Ensuring Your City is in the Green- Green Purchasing That Is!
Webinar 8/10/17 – Post-Session Summary/Discussion

Justin M. Stritch, Lily Hsueh, Stuart Bretschneider of Arizona State University (full bios on pg.3)

“Cities are incubators of innovation.”

Advancing Green Purchasing in Local Governments: Results from a nationwide study (Sustainable Purchasing Research Initiative website and report)

What Does
Lack of knowledge
Lack of financial incentives

& Doesn't Matter
Department Rules
Department importance of purchasing criteria

Complimentary Policies
• Designed to result in minimal adverse environmental impacts, with a focus on human and ecological health.
• Searching for products through an environmental lens requires life cycle considerations such as raw material acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, and disposal.
• Complimentary environmental/social policies and practices- existing policies/goals such as recycling policies, water/energy conservation policies, green building policies, and small business purchasing
• Purchasing Criteria- emphasis on importance of looking at environmental concerns especially with products like chemicals, wood/paper, and transportation
• Information Access- available lists such as minority businesses and green products as well as accurate product labels and life cycle analysis
• Leadership and Resources- support from management, acknowledgement through awards, education/training, grants
• Vendor Roles- strong relationship with vendors who work with cities to offer, educate, and promote their green products/practices

8 Recommendations
Build on complimentary policies and practices
Use info on environmentally friendly products
Use e procurement systems that integrate product information
Tracking spending related to green purchasing (demonstrates lifecycle costs)
Enhancing collaborative vendor relationships
Assign accountability to top level management
Foster culture of innovation
Participate in professional networks
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Marina Estrella, Environmental Quality Specialist, City of Phoenix, AZ

City of Phoenix Sustainable Purchasing Policy and Program:
- Launched in response to the City’s Pollution Prevention Program
- Hosted a focus group with city buyers to guide implementation and benchmarking

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any resolutions/policies for people see as an example?
   
   City of Phoenix launched its Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy in 2007 and the details of that are available on their city website. However the city is in the middle of updating that policy and making the language stronger.

2. Are there any templates or guidance tools for tracking (GPP) related expenses?
   
   The EPA has some resources available. It is conditional on the processes that exists in the city. It may be possible to integrate a GPP tracking into an e-procurement system. Before getting started, it is a good idea to get an understanding of what city can and can’t do, so getting an e Procurement system to help guide that process. Link to a research website with tools, tips, and research for epro.


3. Are there examples of GPP currently working to help Phoenix’s “40 by 20” goal?
   
   The City’s current focus with that is making collection services easier for residents. However there are opportunities an areas to explore with incorporating GPP into that goal.

Next Steps exploring Green Purchasing in your organization? (Engage team members around some of these questions)

1. Look at your eprocurement system (if you have one or are exploring one) and find out if it supports green purchasing data points.
2. Engage the purchasing team to evaluate the process and criteria used and look for opportunities to align with principles of GPP
3. Communities often operate under the umbrella of a procurement policy adopted for the city. Start here to evaluate alignment and potential policy discussions needed to align with GPP.
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Justin M. Stritch is an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University and is a Senior Research Affiliate at the Center for Organization Research and Design (CORD). His research focuses on employee motivation, public management, decision making, and public sector performance.

Stuart Bretschneider is a Foundation Professor of Organization Design and Public Administration at Arizona State University’s School of Public Affairs. He is also Director of Research and a Senior Research Associate at the school’s Center for Organization Research and Design. Previously Dr. Bretschneider was a Maxwell Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs and Director of the Center for Technology and Information Policy at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University before arriving at Arizona State University. Currently His research focuses on how public organizations make use of information technology and the effects of those technologies on public organizations as well as how innovation in technology and policy effect organizational performance. A past president of the International Institute of Forecasters (IIF), Dr. Bretschneider was also a Director of the IIF. He was the Managing Editor for the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory from 1992-2000. Dr. Bretschneider received his Ph.D. in Public Administration from the Ohio State University in 1980.

Lily Hsueh is an assistant professor of public policy at ASU’s School of Public Affairs, CORD Affiliate, and Senior Sustainability Scientist at ASU’s Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. Her research focuses on the emergence, evolution, and impacts of alternative governance approaches—including industry or public sector self-regulation and cap and trade policies—across policy issue areas, such as climate change, toxic chemicals, ocean and marine resources, and sustainable purchasing.

Marina Estrella is the City of Phoenix’s Environmental Quality specialist working on the Sustainable Purchasing Policy and Program update. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from Northern Arizona University. Prior to joining the City Marina served as the Program manager for the Arizona State implementation planning program, where she oversaw the technical, rule and planning work for state air quality plans.