
ESSEX GREEN BUYERS CLUB – GREEN PROCUREMENT CODE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report asks Members to consider joining the Essex Green Buyers Club, an organisation that encourages businesses and public sector organisations to purchase goods made from recycled materials.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council has already adopted an environmental policy that commits the authority “to minimising the environmental impacts of the organisation and to the improvement of the local, national and global environment in whatever way it can within resource limits”.
- 2.2 In particular the policy states that the Council will aim to “purchase goods and materials which can be manufactured, used and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable way” and will “encourage sound environmental practice in the local economy by welcoming ‘green’ businesses into the District”.
- 2.3 The LA21 Strategy Action Plan has an action point that businesses and the community are encouraged to buy recycled goods in order to create a demand for the materials to be collected.
- 2.4 The Committee will also be aware that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister requires all Local Authorities to review their procurement strategies to dovetail into the national procurement strategy, and that at the meeting on 14 January it was agreed that the Council would join the Essex Procurement Agency to assist with this work (subject to provision being made in the 2004/05 budget).

3 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Essex Green Buyers Club is an initiative by ReMaDe Essex, designed to reduce the amount of waste going into Essex’s landfill sites. It draws on the experience of both London Remade and ReMaDe Kent & Medway.
- 3.2 ReMaDe Essex covers the area of Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Unitary Councils. It is a 5-year programme supported by landfill tax credits. It aims to develop and promote new markets and secondary industries based on the reprocessing and re-use of Essex’s recycled materials.
- 3.3 One of the means of achieving this is through the Essex Green Buyers Clubs and the Green Procurement Code. The Club aims to encourage businesses and public sector organisations to purchase goods made from recycled materials. The intention is to counter the perception that goods made from

recycled materials are poor quality and more expensive than the mainstream products.

3.4 The Green Procurement Code can be adopted at one of two levels:

Part A

The Council would commit to engaging with ReMaDe Essex to explore practical opportunities for specifying and purchasing products made from recycled materials. In so doing we would:

- A.1:** Contribute to general discussions about recycled products.
- A.2:** Have specific one-to-one discussions about our experiences and opportunities for specifying and purchasing recycled products.

Part B

Having engaged with ReMaDe Essex to specify and purchase products made from recycled materials, the Council would then:

- B.1:** Provide baseline data about recycled purchases and specifications.
- B.2:** Commit to measurable targets for specifying and buying recycled products.

3.5 In the first instance it is recommended that the Council signs up to Part A of the Code.

3.6 By signing up to the Code, the Council will obtain the following benefits

- The opportunity to improve environmental performance by ‘greening’ the purchasing policy and increasing the proportion of recycled goods purchased.
- Advice and guidance on developing green procurement policies and environmental purchasing guidelines, which can become part of the required review of the Council’s procurement strategy.
- Practical help in identifying ‘green’ alternatives to the products currently purchased.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 By signing up to the Essex Green Buyers Club and the Green Procurement Code the Council will be implementing its environmental policy.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is no fee to join the Essex Green Buyers Club. There may be individual charges for specific events or services, but these will be clearly indicated in

advance and decisions can be made on participation on a case-by-case basis and any expenditure would be met from existing budgetary provision.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to join the Essex Green Buyers Club and adopt Part A of the Green Procurement Code.

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Background Papers:

Information provided by Essex ReMaDe.

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