BP 6330.1  Energy Star Purchasing Policy

Reference:  Education Code Section 81656; Public Contracts Code Section 20650; American College and University President’s Climate Commitment

In pursuit of the goal of reducing energy use and costs affiliated with energy consumption, San Joaquin Delta College programs and divisions shall purchase, whenever financially practical, only those appliances and products that have met ENERGY STAR specifications for energy efficiency or an equivalent standard. The Superintendent/President shall establish appropriate procedures to ensure that the purchase of single and bulk equipment meet the guidelines of this Policy (See AP 6330.1).
San Joaquin Delta College has established a goal of reducing its energy use in line with the principles outlined in the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment. The College’s ENERGY STAR purchasing policy mandates the purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products or those meeting an equivalent standard whenever it is financially practical to do so. The following procedures identify the methods to be used in purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances and equipment.

A. Background
The ENERGY STAR program is a government-backed program that helps individuals, businesses and organizations identify products that protect the environment through superior energy efficiency.

B. Equipment to be Purchased
The ENERGY STAR purchase policy shall apply to the following types of items: heating and cooling equipment, computers, computer peripherals, printers, copy machines, audio visual equipment, projectors, televisions, commercial cooking appliances, and refrigerators. In addition, any lighting accessory required for the above equipment such as light bulbs, must also comply with the ENERGY STAR requirement. The College’s purchasing office will update this list at least every two years to ensure that the ENERGY STAR purchasing policy encompasses the widest possible array of products earning ENERGY STAR certification and to remain up-to-date on energy efficiency innovations.

C. Making Practical Purchasing Decisions
College staff seeking to purchase equipment in an ENERGY STAR category should investigate the costs and benefits of purchasing equipment with and without an ENERGY STAR certification. The costs of an ENERGY STAR model may be higher than non-certified model, but such costs may be outweighed by energy efficiency savings. Managers should use the ENERGY STAR website (energystar.gov) to use savings calculators to estimate the short-term and long-term costs of purchasing an ENERGY STAR model. When the purchase costs of ENERGY STAR models are within ten (10) percent of a non-ENERGY STAR model, and energy efficiency comparisons make the purchase less than or nearly equal in long-term operating costs, the College shall make the commitment to purchase the ENERGY STAR model.

D. Justification of Non-ENERGY STAR Purchases
BP 6330.1 Energy Star Purchasing Policy

In some circumstances, the purchase of a non-ENERGY STAR model may be justified on the basis of costs, inefficiency, inappropriateness for intended use, safety concerns, or other comparable energy efficiency ratings. Justifications of non-ENERGY STAR purchases should be made in the form of a memorandum directed to the Purchasing Supervisor.

E. Purchasing Guidelines

The ENERGY STAR purchasing policy and procedures shall be used in tandem with the College’s other purchasing policies that are mandated by state law (see Policy 8070).