

Turning Challenge into Opportunity

CT Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
Barbara Moser
10 December 2002

CT EPP History – the short version

- Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS) Procurement, EPP Coordinator position filled through a DEP grant for ~2 years
- CT EPP Legislation, P.A. 01-168, passed 10/2001
- EPP Coordinator position vacant for ~1 1/2 years
- EPP Coordinator position recreated and filled 4/2002

Challenges Created by History

- **Much was lost ☹**
 - Program
 - Contacts
 - Momentum
 - An entire file cabinet
- **DAS' commitment to EPP was questioned by environmental community**
- **Existing EPP were not marketed to contract users**

CT EPP Eight Months Later...

- **Much, but not all of the "lost" ground has been regained ☺** (even the file cabinet was found)
- **DAS Commissioner, Barbara Waters, and the CT EPP Program have joined other CT State Agencies in the fight to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **DAS 2003 Business Initiatives include an EPP initiative to "Promote and increase sound environmental practices within contract user groups."**

CT EPP Eight Months Later...

- **Environmentally Preferable Disposal of Office Electronics (RFP012-S-02-0674-C)**
 - Services State Agencies, Municipalities, Schools and Non-profit Organizations
 - Response to the contract has been so favorable that prices have been reduced
 - Contract supplement to address Municipal Electronics Recycling Collection Days is in the works

CT EPP Eight Months Later...

- **New Furniture Contract (RFP023-A-20-0155-C)**
 - RFP to be released in early January 2003
 - Addition of EPP furniture selections
 - RFP includes *new* EPP general contract language:
 - language defines "environmentally preferable" attributes,
 - does not create an "Acceptable Brands List,"
 - requires vendors to document "environmentally preferable" attributes, and
 - requires vendors to clearly identify EPP products, and supply information on EPP sales.

Ongoing Challenges

- State Budget Crisis
- Staffing
- Communication (internal and external)



What has been learned?

- **Spend time on your co-workers.** If they don't support the program, no one else will either.
- **Ask for help.** Contracting staff has a wealth of experience writing contract language.
- **Use existing EPP program resources.** Much has been done in this field and many are willing to help.
- **Establish strong ties with the environmental community.** It's amazing how much business, and opportunity, word of mouth can push your way. Return the favor.

CT EPP Contact Information

- **There's a lot going on in the CT EPP Program. For more information you may contact:**

Barbara Moser
DAS, Procurement Services
165 Capitol Avenue, Room G8a
Hartford, CT 06106

Telephone: (860)713-5081
E-mail: barbara.moser@po.state.ct.us