



# Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

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# Government Procurement

- Federal government spends:
  - **over \$250 billion** annually in direct purchases
  - **over \$240 billion** annually in grants
- State/local governments spend:
  - **nearly \$400 billion** annually in purchases



# Federal Drivers to Buy Green Products

- **Pollution Prevention Act of 1990**
  - “Identify opportunities to use Federal procurement to encourage source reduction.”
- **Executive Order 13101 (1998)**
  - Guidance
  - Assist agencies with pilots
  - Establish database on pilots
- **Congressional interest**
  - Encourage pilots on biobased products; Farm Bill provisions on biobased products.
- **Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)**
  - “Agencies ... must maximize utilization of EP products...”



# The Federal EPP Program

Environmentally preferable purchasing incorporates key **environmental** factors with traditional **availability, price** and **performance** considerations in purchasing decisions.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing



Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics



## EPP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Environment + Price + Performance = Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- Pollution Prevention
- Life Cycle Perspective/Multiple Attributes
- Comparison of Environmental Impacts
- Environmental Performance Information



### Guiding Principle 1: Environment + Price + Performance = EPP

- Make environmental considerations a part of normal purchasing practices.
- Seek overall “best value” that incorporates environmental factors.



### Guiding Principle 2: Pollution Prevention

- Consider environmental preferability early in the acquisition process.
- Incorporate environmental preferability into the design phase of projects.
- Apply systems approach for complex products and services.



### Guiding Principle 3: Life Cycle Perspective/ Multiple Attributes

- Life cycle stages: raw materials acquisition, product manufacture, packaging, transportation, use, disposal.
- Environmental attributes: health and ecological risks, air and water quality, energy use, greenhouse gases, ozone depletion, renewable vs non-renewable resources, waste quantities.



### Guiding Principle 4: Comparison of Environmental Impacts

- Severity
- Reversibility
- Geographic scale
- Tradeoffs are often necessary.



### Guiding Principle 5: Environmental Performance Information

- Base environmental assessments on accurate, meaningful information.
- Testing, standards.
- Independent evaluation, certification.
- FTC guidelines for environmental marketing claims.



### Serving Customers' Needs

- Providing tools
- Supporting development of voluntary standards
- Focusing on specific products and services
- Partnering to serve unique needs



### Providing Tools

#### *EPP Database*

Identify and compare environmental attributes for key products and services from various information sources, both domestic and foreign





## Providing Tools

### *“Promising Practices”*

20 case studies incorporating environmental factors into product and service contracts

Links directly to contract language, worksheets, evaluation criteria, etc.



## Supporting Voluntary Consensus Standards

Encourage development and use of voluntary consensus standards that address lifecycle environmental impacts:

- **Green Seal**
  - General purpose bathroom/glass cleaners
  - Commercial adhesives
  - Cleaning/degreasing agents
- **ASTM**
  - Data collection for sustainable building products
  - Stewardship for cleaning commercial/institutional buildings



## Focusing on Specific Products and Services

- Conferences/meetings
- Copiers
- Cafeteria serviceware
- Carpets
- Electronics
- Cleaners
- Building materials/operations



## Biobased Products: USDA Actions Under 2002 Farm Bill

- Designate biobased products and content levels.
- Provide information on availability, price, performance, and environmental and public health benefits.
- Develop labeling program for certified biobased products.



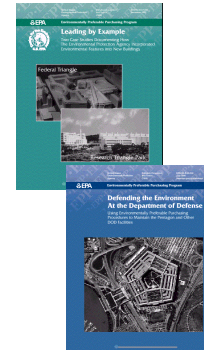
## Product Focus: Paper

- Helping vendors access government marketplace
- Helping Federal agencies define environmental preferability and fit into procurement process
  - Best Value Contract: 25% price / 75% environmental
- Business Cards
- EPP Update
- Listening Study



## Focus: Green Building

- Building for Economic and Environmental Sustainability (BEES) software
- ASTM standards development
  - ASTM E2129 - Standard Practice for Data Collection for Sustainability Assessment of Building Products
  - ASTM - Standard Practice for Sustainable Development Relative to Planning, Design, Construction, and Operation of Buildings – General Principles
- Green Specifications Database
- Marketing and outreach  
[www.epa.gov/greenbuilding](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding)



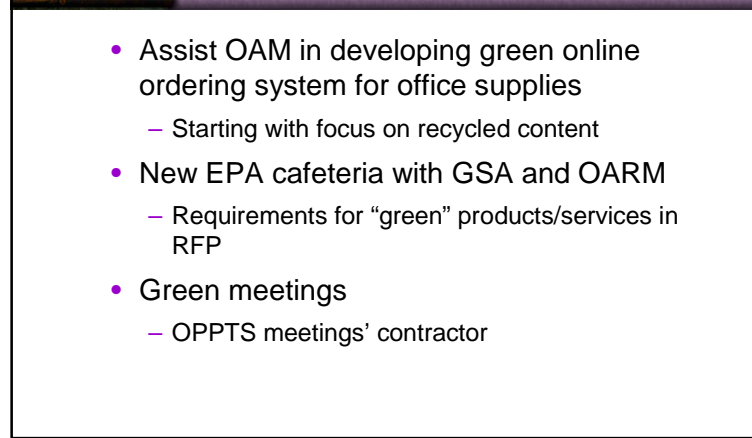
## Service Focus: Green Meetings

- “One-stop shop” website  
[www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings)
- Leveraging through partnerships
  - GSA/EPA Meet Green
  - Oceans Blue Foundation/EPA web tool
  - CERES Green Hotel Initiative - Best Practices
  - DC Green Hotel Initiative



## Customer Focus: EPA

- Assist OAM in developing green online ordering system for office supplies
  - Starting with focus on recycled content
- New EPA cafeteria with GSA and OARM
  - Requirements for “green” products/services in RFP
- Green meetings
  - OPPTS meetings’ contractor





## Customer Focus: National Park Service

- Supporting the National Park Service's (NPS) 20 Centers for Environmental Innovation
- Piloted workshop on how to green park operations at Big Cypress NP
- Developed EPP Resource Manual for the Park Service



## Customer Focus: Hospitals

- *Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)* partnership
  - Eliminate mercury use
  - Cut all wastes by half
- Hospital suppliers (group purchasing organizations) developed environmental product information



## Questions?

Visit [www.epa.gov/oppt/epp](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp)

Call 202/564-8867

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency