

# Environmentally Preferable Purchasing 101

---

PPRC Hospitals Webinar

June 11, 2009

Tina Simcich  
Department of Ecology

# Overview of Session

---

- EPP Definition and Key Concepts
- EPP How-Tos
- Setting EPP Goals and Measuring Results

# What is EPP?

---

- Buying products and services having a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products that serve the same purpose.

Federal Executive Order 13101

# Why EPP in Hospitals?

---

- Create healthier environment for patients and staff
- Reduce waste
- Lower costs
- Reduce environmental and carbon footprint

# Key Concept: Multiple Criteria

---

- Climate Change

- Resource Consumption

- Toxics Reduction

- [Air Quality](#)
- [Energy Efficiency](#)
- [Packaging Efficiency](#)
- [Product Longevity](#)
- [Product Miles](#)
- [Product Take-Back](#)
- [Recyclability](#)
- [Recycled Content](#)
- [Renewable Resources](#)
- [Sustainable Labor Practices](#)
- [Water Efficiency](#)

# Toxics Reduction

---

- Cancer
- Reproductive harm
- Endocrine system disruption
- Damage to immune and nervous systems, and organs
- Chemical burns
- Asthma and respiratory irritation

# Toxics Reduction: PBTs

---

Mercury and mercury compounds

Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)

Lead and lead compounds

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

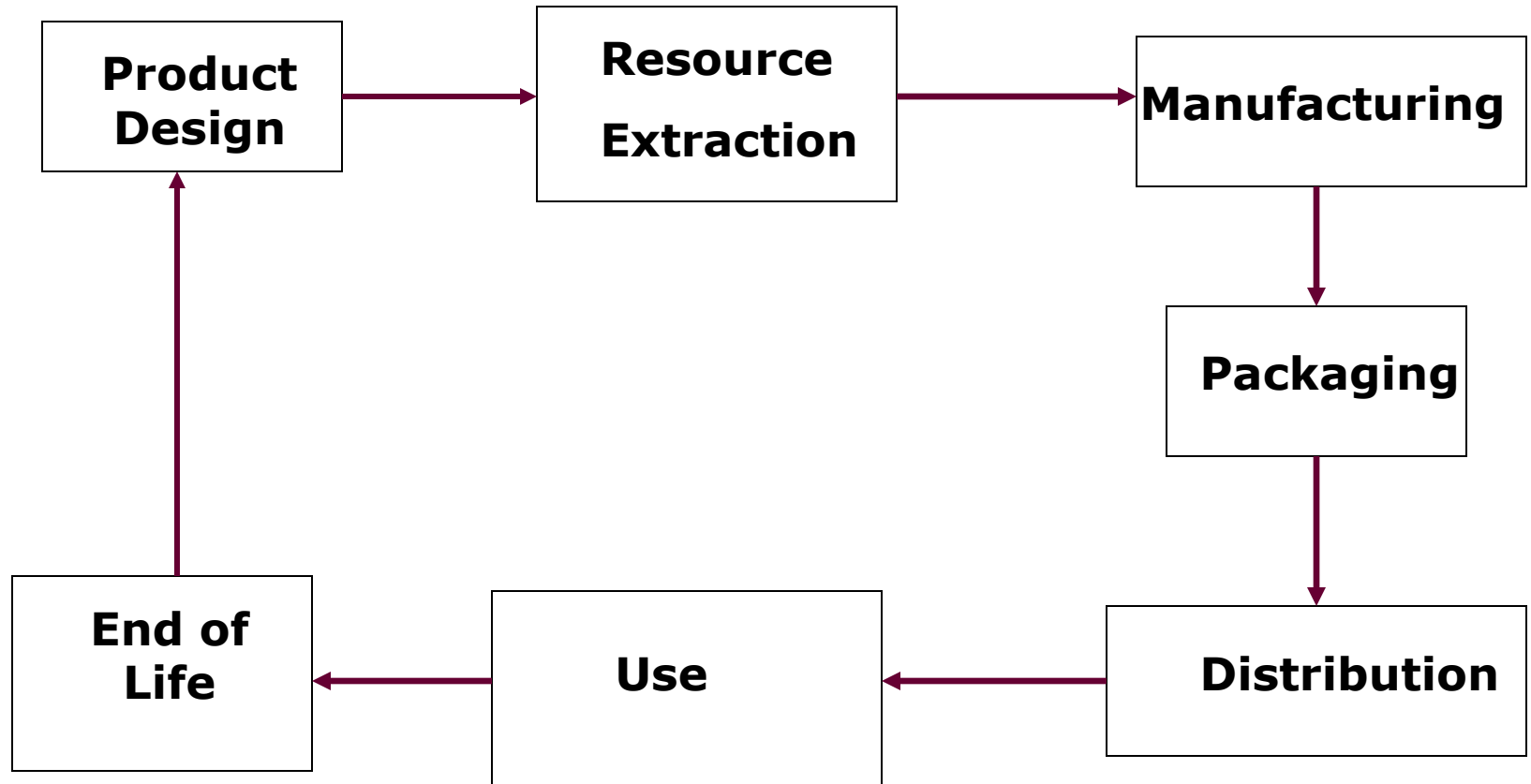
PFOS (Teflon and other stain- and  
stick- resistant chemicals)

