



PRESS RELEASE
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ALAMEDA COUNTY CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING AWARD

*County is One of Four Organizations Selected for Highest Honors for Exemplary Leadership
Twenty-two Organizations Receive Outstanding Case Study Awards*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) today announced that Alameda County is one of four national recipients selected for SPLC’s 2015 Awards for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing.

Alameda County was awarded the Purchaser Leadership Award for a Special Initiative for implementing initiatives that supported small local business suppliers of copy paper, encouraged use of 100% recycled paper, and facilitated other government agencies to use the County’s lower cost contracts. The award recognizes a purchasing organization whose work with a specific purchasing category, issue, or supplier demonstrates exceptional leadership in improving the environmental, social, and economic performance of its supply chain.

Alameda County requires government use of 100 percent post-consumer recycled copy paper. The County actively pursued bulk contracts which reduced the additional cost of recycled paper, enhanced paper recycling programs, and engaged in paper use reduction programs across departments. The new contracts support small, local office supply companies, encourage paper recycling markets, and ultimately reduce the product lifecycle and environmental impacts associated with making paper such as deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and water use.

Alameda County’s shift to using only 100 percent post-consumer recycled copy paper – and its parallel efforts to reduce overall paper use – have resulted in an estimated annual savings to local taxpayers of approximately \$120,000.

“This award acknowledges Alameda County’s ongoing investment in community and the environment by making sustainability part of our core business practices,” said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator.

Added Caroline Judy, Acting Director of the County’s General Services Agency, “The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council clearly recognized the win-win-win of our programs; supporting small local businesses, saving money, and reducing our procurement footprint.”

Other SPLC Award winners for 2015 were: **The US Department of Energy**, which received the Purchaser Leadership Award; and **Office Depot** and **Vital Metrics**, which won Supplier Leadership Awards.

The winners were selected by a prestigious jury that included leaders from government and the private sector.

Learn more about Alameda County’s sustainability programs at <http://www.acsustain.org>.