

**HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING DATE: July 16, 2026

FROM: Madeline Dessert, General Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution Number 2026-15 Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

BACKGROUND:

The proposed resolution recommends adoption of the Heber Public Utility District's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP). The policy establishes guidelines for the procurement of goods and services that minimize environmental impacts while ensuring purchases continue to meet the District's operational, performance, and budgetary needs. The policy is consistent with California Public Contract Code Sections 12400 through 12404, which encourage public agencies to incorporate environmentally preferable purchasing practices into their procurement processes. Adoption of the policy will provide District staff with a standardized framework for evaluating products and services based on environmental considerations, resource conservation, waste reduction, and sustainability. The policy does not require the District to purchase environmentally preferable products when they are unavailable, impractical, fail to meet performance requirements, or result in unreasonable additional costs. Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy to promote responsible stewardship of public resources while maintaining compliance with applicable procurement laws.

Madeline Dessert,
General Manager

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT ADOPTING POLICY NUMBER 3100 AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING POLICY

WHEREAS, the Heber Public Utility District (District) is committed to responsible stewardship of public resources and recognizes the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into its procurement practices; and

WHEREAS, environmentally preferable purchasing practices encourage the acquisition of goods and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has established environmentally preferable purchasing requirements through Public Contract Code Sections 12400 through 12404, which encourage public agencies to reduce environmental impacts associated with the purchase, use, and disposal of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to establish consistent procurement practices that promote sustainability, reduce waste, conserve resources, improve operational efficiency, and support the purchase of environmentally preferable products when practical and economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, adoption of an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (“EPPP”) will provide guidance to District staff regarding the evaluation and selection of products and services that meet environmental performance standards while maintaining compliance with applicable purchasing laws and requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Heber Public Utility District as follows:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the Heber Public Utility District Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 3. The purpose of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy is to establish procedures that encourage the District to purchase products and services that minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and promote sustainable purchasing practices while considering cost, availability, performance, and operational needs.

Section 4. District staff shall implement the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy in conjunction with existing District purchasing policies, procedures, and applicable procurement requirements.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT ADOPTING POLICY NUMBER 3100 AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING POLICY

Section 5. This Resolution shall not be interpreted as requiring the District to purchase environmentally preferable products when such products are unavailable, impractical, do not meet performance requirements, or result in unreasonable additional costs.

Section 6. The General Manager, is authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement the adopted policy and ensure compliance with applicable purchasing requirements.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of July, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENTEE:

ATTEST:

By: _____
Jacob Bermudez,
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Pompeyo Tabarez,
Board President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Steve Walker,
District Counsel

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2026-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HEBER PUBLIC
UTILITY DISTRICT ADOPTING POLICY
NUMBER 3100 AN ENVIRONMENTALLY
PREFERABLE PURCHASING POLICY**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL
HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

I, Jacob Bermudez, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board of the Heber Public Utility District, County of Imperial, State of California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Heber Public Utility District at its regularly scheduled meeting held on the 16th of July 2026.

By: _____
Jacob Bermudez,
Clerk of the Board



Heber Public Utility District

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

SUBJECT: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

POLICY NO: 3100

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 16, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Heber Public Utility District (District) to incorporate environmentally preferable purchasing practices into its procurement activities. This policy promotes the acquisition of goods and services that reduce impacts on human health and the environment while maintaining quality, performance, availability, and fiscal responsibility.

The district recognizes that purchasing decisions influence environmental sustainability, resource conservation, waste reduction, and community health. Through environmentally preferable purchasing practices, the district seeks to support responsible procurement practices while continuing to provide reliable water, wastewater, recreation, parks, and community services.

Authority

This policy is adopted in accordance with the principles established in California Public Contract Code Sections 12400 through 12404, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing. Environmentally preferable purchasing is defined as the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment compared with competing goods or services serving the same purpose. (Legislative Information)

Scope

This policy applies to purchases made by the district, including but not limited to:

- ❖ Office supplies and equipment;
- ❖ Maintenance and operations supplies;
- ❖ Parks and recreation materials;
- ❖ Janitorial and facility supplies;
- ❖ Vehicles and equipment;
- ❖ Construction materials when feasible;
- ❖ Professional and maintenance services;
- ❖ Energy-consuming equipment;
- ❖ Landscaping and irrigation supplies.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Principles

When evaluating purchases, District staff should consider environmentally preferable alternatives when practical and economically feasible.

