

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Response to Citizen Petition on Use of Recycled Paper Products

DATE: May 13, 1996

This memorandum provides information in response to a citizen's petition (copy attached) presented at the April 22 Council meeting, requesting that the Town use printing and writing paper containing at least 20 percent post-consumer material. The citizen noted that this paper may be available through the N.C. State purchasing contracts.

The Town currently purchases recycled paper with the 20% post-consumer content through participation in State contracts as discussed below.

Background and Discussion

The Town Council adopted a policy in November, 1991 that the Town will seek to buy items made with recycled materials when such items are substantially equivalent to or better than regular items. Attached is a copy of this policy.

In accord with the policy, the Town seeks to buy recycled products when available, including recycled paper products.

The Town is currently a party to numerous State contracts, including the contract for paper products, and we have been purchasing paper from this contract for several years. The copier paper currently available and purchased through this contract is recycled paper with at least 20 percent post-consumer material content. Periodically, a higher percentage of post-consumer content is available, and we purchase the higher content when available.

We anticipate that the State contract paper will increase to the 30 percent post consumer level by 1998.

In addition to the recycled copier paper, we also purchase recycled computer paper, recycled carbonless paper, file folders, and white envelopes from other vendors when not available through the State contracts.

We will continue to use recycled paper products available through the State contracts or other vendors. We expect the recycled copier paper to continue to be available through State contracts and plan to continue participating in these contracts.

A RESOLUTION SETTING STANDARDS FOR POST-CONSUMER CONTENT IN RECYCLED PAPER PURCHASED BY THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL (96-5-29/R-19)

WHEREAS, a municipality's interest is served when government agencies can make more efficient use of natural resources by maximizing recycling and preventing waste wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, the amount of waste per capita in North Carolina actually rose in 1995, rather than decreasing; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill is determined to strengthen the role of municipal government as an enlightened, environmentally conscious consumer; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill should, through cost-effective waste prevention and recycling activities, work to conserve disposal capacity and serve as a model in this regard for private and public institutions; and

WHEREAS, the use of recycled and environmentally friendly products and services by Chapel Hill can spur private sector development of new technologies and use of such products, thereby creating business and employment opportunities and enhancing regional and local economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill, in celebration of Earth Day, 1996; that:

Section 1: By the end of 1996, all printing and writing paper purchased by any municipal department or office will, except when the cost differential is prohibitive, contain at least 20 percent post-consumer material. Bids for such paper will be sought starting immediately upon completion of current contracts. If more cost effective, said paper shall be purchased by the Town through State contracts.

Printing and writing paper refers to high-speed copier paper, offset paper, computer printout paper, carbonless paper, file folders, white woven envelopes, and other uncoated paper.

Section 2. All municipal departments and offices will, except when the cost differential is prohibitive, purchase printing and writing paper with at least 30 percent post-consumer material by the end of 1998.

Section 3. The post-consumer content requirements shall apply to all printing and writing paper used for typing, computer printing and photocopying by municipal departments and offices. All materials printed for municipal departments or offices by outside vendors will, except when the cost differential is prohibitive, also be printed on papers that meet these standards for post-consumer material.

This the 29th day of May, 1996.