

Finance Department

Accounting for East Lansing's Sustainability Goals

As part of the Finance Department, your oversight in budgeting, procurement, and financial review ensures City funds are spent effectively and align with environmental objectives.

Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP)

The CSP outlines the city-wide strategic approach to environmental stewardship.

For Finance, this means:

- Integrate long-term **energy and maintenance savings** into all project and procurement evaluations.
- Guide capital investments by **prioritizing funds for energy and water efficiency upgrades** in municipal facilities, using audit data to inform budget allocations.
- Advocate for and facilitate **incentive and grant programs that encourage community adoption of sustainable practices**, such as renewable energy, efficient appliances, and green building/housing.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPPP) (Resolution 2017-2)

The EPPP mandates sustainable procurement, making Finance a vital checkpoint.

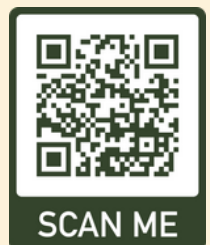
Key Actions for Finance Staff:

- **Prioritize Green Attributes:** When reviewing purchase and budget requests, confirm departments have considered products and services consistent with the EPPP.
- **Utilize the 10% Price Differential:** The EPPP allows a purchasing preference for comparable, environmentally preferred items even if they cost up to 10% more. This acknowledges the value of sustainable choices.
- **Validate Exemptions:** Ensure any non-EPPP purchase has a clear, justifiable reason for exemption. Waivers are permitted only for functional necessity, unreasonable cost, or public health/safety emergencies.
- **Address Vendor Compliance:** Ensure necessary compliance declarations or information regarding environmentally preferable products are part of the vendor agreement process.

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) under Award Number EE0008653. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof. Find this document and more about the CLC Fellowship that supported this project at graham.umich.edu/clcf.



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Green Building Policy

Resolution 2009-01

This policy mandates environmentally responsible construction and renovation for City projects and private development receiving municipal support.

Key Points:

- New municipal construction must be LEED-Silver certified. Renovations must incorporate LEED and/or low impact design to greatest extent practicable.
- New private development projects receiving up to 15% City incentives (e.g., Tax Increment Financing) must be LEED Certified. Development receiving over 15% incentives must be LEED-Silver.

Green Purchases for the Office

10% Green Purchasing Incentive: Purchasing more sustainable options is encouraged as long as they're less than 10% more expensive than your standard purchase.

Bathrooms and Kitchen: Upgrading to low-flow water fixtures is encouraged! Consider paper, aluminum, or reusable alternatives to single use plastics for cups, plates, and cutlery.

Printing: Opt for paper products made from the most recycled paper material. Set printers and copiers to automatically make double-sided copies.

Procurement Policy for Purchase of Recycled Products

Policy Resolution 1990-2

This policy directs staff to prioritize purchasing paper products with the highest recycled material percentage, allowing a 10% price preference.

100% Clean Energy City Resolution

Policy Resolution 2020-1

East Lansing's binding goal to derive 100% of its electric energy from renewables by 2030 has significant financial implications. Finance's role in CIP planning, budgeting, and procurement is essential to achieve this.

Guiding Departmental Requests:

- **Verify Energy Consumption Reduction:** Confirm departments prioritize funding for energy efficiency projects identified via audits, aligning with the mandated 5% annual energy reduction across government facilities. Highlight this alignment when communicating investments.
- **Encourage Strategic Capital Investments:** Look for and encourage proposals that integrate renewable energy opportunities and efficiency upgrades into capital repairs and maintenance projects.
- **Reinvest Savings:** Ensure money saved through energy efficiency projects is reinvested into renewable energy infrastructure.
- **Support Benchmarking & Accountability:** Promote accurate tracking and benchmarking of energy usage and support robust utility data accounting.

Green Fleet Policy

Resolution 2014-8

Finance staff can also serve as a checkpoint to ensure this energy-efficient vehicle policy is properly administered.

Key Financial Considerations:

- **Holistic Evaluation:** Vehicle purchases must be evaluated on purchase price, fuel economy, and maintenance/operating costs.
- **Green Incentive:** A 10% price premium - including rebates, is allowed for "green" vehicles or equipment that meet departmental needs and are within this percentage of the lowest price.
- **Fleet Optimization:** Help optimize fleet and vehicle size for cost-efficiency.
- **Exemptions:** Note that exemptions apply if no compliant model meets operational needs, the green option is prohibitively more expensive with an unrecoverable differential, or inadequate fueling infrastructure would disrupt operations.