

programs, book discussion groups for adults, film screenings, and other entertaining and educational programs conducted by both paid staff and volunteers.²

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal PUB-5 Provide library services to meet the informational and social needs of each community.

Policies

PUB-P5.1 Funding of library operations should be maintained or expanded as the budget allows.

Actions

PUB-A5.3 Identify opportunities to partner with the municipalities, other agencies, and library support organizations in providing library facilities and services.

PUB-A5.4 Pursue joint-use agreements with schools, social service agencies, cultural institutions, and other organizations in communities to provide services where County library facilities are infeasible.

VI. PARKS AND RECREATION

A. Background Information

² Holmes, Deborah. Senior Administrative Assistant. Butte County Library. Personal Communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

A wide range of recreational facilities and recreational programs are found in Butte County, offering numerous recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors. Federal, State and local recreation lands are displayed in Figure PUB-2.

~~The five municipalities and five large special independent districts maintain many of the parks and recreational facilities in Butte County. These districts, which~~

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~~Midway Ravines Park, operated by the Durham Unified School District and the Durham Recreation and Park District.~~

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~~encompass most of the County's land area, operate as Butte County itself, does not provide a park and recreation program. Instead, it relies on the five principal municipalities and five recreation and park districts within the county to provide this service. The five recreation and park districts are the primary purveyors of park and recreation services in the unincorporated areas of the county, and despite State raids on District property tax revenue, more than 20%, Districts continue to provide quality parks and recreation services. These special districts, which encompass most of the county's land area operate as "independent" districts, meaning that each district is governed by a board of directors elected by the voters in that district. The districts in Butte County are also non-enterprise districts, meaning that they depend mainly on property taxes for operation and maintenance expenses.~~

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Figure PUB-2 Federal, State and Local Recreation Lands

User fees are collected for self sustaining programs, activities, and special events. The implementation of user fees, as well as partnerships with other agencies, and creative funding mechanisms have helped bridge the financial gap and sustain these districts in the vital role they play in the community.

Each district, while separate, endeavors to work in concert with the other to provide the best and most efficient services possible. Yet, each district is unique, with different goals and objectives and different methodology for their implementation. It is this unique ability to respond to community needs that makes recreation and park districts successful.

~~operating revenue, rather than user fees.~~ Butte County's five recreation and park districts are shown in Figure PUB-3 and include the following:

- ◆ Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD)
- ◆ Durham Recreation and Park District (DRPD)
- ◆ Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD)
- ◆ Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD)
- ◆ Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD)

As shown in Figure PUB-3, no special recreation and park district serves the Gridley and Biggs area. Although the Cities of Gridley and Biggs do not provide open space or parks, two small County Service Areas fund swimming pools that serve these communities. The pools are owned by Butte County and managed by Biggs Unified School District in Biggs and the Fairgrounds in Gridley.

Comment [cc1]:
We believe this paragraph is not correct)

~~The recreation and park districts manage a number of parks in unincorporated Butte County. As shown in Table PUB-1, there are 618 acres of parks in unincorporated Butte County, serving a population of about 83,900 people. Countywide, this amount of parkland is adequate to serve the needs of the residents of unincorporated Butte County, as it provides a service ratio of over 7 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. However, there are unincorporated communities in Butte County that do not contain parks in or near the community.~~

The recreation and park districts manage a number of parks inside city limits as well as areas of the unincorporated Butte County, as shown in Table PUB-1.

In addition to the municipal and special district facilities, there are a number of federal and State parks, campgrounds, recreation areas, reserves, and trails that offer important recreation opportunities within the county, including Plumas National Forest, ~~and~~ Lassen National Forest, and Lake Oroville. These opportunities serve both local residents and visitors to Butte County.

The current level of service adopted by Recreation and Park Districts is five plus acres of usable park land per 1,000 residents. All of the Districts are below the five acre per 1,000 residents, park land objective. Within each of the Districts there are also areas that do not have developed park lands reasonably located to service those areas. Accessible and developed recreation and park lands within Butte County area is substantially inadequate and does not meet current master plan objectives of Recreation and Park Districts county-wide.

