***Winery/Vineyard***

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**

**Purchasing Power**

The purchase and use of products and services can have a profound impact on the environment. In keeping with *winery/vineyard name’s* efforts to promote practices and products which reduce our impact on the environment, our employees, growers, and suppliers are encouraged to incorporate environmentally preferable criteria into all purchasing decisions. Environmentally preferable products and services have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. By including environmental considerations in purchasing decisions, *winery/vineyard name* can promote practices that improve public and worker health, conserve natural resources, and reward environmentally conscious manufacturers, while remaining fiscally responsible. We can use our purchasing power to improve the environmental quality of the region and the world.

**Statement of Purpose**

*Winery/vineyard name* is committed to buying more environmentally preferable goods and services as long as they meet our performance needs and they are available within a reasonable period of time at a reasonable cost. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring a purchaser or contractor to procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate competition, or are not available at a reasonable price or in a reasonable period of time.

When comparing cost, *winery/vineyard name* will not focus exclusively on the initial price. Instead, we will consider and compare total costs over the life of the item, which includes the initial cost along with maintenance, operation, insurance, disposal, replacement, and potential health and liability costs.

**Preferred Environmental Attributes**

In comparing products and services employees, growers, and suppliers should consider all phases of the product’s life cycle, including raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, operation, maintenance, and disposal, including potential for reuse or the ability to be recycled.

In practice, this means seeking products that have reduced environmental impact because of the way they are made, used, transported, stored, packaged, and disposed of. It means looking for products that do not harm human health, are less polluting, and that minimize waste, maximize use of recycled materials, conserve energy and water, and reduce the consumption or disposal of hazardous materials. When determining whether a product is environmentally preferable, the following environmental attributes should be considered:

* Biodegradable ⇒ Compostable
* Durable ⇒ Reusable
* Locally manufactured ⇒ Reduced packaging
* Recyclable ⇒ Low-toxicity
* Recycled content ⇒ Energy efficient
* Made from rapidly renewable materials ⇒ Reduced GHG emissions

**Communication and Education**

An effective environmental purchasing program will require that we think differently about our purchasing decisions. This will require that we educate staff at all levels, purchasers, end-users, suppliers, and possibly, our customers. *Winery/vineyard name* acknowledges the importance of an effective communication strategy. The winery will disseminate information about the benefits of purchasing environmentally preferable products and will provide guidance on incorporating these decisions into daily activities.

**Promoting Environmental Purchasing**

Department heads should ensure that their staff members are familiar with the educational and outreach materials developed by the winery on environmentally preferable purchasing.

Every department is responsible for ensuring that contractors and suppliers are aware of winery/vineyard name’s desire to buy more environmentally preferable goods and services from companies sharing our environmental commitment.

Every department shall also request that their contractors and suppliers use environmentally preferable products whenever cost effective and to the extent practicable for all work completed on behalf of *winery/vineyard name*.

**Policy Review**

*Winery/vineyard name* will review this policy on an annual basis to ensure it is as effective and comprehensive as possible.