

GREEN PURCHASING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Green procurement is the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services. These products are preferred because they conserve resources, create less pollution and waste, or eliminate health and safety risks. Buying green also includes the policy and practice of purchasing products made with recycled materials instead of virgin materials.

WHAT YOU MUST DO

EO 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, mandates Federal agencies to actively pursue buying environmentally preferable products and products made from recycled materials. In other words, if you are spending appropriated funds, YOU MUST consider buying green in your purchasing decision. The Green Purchasing Program (GPP) includes six mandatory program elements and one voluntary element as follows:



Products manufactured from recycled and reclaimed materials as identified in EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG items fall into 8 product categories: Construction, landscaping, non-paper office products, paper and paper products, park and recreation, transportation, vehicular and miscellaneous items. The EPA CPG can be viewed online at:

See: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/cpg/index.htm>



Biobased products identified by USDA are made from rapidly renewable plant materials (usually agricultural products). Examples include straw-board construction panels, soy inks, vegetable-based lubricating oils, and "plastics" made from starch.

See: www.biobased.oce.usda.gov.



Energy Star[®] labeled lighting equipment, roofing products, heating and cooling systems and appliances, or Low Standby Power office equipment that switches into a "sleep" mode, are examples of energy-efficient products.

See: www.energystar.gov/products



The EPA SNAP Program lists alternatives to ozone-depleting substances.

See: <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html>.



Substitutes for the EPA Priority Chemicals (lead, PCB, mercury, naphthalene, and cadmium) are identified at: <http://www.epa.gov/waste/rcc/national/toxics.htm>



Purchases of alternative fueled vehicles (AFV), alternative fuels and fuel efficient vehicles are required for Federal fleets and supported by GSA and DLA.

See: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/>



The voluntary program element, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, promotes purchase of goods and services that have lesser or decreased effects on human health and the environment compared to competing goods that serve the same purpose.

For more info contact: DPW Environmental Sustainable Environmental Management (SEM) System.