Factors to be considered may include:

- A. Resource Conservation

- a. Use of recycled, renewable, or sustainably sourced materials;
 - b. Reduction of raw material consumption;
 - c. Products designed for reuse or extended service life.
- B. Energy Efficiency
 - a. Products that reduce energy consumption;
 - b. Equipment meeting recognized energy efficiency standards when available;
 - c. Technologies that reduce operational costs and environmental impacts.
- C. Waste Reduction
 - a. Products with reduced packaging;
 - b. Reusable or refillable products;
 - c. Materials that minimize landfill waste.
- D. Lifecycle Impacts
 - a. Staff shall consider the overall lifecycle impacts of products and services, including:
 - b. Raw material acquisition;
 - c. Manufacturing processes;
 - d. Packaging;
 - e. Transportation;
 - f. Operation and maintenance;
 - g. Durability;
 - h. Disposal or recycling options.
- E. Human Health and Safety
 - a. Preference may be given to products and services that reduce exposure to harmful chemicals, pollutants, or hazardous materials.

Procurement Evaluation

Environmentally preferable attributes shall be considered as part of the district's procurement evaluation process when comparing similar goods or services.

However, environmental considerations should not require the District to purchase goods or services that:

- ❖ Do not adequately perform the intended function;
- ❖ Are unavailable within a reasonable timeframe;
- ❖ Eliminate reasonable competition;
- ❖ Are not available at a reasonable cost.

The district shall continue to prioritize responsible stewardship of public funds while incorporating environmental considerations when feasible. (Legislative Information)

Preferred Purchasing Practices

Whenever practical, District staff should consider the following purchasing preferences:

A. Recycled and Sustainable Products

The district should seek products containing recycled content or materials from sustainable sources when those products meet operational needs.

B. Energy Efficient Equipment

The district should prioritize energy-efficient equipment and technology that may reduce long-term operational expenses.

Examples may include:

- ❖ LED lighting;
- ❖ Energy-efficient appliances;
- ❖ Water-efficient equipment;
- ❖ High-efficiency motors and pumps.

C. Environmentally Responsible Maintenance Products

The district should consider environmentally preferable alternatives for:

- ❖ Cleaning supplies;
- ❖ Landscaping materials;
- ❖ Pest management services;
- ❖ Fleet maintenance supplies.

D. Durable and Long-Life Products

Preference may be given to products with:

- ❖ Longer useful life;
- ❖ Reduced maintenance requirements;
- ❖ Repairable components;
- ❖ Reduced replacement frequency.

Vendor Requirements

Vendors providing environmentally preferable products or services may be required to provide documentation supporting environmental claims.

Environmental claims provided by vendors should be accurate and consistent with applicable federal guidance regarding environmental marketing claims. (Legislative Information)

Documentation may include:

- ❖ Manufacturer specifications;
- ❖ Environmental certifications;
- ❖ Recycled content documentation;
- ❖ Energy efficiency certifications;
- ❖ Sustainability reports.

Construction and Infrastructure Projects

For District construction, rehabilitation, and infrastructure projects, staff shall consider environmentally preferable materials and practices when feasible, including:

- ❖ Materials with recycled content;
- ❖ Water-efficient landscaping;
- ❖ Sustainable stormwater management practices;

- ❖ Energy-efficient equipment;
- ❖ Materials that reduce long-term maintenance needs.

Environmental considerations shall be balanced with engineering requirements, regulatory compliance, public health protections, project schedules, and available funding.

Implementation Responsibilities

The General Manager, or designer, shall be responsible for implementing this policy by:

- ❖ Incorporating environmentally preferable purchasing considerations into procurement procedures;
- ❖ Educating staff regarding sustainable purchasing practices;
- ❖ Evaluating opportunities to reduce environmental impacts through purchasing decisions;
- ❖ Maintaining compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Exceptions

Nothing in this policy requires the district to purchase environmentally preferable products or services when such products:

- ❖ Fail to meet operational requirements;
- ❖ Are unavailable;
- ❖ Create unacceptable risks;
- ❖ Are not cost-effective compared to available alternatives.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by District staff to ensure consistency with applicable state laws, regulations, funding requirements, and operational needs.