



Founded in 1968, Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to advancing innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

# Healthy Purchasing Coalition

## Who

The Healthy Purchasing Coalition is built on the idea that a group of individuals and organizations, acting collaboratively and with a harmonized approach, can have a bigger impact than any one of us acting alone. Together we can create positive change.

Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), a nonprofit founded in 1968, and our partners are facilitating the Healthy Purchasing Coalition because we want to strengthen demand for innovative goods and services that are designed to be safer, less hazardous, and more sustainable for people and our environment.

## Coalition Members



## What

The coalition is designed to be an informal partnership between like-minded organizations that purchase goods and services. Joining the Coalition is free - no financial commitment is required.

A healthy purchasing approach embodies the core tenets of effective procurement processes and best practices, by helping to obtain a better overall value through greater transparency and a more competitive comparison of goods, services, and projects. This kind of responsible use of funds is at the heart of good procurement. Minimizing risk and using reasonable due diligence to reduce health impacts associated with goods and services is responsible. We can help protect people from hazardous chemicals of concern by making some common sense changes to our procurement policies and practices.

## How

Members of the Healthy Purchasing Coalition agree to implement a shared framework for action that includes: 1) Reviewing organizational policies to ground actions, 2) Identifying pilot projects or procurements where healthy purchasing concepts could be applied, 3) Integrating healthy purchasing concepts into procurements, 4) Establishing market feedback loops to build and strengthen collaboration with vendors and contractors, 5) Setting goals and measuring progress - what gets measured, gets managed, and 6) Sharing successes and challenges with other coalition members.



## Why

### **Working in partnership with other organizations is cost effective.**

By forming a coalition to take action in a collaborative fashion, all members of the coalition will benefit directly. A coalition makes it easier and more efficient for us to develop and use smart contract language, specifications, and best practices. The benefits of sharing the work include saving staff time and money and getting a better total value for our organizations and communities.

### **Chemicals in products are linked to chronic diseases and other health impacts.**

- Seven out of 10 deaths among Americans each year are from chronic diseases
- Heart disease, cancer and stroke account for more than 50% of all deaths each year
- One in 11 American kids have asthma

There are multiple factors that can cause chronic diseases in people, including genetics and lifestyle choices like nutrition and physical activity. Environmental factors, including exposure to hazardous chemicals also play a role in chronic diseases in people, including children. For example, over 200 chemicals are known, or reasonable anticipated to be human carcinogens, including formaldehyde, vinyl chloride, and styrene.

### **More information allows us to manage risk.**

One of the biggest barriers to choosing safer, less hazardous products is a lack of clear, transparent, and actionable information. We lack information about where chemical hazards are present in products, but we also lack that information in a format that allows for efficient decision making by purchasers.

Greater transparency will allow us to create change using the market and better protect workers, the public, and our environment while also rewarding innovation. We can use transparency to create clear standards for more sustainable products through a more comprehensive assessment of value.

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