TRAILS

Although Butte County does not have any formal or organized system of trails, federal and State agencies and park and recreation districts maintain a

Figure PUB-3 Recreation and Park Districts in Butte County

TABLE PUB-1 PARKS WITHIN UNINCORPORATED BUTTE COUNTY

Comment [cc2]: Recommend using the attached table (Table PUB-1) prepared by the special districts.

Facility	Acres
Forbestown Park and Community Center	3.6
Palermo Park	5.0
Wyandotte Park	2.6
Bangor Park	8.1
Coutolenc Park (Magalia)	320.0
Crain Memorial Park (Concow)	8.0
Louis Edwards Park (Durham)	3.8
Ravekes Park (Durham)	0.5
Midway Field (Durham)	6.0
Durham Community Park	24.0
Butte Community College	234.0
Nelson Park	2.5
Total	618.1

number of developed recreational trails in Butte County, including the following:

- ◆ **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.** Approximately 6 miles of the federally designated “Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail” is located in Lassen National Forest on the eastern Butte-Plumas County border. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provides continuous recreational access from Canada to Mexico and is a very popular route.
- ◆ **The Feather Falls National Recreation Trail.** This 3.5-mile trail is located within Plumas National Forest, and provides hiking access to the Feather Falls National Scenic Area and to the Feather Falls, noted as the sixth highest waterfall in the continental United States and third highest waterfall in California. The Feather Falls trail and scenic area is a very popular spring and summer attraction.
- ◆ **Loafer Creek and Freeman Trail.** A 17.5-mile loop trail at Loafer Creek and portions of the Freeman trail are accessible for equestrian riding at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area.

- ◆ **Chico Recreation and Park District.** This District manages a system of trails that serves the Chico area.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal PUB-6 Support a comprehensive and high-quality system of recreational open space and facilities.

Policies

PUB-P6.1 Review of development proposals shall be coordinated with public agencies in order to designate sites for new parks and recreation facilities. (Land Use Element Policy 5.5.a)

Butte County should work with each agency to help develop as well as implement the needs for parks and recreational facilities as indicated in each agency’s Master Plan. As development occurs in the unincorporated areas of each District, Butte County should coordinate with each agency to ensure that the needs for parks and recreational facilities are met based on each agency’s approved Master Plans.

PUB-P6.2 National recreation events, such as marathons, bicycle races, bird-watching events, rodeos or fishing tournaments, shall be encouraged in Butte County, ~~provided that the event pays for all necessary public services.~~ (Policy Alternatives 32.d)

PUB-P6.3 ~~New residential development shall be assessed for Quimby Act fees to support park development.~~ (Policy Alternatives 32.b)

Quimby Act – Butte County shall assist the recreation and park districts in establishing and collecting Quimby Act Development Fees in unincorporated areas of the county.

PUB-P6.4 Allowed densities shall be increased when small parks are incorporated into development projects. Smaller parks must meet standards set in district master plans. (Policy Alternatives 32.c)

Comment [cc3]:
questioning the wording.

- PUB-P6.5 New residential developments should include permanently-protected and maintained open space using mechanisms such as, but not limited to, conservation easements and development agreements. (Land Use Element Policy 3.5.a)

Actions

- PUB-A6.5 ~~Utilize Community Facilities Districts, Mello Roos and/or lighting districts to provide funding for on-going maintenance and operation of parks and recreation facilities in medium density (six dwelling units per acre) and higher density residential developments when warranted. (Policy Alternatives 32.e)~~

Condition all new developments, when applicable, to establish a Landscape and Lighting District, Maintenance District, or Mello-Roos to provide funding for recreation and park districts's on-going maintenance and operation of park and recreation facilities.

- PUB-A6.6 ~~Work~~ Cooperate with park and recreation districts to allow the development of park and recreation facilities on publicly-owned land. (Policy Alternatives 32.f)

Goal PUB-7 Encourage local, regional, and State parks providers to engage in coordinated and cooperative planning efforts.

Policies

- PUB-P7.1 The County shall ~~work~~ cooperate with the municipalities and park and recreation districts to plan and develop additional regional and community parks, support and coordinate park master plans, coordinate financing for recreation and park facilities, and plan for the distribution of federal and State funds, such as, Per Capita funding from Park Bond Acts and Roberti Z-Berg/Harris grant funds for recreation and park programs and facilities. (Policy Alternatives 32.a and 32.g)
- PUB-P7.2 Implementation and development of recreation and park facilities within District boundaries will be consistent with District master plans.

PUB-P7.3 County shall dedicate land and other resources, if available and appropriate, to support recreation and districts.

Actions

PUB-A7.1 Identify strategies for the County to assist special districts with funding, planning, and support for recreation and park facility development. Establish and implement a plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities. (Policy Alternatives 32.h)

Goal PUB-8 Coordinate an interconnected multi-use trail system.

Policies

PUB-P8.6 The County shall ~~work~~ cooperate with the municipalities and park and recreation districts to connect between trails in incorporated and unincorporated regions of Butte County. (Policy Alternatives 33.b)

PUB-P8.7 The County shall ~~work~~ cooperate with local jurisdictions, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, and the State Department of Water Resources to designate additional shared use trails along unpaved County roads, access roads, and fire roads. (Policy Alternatives 33.c)

PUB-P8.8 The development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements, and waterways for new multi-use recreational trails shall be pursued where appropriate. (Policy Alternatives 33.d)

PUB-P8.9 The County ~~supports~~ shall support development of additional equestrian trails, including safe routes along roads. (Policy Alternatives 33.e)

PUB-P8.10 The County supports development of additional off-road vehicle trails. (Policy Alternatives 33.f)

PUB-P8.11 The County supports acquisition of appropriate and adequate funding for the creation and on-going maintenance of trails. (Policy Alternatives 33.i)

PUB-P8.12 New development shall incorporate multi-use trails and connections to existing trail networks, when feasible. (Policy Alternatives 33.h)

Actions

PUB-A8.7 Publish Butte County trail maps for the public. (Policy Alternatives 33.g)

PUB-A8.8 Cooperate with appropriate agencies to conduct a countywide trails planning study to identify new needed routes and connections to the existing trails network, as well as to address funding and management of trail facilities. (Policy Alternatives 33.a)

VII. SOLID WASTE AND WASTE DIVERSION

A. Background Information

Existing solid waste management facilities in Butte County consist of two transfer stations, a large transfer station/materials recovery facility, the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility (Neal Road Facility) (and adjacent septage waste disposal area), one private wood waste recycler and two municipal wood waste recyclers.



Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility.

The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility is located 7 miles

Table PUB-1 *Current Park and Recreational Facilities within Incorporated and Unincorporated Butte County areas that are owned and/or maintained by Special Districts. Though some facilities listed are within Incorporated areas, they serve their entire Community*

Durham Recreation and Park District:

Facility	Acres Undeveloped	Acres Developed	Total Acres
Durham Community Park		24.0	24.0
Ravekes Park		.5	.5
Louis Edwards Park		3.9	3.9
Nelson Park		2.0	2.0
Midway Park		3.9	3.9
Dwight Brinson Swim Center			
Durham Memorial Hall			
TOTAL		34.3	34.3

Paradise Recreation and Park District:

Facility	Acres Undeveloped	Acres Developed	Total Acres
Terry Ashe Recreation Center		3.5	3.5
Aquatic Park		6.0	6.0
Moore Road Park		19.0	19.0
Bille Park	40.0	15.0	55.0
Coutolenc Park	300.0	20.0	320.0
Paradise Memorial Park		2.0	2.0
Crain Park		8.0	8.0
Oak Creek Park	17.0		17.0
Drendle Circle	.5		.5
Paradise High School		2.0	2.0
Mountain Ridge Middle School Gymnasium			
Maintenance Shop		.75	.75
TOTAL	357.5	76.25	433.75

Chico Area Recreation and Park District:

