



# **The U.S. Federal Green Purchasing Program**

Dana Arnold  
Chief of Staff

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive



# WHY BUY GREEN?

*“The Federal government can be a good steward of our resources, and we fully intend to be.”*

**- President George W. Bush**



# GREEN PURCHASING ENCOMPASSES

- **Recycled content products**
- **Energy- and water-efficient products**
- **Alternative fuel vehicles/alternative fuels**
- **Biobased products**
- **Environmentally preferable products**
- **Non-ozone depleting substances**
- **Priority chemicals**



# Recycled Content Products

- Legal basis: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act section 6002, E.O. 13101, E.O. 13148, and E.O. 13149
- What's required: Purchase EPA-designated recycled content products



# What To Buy Green

- Office products
- Printing services
- Fleet maintenance products
- Building construction, renovation, and maintenance (janitorial, landscaping) products
- Traffic control
- Parks and recreation products



# Cool Stuff

- Homestead Air Reserve Base created an **Environmentally Friendly Products Section** at the base supply store.
- Sandi National Labs added **green contract language to the template for all construction contracts**. This template is used by all project managers when requesting proposals from new contractors and developing work scope for pre-approved contractors.



## Cool Stuff

- EPA entered into a **blanket purchase agreement** with Corporate Express to supply recycled content and environmentally preferable office products.
- A Fish and Wildlife Service region provided **seed money** for individual facilities to purchase re-refined oil.



## Cool Stuff


- NASA's copier **leases include supplying recycled content paper.**
- The Pentagon uses recycled content and environmentally preferable products in its renovation project.





# Where to Find More Information

[www.epa.gov/cpg](http://www.epa.gov/cpg)



# Energy Star, Energy Efficient Products, and Vampires

- Legal basis: Energy Policy Act, E.O. 13123, E.O. 13221
  - Additional legislative requirements pending
- What's required: Reduce building energy use, purchase Energy Star and FEMP-recommended products, and purchase products that use minimal standby power



# What To Buy Green

- Electronic office products
  - Low standby power devices
- Building construction products
- Appliances (residential and commercial)
- Lighting
- Water-saving products



## Cool Stuff

- By FY 2003, Federal agencies **reduced their energy intensity by 25%** compared to the 1985 baseline.
- They purchased 552 gigawatt hours of **electricity generated from renewable resources.**



## Cool Stuff

- Dyess Air Force Base uses **100% renewable power** – using wind power.
- Five EPA laboratories purchase 100% renewable energy. Green power also is used in other EPA buildings, including the headquarters complex.
- Federal agencies installed more than 3,000 **solar energy** systems by the end of 2003.



# Where to Find More Information

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/eeproducts.cfm>

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/eep\\_standby\\_power.cfm](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/eep_standby_power.cfm)

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



# Alternative Fuel Vehicles/Alternative Fuels

- Legal basis: Energy Policy Act, E.O. 13149
- What's required: Purchase alternative fuel vehicles, alternative fuels, and recycled content vehicular products



# What To Buy Green

- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Alternative fuels (e.g., ethanol, CNG, LNG, biodiesel)
- Re-refined oil
- Retread tires





## Cool Stuff

- In FY 2003, **alternative fuel vehicles** accounted for 86% of covered light-duty vehicle acquisitions – well above our 75% requirement.
- We buy ethanol, biodiesel, CNG, and LNG, and use hybrids and other electric vehicles.
- We even use a **hybrid HUMVEE**.



# Where to Find More Information

[www.afdc.doe.gov](http://www.afdc.doe.gov)

[www.ott.doe.gov/epact/fed\\_fleet\\_progr.shtml](http://www.ott.doe.gov/epact/fed_fleet_progr.shtml)



# Biobased Products

- Legal basis: Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 section 9002, E.O. 13101, E.O. 13134
- What's required: Purchase USDA-designated biobased products



# What To Buy Green

TBD but probably:

- Office products
- Printing products
- Fleet maintenance products
- Building renovation, construction, and maintenance (janitorial and landscaping) products



# Cool Stuff

- The Defense Energy Support Center worked through **ASTM** to develop a **technical standard for B20** and establish quality requirements and contract language.
- Many Federal facilities now use biobased hydraulic oils, greases, cleaning products, mastic removers, and other products.
- PTO just installed **carpet containing a soy-based backing**.