# PBTs: Mercury in Hospitals

---

- Reproductive and neurological toxin found in:
  - Blood pressure devices
  - Thermometers
  - Lab chemicals
  - Dilation and feeding tubes
  - Batteries/Lamps
- Safer alternatives exist for most products

# Key Concept: Impacts over the Life Cycle



# Key Concept: Independent Third Party Standards and Certifications

---

- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Insert into bid documents
- Drives market to certified products



# Standard Validity

---

- Tough environmental criteria
- Lifecycle approach
- Broad stakeholder participation
- Transparent process
- Independent third party organization

# Not all Certifications Created Equal

---

- Hidden Trade-Offs
- No Proof
- Vagueness
- Irrelevance
- Lesser of Two Evils
- Fibbing
- Worshipping False Labels



# EPP How-Tos

## Easy

- Start!
- Work with GPOs
- Use 3<sup>rd</sup> party certifications
- Quick wins
- Vendor reports

## Medium

- Model contract language
- Pilot projects
- Approved product lists
- Track and publicize benefits

## Difficult

- Develop new specifications
- Request for information
- Automatic flipping
- Waivers

# Use Your Purchasing Power to:

---

- Ask questions
- Require bidders to disclose ingredients of concern
- Require vendors to post MSDS online

# Bid documents

---

- Incorporate environmental requirements in technical specification.
- Include EPP criteria in evaluation process
- Require highlighting and description of attributes of EPP products
- Request sales data to track purchasing
- Mandate product take-back

# Sample Contract Language

---

- “Products purchased under this contract must provide demonstrable proof of meeting the \_\_\_\_\_ standard. The \_\_\_\_\_ standard is available at \_\_\_\_\_.”
- All desktops, laptops, and computer monitors provided under this contract are required to have achieved Bronze registration or higher under the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT). The registration criteria and a list of all registered equipment are provided at <[www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net)>.

# Set Goals and Measure Progress

---

- Reports from vendor or GPO
- Create a baseline
- Use green benefits calculators
- Publicize your successes

# Seattle Children's Hospital

---

- One of first hospitals to phase out medical devices with plasticizers for newborn care
- Mercury free – reduced annual hazardous waste amount by more than 27 tons.



- Practices integrated pest control management for grounds

# EPP Resources

---

- ResponsiblePurchasing.org
- PracticeGreenHealth.org
- SustainableHospitals.org
- Noharm.org/us
- State of Washington
  - <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/mercury>

# State of Washington Ecology EPP Website

---

## **Product Fact Sheets**

- Automotive
- Cleaning products
- Electronics
- Building Materials
- Grounds maintenance

## **Standards and Certifications**

## **Resources**

[www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp.html)

# Standards and Certifications



FAIR TRADE



Look for the label!



- Green Seal
- EcoLogo
- Energy Star
- Green Guide for Health Care
- EPEAT
- Green-e (Renewable energy)
- Green Guard (Low-VOC)
- USDA Organic/Fair Trade
- Forest Stewardship Council
- SCS (Verifies “green” claims)



# Questions?

---

Tina Simcich

360.407.7517

[tisi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tisi461@ecy.wa.gov)