



**Town of Reading**  
**16 Lowell Street**  
**Reading, MA 01867-2685**

**FAX: (781) 942-9071**  
**Email: [townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us)**  
**Website: [www.readingma.gov](http://www.readingma.gov)**

**TOWN MANAGER**  
**(781) 942-9043**

---

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Department Heads  
Jane Kinsella  
Superintendent of Schools  
RMLD

FROM: Robert W. LeLacheur *BL*

DATE: April 19, 2016

RE: Purchase of Recycled Materials

---

As you are aware, the Town of Reading has been actively engaged in the recycling of a number of products for some time. We've been doing a good job of collecting these materials at the curb, but it is very important to understand that a successful recycling system does not end there. As public sector purchasers we need to focus on completing the recycling process by purchasing products made with recycled materials.

Buying recycled materials is critical to the success of our efforts to recycle materials. If we don't purchase recycled products, then there is no economic motivation for manufacturers to use raw materials collected as part of our recycling program. As a result, the demand for our recycled materials diminishes and our recycling program ultimately becomes less effective.

There are, of course, environmental benefits to purchasing recycled materials. Natural resources, energy and water are saved in recycling hazardous materials such as paint, oil and tires has obviously environmental benefits. Additionally, the recycling industry has created a number of jobs and contributes significantly to the states economy.

In the past, recycled products may have represented less quality and higher price, as a result of improved technology and increased competition, recycled products are extremely cost competitive, the performance matches the standards of their non-recycled counterparts.