Green Procurement for Student Fee-Funded Events Policy

Article I: Purpose

A. The University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association (CU Denver SGA) recognizes that student fee-funded events are significant sources of the consumption and purchasing of goods and services. Each of these goods has an environmental impact as a result of the product’s manufacture, delivery, use, and disposition.

B. The purpose of this policy is to set a standard of sustainable and environmentally preferable procurement to demonstrate the University of Colorado Denver’s Student Government Association (SGA) commitment to environmental stewardship.

Article II: Definitions

A. Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) Definition
   a. Environmental Preferable Products (EPP) are products or services with a reduced effect on human health or the environment when compared with products or services that serve the same purpose.

B. Sustainable Definition
   a. Sustainable products are products that have reduced environmental impact because of the way they are made, used, transported, stored, packaged and disposed of.
   b. When determining if a product is environmental preferable and sustainable, acquisition strategies that affirmatively implement desirable environmental objectives should be employed. The following environmental objectives developed by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program should be considered when purchasing:
      1. Maximize the utilization of environmentally preferable products and services.
      2. Promote energy-efficiency and water conservation.
      3. Eliminate or reduce the generation of hazardous waste and the need for special material processing.
      4. Promote the use of nonhazardous and recovered materials.
      5. Realize life-cycle cost savings.
      6. Promote cost-effective waste reduction when creating plans, drawings, specifications, standards, and other product descriptions authorizing material substitutions, extensions of shelf-life, and process improvements.
      7. Promote the use of biobased products.
C. Biodegradable Definition
   a. A biodegradable product, as defined by the EPA, is the ability of a substance or material to be broken down physically and/or chemically by microorganisms. For example, many chemicals, food scraps, cotton, wool, and paper are bio-degradable; plastics and polyester generally are not.

D. Compostable Definition
   a. There are many different methods of composting, and as such many materials that are considered compostable by various standards. Auraria Campus employs the services of GFL Environmental (concurrently known as Alpine Waste & Recycling) and GFL Environmental sends their compost waste to A1 Organics, as well as the Alpine Compost facility. Therefore, we shall define compostable using the standards outlined by A1 Organics and Alpine Waste & Recycling. Materials that are considered compostable are as follows:
      i. Organic Materials:
         1. Any non-manufactured material that is derived from living matter. This includes, but is not limited to: cooked or uncooked food waste, plate scraps, food trimmings or peels, bones, and drinks.
      ii. Bio-based Products:
         1. Any bioplastic or biobased product that is Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI) Certified. This includes, but is not limited to utensils, drinkware, plates, packaging, to-go containers, etc.
      iii. Paper Products:
         1. Any paper product. This includes, but is not limited to paper cups, paper plates, paper bags, etc
      iv. Other:
         1. Wooden stir-sticks, plants and flowers, soiled cardboard or paper products (i.e. pizza boxes, used napkins or tissues, etc), and BPI Certified compostable trash can liners.
E. Swag Items
   a. Swag items are materials purchased for a group or organization that are given to students, faculty, or staff to bring more awareness about the group (i.e. pens, hats, shirts, backpacks, etc.).

Article III: Who Must Comply
A. Student Organizations and Student Government who use student fee money to provide events to the students.

Article IV: Policy Statement
A. The Finance and Funding Committee will review all expenditures throughout the year to ensure they are pursuant of the CU Denver fiscal policy and this policy
B. Student fee-funded events must follow the proper procedures in purchasing materials for their events. Persons looking to purchase items for student fee-funded events must follow these guidelines:
   a. Bio-based Products
      i. Purchasing of biobased or bioplastic single-use products is mandatory. This includes bags, cutlery, plate ware, and beverage cups.
      ii. Compostable bioplastic products shall be Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI) Certified.
      iii. Paper products and construction products made from non-wood, plant-based contents such as agricultural crops and residues are encouraged.
   b. Swag Items
      i. Recommend purchasing ethical “swag” items from the Sustainable Compliant Vendor List provided by the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (ASCP) subcommittee is highly encouraged.
      ii. The reduced usage, reliance and purchasing of swag items is not mandatory, but highly encouraged.
   c. Compostable-compliant Vendors
      i. Requesting that vendors do not provide non-biobased single-use products as listed above to events is mandatory.
      ii. The utilization of the ASCP’s Sustainable Vendors List is highly encouraged.
d. Food
   i. Unopened, unprepared and perishable foods shall be taken to the on-campus food pantry donation drop-off site located in the Student Wellness Center.
   ii. Leftover food items that cannot be donated shall be actively distributed to students at the end of events (i.e. to passersby individuals or those interested) or reported as available for pick-up through The Share Meals mobile app.

e. Event Composting
   i. Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (ASCP) event composting is required at events when food is provided.

Article V. Budget Process
   A. A portion of SGA’s budget based off the previous year’s student organization participation determined by F&F will be used to provide bio-based single-use materials for student fee funded events.

Article VI. Amendments and Adoption of Bylaws
   A. Any amendments to these bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the CU Denver SGA Senate.
   B. Upon approval, amendments will go into effect immediately.