Facility	Acres Undeveloped	Acres Developed	Total Acres
Dorothy Johnson Center/Park		3.0	3.0
Oakway Park		8.0	8.0
Peterson Park		4.1	4.1
Rotary Park		.3	.3
Hooker Oak Park		35.0	35.0
Community Park		40.0	40.0
DeGarmo Park	16.0	20.0	36.0
Little Chico Creek		15.6	15.6
CARD Community Center		3.0	3.0
Pleasant Valley Center/Pool		1.1	1.1
Shapiro Pool		.44	.44
Sycamore Field		3.5	3.5
TOTAL	16.0	130.89	146.89

Feather River Recreation and Park District:

Facility	Acres Undeveloped	Acres Developed	Total Acres
Mitchell Park		15.3	15.2
River Bend Park	27.43	56	83.43
Martin Luther King Park		5.58	5.58
Nelson Ballfield Complex		29.6	29.6
Forbestown Park/Community Center		3.67	3.67
Palermo Park		5.0	5.0
Playtown USA, Playground			
Municipal Auditorium		1.16	1.16
Bedrock Park/Amphitheatre		3.75	3.75
Bedrock Tennis Courts		1.5	1.5
Bedrock Skate and Bike Park		.75	.75
Gary Nolan Sports Complex		14.2	14.2
Wildlife Ponds	100		100
TOTAL	127.43	136.51	263.94

Thursday, October 29, 2009 (file cac242)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: UHV transmission line corridors, Overview of climate change mitigation, monoculture risk assessment, eco-friendly/efficient structure design & Off-grid electrical design.

Ref A: Dan Kammen, U.C. Berkeley, UHV transmission line location alternatives, McNeal Lehrer News Hours, PBS, KIXE, 7:30. PM, 10/28/09

Ref B: Lester Brown, Plan B 4.0, Mobilizing to save civilization, Norton 2009, See also www.earthpolicy.org

Ref C: Michael Pollin, The Anatomy of desire, KIXE 8-10 PM, PBS, 10/29/09, See also a special exhibit of Pollin's books including a Place of my own, Penguin 2009-

Ref D: D.Hansen, California building code effective 15 January 2008, See also plumbing and electrical codes, Taunton Press 2009.

Ref E: Sue Root, Eco-house 3rd ed, Elsevier, 2008

Ref F: Lori Ryker, Off the grid, Gable Smith 2005

Highlights and comments:

1. Ref A looks at a case study on bringing a new UHV transmission line from geothermal sources in the Salton Sea area to Los Angeles. Seven alternatives have been proposed. Kammen of U.C. Berkeley may be a good consultant when we address the Butte County and Northern California corridor alternatives.
2. Ref B is an up to date overview of planetary threats and mitigation. The section on raising water productivity on pp 222-230 is applicable to the governor's push in this area. This reference and IPCC Copenhagen are good resources for fine tuning the general plan.
3. Ref C and the many books of Pollin are drivers on many issues in Butte County and higher levels of government. He makes a strong case for plant diversity as opposed to extensive use of pesticides or genetic engineering to minimize risks.
4. Ref D is the DIY builder's friend. We need to append any special Butte County unique elements within the general plan.
5. Ref E in earlier editions I have reviewed in the past. This continues to be a good source for construction technology.
6. Ref F looks at off the grid technology issues that need to be supplemented by the popular press and IEEE professional group on energy and power source material.

Sunday, November 01, 2009 (file cac243)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: Beefing up the general plan on erosion control

Ref A: General Plan 2030 Sep 2009, pp266-269 and Policies HS-8.1/9.1

Ref B: A. Ward, Environmental Hydrology, Lewis/CRC 3rd ed, 2004, Chapters 6-13

Ref C: G.Hornberger, Elements of physical Hydrology, John Hopkins press 1998, Sec 10.4

Ref D: W. Dietrick, Erosion thresholds and land surface geomorphology, *Geology* 20:675-679

Ref E: W. Wischmeir, Predicting rainfall erosion losses, A guide to conservation planning, USDA Handbook 537, 1978

Ref F: W. Weaver & Pacific Watershed Associates, Handbook for forest and ranch roads, Mendocino county conservation district, June 1994

Background: I am concerned that the general plan draft does not place enough emphasis on erosion mitigation planning and/or monitoring of maintenance of erodible structures that are effectively under control of individual parcels owners or road committees. Mention of "site specific" studies suggest that the county is only geared to new development design/mitigation. In some cases it would appear wise to at least encourage monitoring and mitigation by higher levels of government.

