

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF NON-TOXIC CLEANERS

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WHEREAS, basic health and safety concerns in the home and workplace drive us all to do what we can to maintain a healthful indoor environment;

WHEREAS, while the maintenance of such an environment through the removal of dust, allergens, and infectious agents is important to our health the cleaning products used can present several health and environmental concerns;

WHEREAS, Buncombe County has a strong record and history of being a leader in recycling, workplace safety and environmental stewardship;

WHEREAS, in recent years the federal government has initiated numerous programs within EPA and other federal agencies to establish and expand the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing ("EPP") program directing its agencies to make purchasing decisions with the environment in mind;

WHEREAS, EPP seeks the overall best value, taking into account price competitiveness, availability, regulatory requirements, performance, and environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, this Board is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the County to establish EPP standards in the purchasing of cleaning products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That Buncombe County finds the following benefits of buying green cleaning products:
  - a. Choosing less hazardous products that have positive environmental attributes (e.g., biodegradability, low toxicity, low volatile organic compound (VOC) content, reduced packaging, low life cycle energy use) and taking steps to reduce exposure can minimize harmful impacts to custodial workers and building occupants, improve indoor air quality, and reduce water and ambient air pollution while also ensuring the effectiveness of cleaning in removing biological and other contaminants from the building's interior.
  - b. Buying cleaners in concentrates with appropriate handling safeguards, and reusable, reduced, or recyclable packaging, reduces packaging waste and transportation energy.
  - c. Buying less hazardous cleaners may reduce costs when it comes time to properly dispose of any leftover cleaners.

2. That Buncombe County will incorporate environmental considerations into purchasing decisions using EPA developed five guiding principles. The guiding principles provide a framework County purchasers can use to make environmentally preferable purchases. The five principles are:
- a. Include environmental factors as well as traditional considerations of price and performance as part of the normal purchasing process.
  - b. Emphasize pollution prevention early in the purchasing process.
  - c. Examine multiple environmental attributes throughout a product's or service's life cycle.
  - d. Compare relative environmental impacts when selecting products and services.
  - e. Collect and base purchasing decisions on accurate and meaningful information about environmental performance.
3. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

This the \_\_\_\_ of February, 2014.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Hughes, Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Gantt, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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County Attorney