

## **Making a Difference with Biobased Products: Using Your Purchase Card to Buy Biobased Products**

This fact sheet has been created to assist you in meeting your BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup> requirements and in purchasing biobased products with your government purchase card.

You can find more information about the BioPreferred program, how to find biobased products, and how other Federal agencies are purchasing biobased products by visiting [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov).

### **What is BioPreferred and what are biobased products?**

BioPreferred was established by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) to increase the procurement and use of biobased products by establishing:

1. A procurement preference program for Federal agencies and their contractors, and
2. A labeling program to enable the marketing of biobased products.

Biobased products are products determined to be commercial or industrial products (other than food or feed) that are composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials. In general, they contain materials derived from soybean, corn, wheat, cotton, and other agricultural products.

### **What are the benefits of biobased products?**

When you use your purchase card to buy biobased products, you are helping your agency

- enhance energy security,
- create markets and jobs, and
- promote environmental stewardship in a cost-effective manner.

The use of biobased products as substitutes for petroleum-based products enhances our national energy security by reducing reliance on foreign oil. Also, the increased use of biobased products boost rural development, job creation, and the farm economy through agricultural feedstock processing as well as manufacturing in rural areas. Purchasing biobased products helps USDA showcase environmental stewardship by protecting the environment and being a model and leader for the rest of the government.

### **Is it mandatory to buy biobased products?**

Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) requires Federal agencies to purchase biobased products designated by USDA's BioPreferred program. When you use your purchase card to buy products and services, you must buy biobased products in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 13 and the BioPreferred Guidelines. More information on this legislation can be found online at

<http://www.biopreferred.gov/PoliciesAndLaws.aspx>.

### **How do I identify biobased products?**

USDA wants to be a leader in purchasing commercially available biobased products now, so don't wait for products to be designated.

As manager of the BioPreferred program, USDA is working to make it easy for you to locate and purchase biobased products. USDA has identified over 10,000 biobased products commercially available for your purchase. Examples of biobased products that you could be purchasing now include: greases and grease removers, hand cleaners, glass cleaners, floor cleaners, carpet cleaners, deicers, graffiti removers, paint removers and strippers, candles, hand soaps, cutlery, two-cycle engine oil, and bar and chain oil.

USDA not only designates biobased items (or groups of products) that require preferred procurement, but also provides guidance on how to purchase these products. Currently, you can use your purchase card to buy biobased penetrating lubricants that can be used for metalworking and diesel fuel additives that can be used to enhance certain properties of fuel. You can find information on these required products at [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov).

USDA has created a BioPreferred Biobased Products Catalog to help you locate manufacturers and vendors of biobased products at <http://www.biopreferred.gov/Catalog.aspx>.

The Catalog is limited to products which have been designated for preferred procurement status. When you click on a keyword such as lubricants, product names and description, biobased content, company names, points of contact, phone numbers and Web sites will be provided for you.

### **Where do I purchase biobased products?**

It is easy for you as a USDA cardholder to use your purchase card to buy biobased products. Some of these products are readily available at:

- USDA Advantage, <https://usdaadvantage.gsa.gov>. Click on "GSA Biobased Products" which is located under the "Browse" heading. In addition, you can click on the "Environmental" Special Category and check the biobased icon to find biobased products.
- Department of Defense EMALL, [www.emall.dla.mil](http://www.emall.dla.mil). Insert "biobased" as the keyword to find biobased products.
- GSA stock and supply programs, [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov). Insert "biobased" as the keyword to find biobased products.
- AbilityOne Program, <http://www.jwodcatalog.com/search.aspx>. Insert "biobased" as the product keyword and you will find biobased products. You can also click on the category "JWOD, This JWOD product is Earth Friendly" to find alternate biobased products. Furthermore, you can click on "SKILCRAFT Environmental Products", find an appropriate service such as "Food Service and Operating Supplies" and you will find biobased products.

## What actions can I take to promote biobased products?

**(1) Become familiar with available biobased products** by viewing the USDA BioPreferred Biobased Products Catalog at <http://www.biopREFERRED.gov/Catalog.aspx>, searching by the keyword “biobased” and looking for the biobased icon at the General Services Administration Advantage Web site at <https://usdaadvantage.gsa.gov>, and reviewing the additional biobased product sources above.

**(2) Buy biobased products first** the next time you are purchasing. You can get there quickly by using the USDA Blanket Purchase Agreement at USDA Advantage, <https://usdaadvantage.gsa.gov>. Keep a list of biobased products you might normally use handy for your purchase card buys.

**(3) Compare the biobased item’s performance** to the item you would have purchased otherwise. Any biobased product that you purchase should perform as well or better than the alternative.

**(4) Share your biobased product experience.** Tell others about biobased products and communicate experiences to other purchase card holders, your supervisors, and on the BioPreferred Web site at <http://www.biopREFERRED.gov/CaseStudies.aspx>.

## Who can I call for more information?

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## When can I get started?

Today! Do not delay, the next time you use your purchase card look for and buy biobased products.