Highlights and comments:

1. Ref A has the flavor of "find an expert and do what he/she says". The DIY builders and non-industrial forestry people need guidance. Hopefully the 20 and 40 acre subdivision minimums will encourage affinity groups to creatively approach the specific problems of erosion associated with rills/stream sidebank meander/ gullys/stream particulate and major landslides.
2. Ref B –E progressively examine the issues that control erosion. The universal soil loss equation $A=RKLSCP$ from Ref C is a good reminder of the factors of interest: A=soil losses, R=rainfall, K=soil erodability, L= length of reach, S=shape, C=cover management and P=conservation practices.
3. Ref F focuses on rural road design and erosion mitigation. At the last CAC meeting the suggestion was made that gullies can be suppressed by using the gully as a depository for defunct hardware. Dr Weaver rails against this policy since the stream velocities are typically increased near erodible surfaces and the problem is made worse. The effective solutions range from planting of vegetation to major efforts involving diversion using geotechnical fabric and heavy rock facing. Weaver is a strong advocate of out sloping and rolling dips where reasonably applicable.

Conclusions: Maintenance of small rural roads in Butte County should be the focus of erosion mitigation. A good example is the enhancement of Garland Road from Forest Ranch to Paradise involving a large number of government entities and adjacent parcel owners. This work was driven by concern about wildland fire escape routes. Design of individual large parcel driveways are frequently left to the tender mercies of well-meaning equipment operators and aesthetic-driven owners. Hopefully by 2030 plan checkers will recognize erosion as part of overall planning without requiring expensive studies by a geomorphologist. In some barren or high-slope areas the county may need to develop policies controlling sedimentation contamination of downstream users. As developments favor moderate basins for inter-seasonal water storage we need to be sensitive to life of the basins as a function of sedimentation.

From: Emily Fisher [mailto:efisher@lsnc.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 5:19 PM
To: Snellings, Tim
Subject: Comments on Economic Development Element

Dear Tim and Staff:

I will bring these issues up at the meeting on Thursday, but I wanted to put it out there a little ahead in case it would be appropriate to distribute to the CAC with other comments that may be distributed.

Unfortunately I think that a prior meeting discussing the Economic Development element was one that I wasn't able to attend, or I would have raised these concerns much earlier. My main concern with the draft element is that nowhere does it appear address the fact that Butte County has a 17.1% poverty rate (as of 2007), almost 5% higher than the state average. There is some language about supporting education and retraining programs (ED-P1.5) but we need something that more explicitly addresses obstacles to gainful employment for people who are willing and able to work. I would suggest inserting / replacing an action under ED-A1.1 to read:

"Working to remove impediments to gainful employment for County residents, such as lack of transportation, child care, job training, vocational education, and other factors, coordinating these efforts with local, state, federal, and private agencies/organizations."

Also, action g., "recruiting new, high-quality workers to Butte County" is a great idea, as long as we're working to address our 12% or so unemployment rate.

I think the wording of policy ED-P1.1 could be clarified with the following change as well:

"The County's priority for future growth is sustainable job development and poverty reduction."

I think the term "living wage" is somewhat misleading - I don't see anything else in the element that suggests the county intends to adopt an actual "living wage" ordinance. I'm a fan of the word 'sustainable' but is a 'sustainable job' one that somebody can stay at because they can support themselves / their families and grow in the job, or does it mean a job in a 'green' industry? I think both concepts are important and could be included, but it should be clearer.

I really appreciate all the efforts of the planning staff as well as my fellow committee members. Looking forward to the discussion Thursday.