## Where to Find More Information

**<http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov>**

[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov), click on Green  
Purchasing, click on Biobased  
Products



# Non-Ozone Depleting Substances

- Legal basis: Clean Air Act, E.O. 13148
- What's required: Purchase alternatives to ozone depleting substances
- SNAP -- EPA's Significant New Alternatives Policy Program identifies alternatives to ozone-depleting substances and provides lists of acceptable and unacceptable substitutes. The web site provides information on product alternatives.



# What To Buy Green

- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
- Foam Blowing
- Solvent Cleaning
- Fire Suppression and Explosion Protection
- Aerosol Solvents and Propellants
- Sterilants
- Tobacco Expansion
- Adhesives, Coatings, and Inks





## Cool Stuff

- Federal agencies are installing **alternatives to halon fire suppression systems.**
- Wright-Patterson Air Force Base purchases non-ozone depleting **missile propellants.**
- NASA's White Sands Test Facility uses an **aqueous process to clean spacecraft parts** instead of a freon-based cleaning system.



# Where to Find More Information

[www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html)



# Environmentally Preferable Products

- Legal basis: E.O. 13101
- What's encouraged: Purchase environmentally preferable products and services



# What To Buy Green

- Office products
- Electronic office equipment
- Printing services
- Fleet maintenance products
- Building renovation, construction, and maintenance (janitorial, landscaping) products



## Cool Stuff

- Department of the Interior led the way in switching to **green cleaning products** and now uses a NISH provider to clean with green cleaners.
- NISH providers also clean the **Pentagon** and other Federal buildings with green cleaners. Even **Statue of Liberty** National Park is cleaned with green cleaners.



# Where to Find More Information

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



# Priority Chemicals

- Legal basis: E.O. 13148
- What's required: Reduce usage of specified chemicals by 50 percent by 12/31/06 through a variety of means, including using alternatives.
- Initial focus on five priority chemicals:
  - Lead
  - Mercury
  - Cadmium
  - PCBs
  - Naphthalene



# What To Buy Green

Not determined yet but could include:

- Non-mercury bearing switches and thermostats
- Alternatives to cadmium in electroplating
- Tin/copper or tin/silver solders in place of tin/lead





# Cool Stuff

- The National Institutes of Health started a “Mercury-Free NIH” campaign to eliminate mercury-containing products.
  - Known as the Mad Hatter campaign.
  - Link from the OFEE web site.



# Where to Find More Information

[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)



# Lessons Learned

- A law or policy isn't enough. Buying green needs to be incorporated into:
  - Individual agency policies and procedures
  - Purchasing regulations
  - Solicitation and contract templates or clauses
  - Contracting forecasts



# Lessons Learned

- Educate, educate, educate.
- As procurement techniques change, green purchasing has to change:
  - Purchase cards
  - Support services contracts
  - Performance based contracting
- Buying green is consistent with mission.



# Lessons Learned

- Buying green also is consistent with buying from:
  - Small, minority, and women-owned businesses
  - The blind, severely handicapped, and prison sources



# Lessons Learned

- Buying green is consistent with buying commercial products and buying from commercial sources.



# Lessons Learned

- It is easier to “sell” the buy-green concept when the agencies can see a tangible benefit, rather than a benefit to the nation.
  - Reduced energy bills
  - Safer environment for workers
- It is hard to promote green purchasing when we don’t have the infrastructure.
  - Fueling stations for alternative fuels
  - Data collection systems



# For More Information

Dana Arnold

Chief of Staff, OFEE

[arnold.dana@ofee.gov](mailto:arnold.dana@ofee.gov)

202-564-9319

[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)