of Administration on utilization of recycled products. 50% of office paper expenditure must be made on “recycled paper.”

RIGL 23-24.9-15, State procurement preferences for low or nonmercury-added products. Grants preference and priority to the purchase of equipment, supplies, etc. that do not contain mercury-added components. These provisions are a part of the **Mercury Reduction and Education Act (Chapter 23-24.9)**, which also requires labeling specifically for mercury-added lamps, and establishes a Mercury advisory working group.

RIGL 23-24.10-13, the state procurement section of the **Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling Act** lays out ambitious goals for electronic product purchasing specifications. By 2009, at least 95% of relevant products are expected to be registered to the Electronic Product Assessment Tool (**EPEAT**). Vendor take-back programs are required, and products designed for environmental preservation are granted a purchasing preference.

State Senate Resolution 06276, passed in May 2006, urged the adoption of S2627, a proposed bill to address the use of cleaning products. The resolution urged the Department of Administration to use “environmentally-safe and health-friendly cleaning products” in state workplaces and facilities.

Key Green Contracts

Negotiated in 2004 and renewed through most of 2013, **Electric Supplies, Lamps and Tubes** fulfills the requirements of Rhode Island’s mercury reduction act through clear contract language. Thermometers, thermostats, manometers, pilot lights, and other products are required to contain no mercury unless a mercury-free product that meets users’ needs is unavailable. Contractors are expected to provide relevant information for disposal and/or recycling of any items containing mercury, and agree to work with the state on further mercury reduction.

A statewide contract for **Alternate Fuel Vehicles** includes cars and trucks in both “flexible fuel” and hybrid varieties.

Rhode Island’s contract for **Paint and Paint Supplies**, featured on their Master Price Agreement list, uses **Master Painter’s Institute** standards for “green” painting supplies. Vendors bidding on the contract must demonstrate the ability to supply a “full line of ‘green’ certified paints” for state users requesting them.



This profile was developed by the Responsible Purchasing Network as a part of a project supported by the John Merck Fund. Visit us at www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org.