Thanks,

Emily Fisher
Staff Attorney
Legal Services of Northern California
Butte Regional Office
P.O. Box 3728
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Chico, CA 95927
Voice (530) 345-9491 x 115
Fax (530) 345-6913

efisher@lsnc.net

From: Debra Lucero [mailto:deblucero@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2009 9:06 AM
To: Macarthy, Jennifer
Cc: Finley, Bill; bob@wemanage.org; JFrancis@chicochamber.com; mnemanic@3coreedc.org; mwescoat@ci.chico.ca.us; mike@californianorthern.com; oedco@sbcglobal.net; Pat Clark; biggs1@biggs-ca.gov; rhickey@gridley.ca.us; katie@paradisechamber.com; gridleychamber@hotmail.com; cknaus@orovillechamber.net; lgill@townofparadise.com; McCracken, Shari; Snellings, Tim; Kim, Sang
Subject: Re: Butte County General Plan - Economic Development Element

Hi Jen:

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the Nov. 5th meeting as I'll be back East but I've read the Economic Development section (particularly as it relates to tourism) and think it's an excellent strategy for the county. I support your efforts and am hopeful tourism can be approached in a more integrated fashion throughout Butte County. We have incredible natural, cultural and historical assets here and have yet to capitalize on our unique stories.

Thanks for the heads up.

Sincerely,

Debra Lucero
Butte County Cultural Tourism
805 Whispering Winds Lane
Chico, CA 95928
530-228-2860
530-342-8243 FAX
deblucero@sbcglobal.net

On Oct 29, 2009, at 2:12 PM, Macarthy, Jennifer wrote:

Hello all,

The County of Butte will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, November 5th from 5pm-9pm at the Butte College Main Campus to discuss the draft 2030 General Plan. Please see the attached document for the full agenda. On the agenda for the November 5th meeting is a discussion of the draft Economic Development Element. To view the draft Butte County 2030 General Plan go to the following link:<http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/2009-09-04GP2030DRAFT/default.asp>. The Economic Development Element is Chapter 6 of the document. Many of you have discussed your interest in the development of the County's Economic Development Element, and therefore I wanted to make sure you had an opportunity to review the document and provide comments during the public meeting.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you on the 5th.

Jen Macarthy

Jennifer Macarthy
Program Development Manager
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-6182
(530) 538-7120 (FAX)

BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Policies needing action items

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

PUB-P1.1 (p. 295) "Residents shall be educated about the realities of rural living and expectations regarding the availability of services and service response times in rural areas"

Problem: No action item. Requires program development and follow-through by some designated agency.

Example action item:

PUB-A1.2 Develop and make available a program to educate new and prospective residents regarding the realities of rural living and the availability of services and service response times in rural areas of Butte County.

PUB-P6.2 (p. 312) "National recreation events . . . shall be encouraged"

Problem: No action item. Requires on-going, pro-active outreach by some designated agency.

Example action item:

PUB-A6.3 Provide County outreach to encourage Butte County as the site for national recreation events, which would pay for all necessary public services.

PUB-P8.3 (p.314) "The development of . . . for new multi-use trails shall be pursued where appropriate."

Problem: No action item. Requires on-going, pro-active effort by some designated agency or it.

Example action item:

PUB-A8.3 Pursue development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements, and waterways for new multi-use trails where appropriate.

PUB-P9.4 (p. 317) ". . . the County shall seek to maximize the revenue potential associated with the waste stream as new products, economies, needs, and technologies emerge."

Problem: No action item. Requires on-going effort by some designated agency.

Example action item:

PUB-A9.3 Develop and implement measures to maximize County revenue from the waste stream as new products, economies, needs, and technologies emerge.

PUB-P11.4 (p. 319) "The County shall use post-consumer recycled paper and other recycled materials for County operations whenever possible."

Problem: No action item. Requires a broad, on-going effort to ensure long-term success.

Example action item:

PUB-A11.2 Develop and implement a program to maximize County-wide use of post-consumer recycled paper and other recycled materials.