

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory's  
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program  
Executive Order 13101**

**Background**

The Federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the United States. Prior to the nineties, many consumers were recycling, but those materials were not being incorporated into new products. In an effort to influence commodities markets to incorporate these materials, in October 1993, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO)12873 to implement RCRA Section 6002(i), directing 1) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate items for purchase with recycled content and 2) the federal agencies and their contractors to prevent waste, recycle, and purchase the recycled products designated by EPA. In September 1998, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13101 which superceded EO 12873.

Three additional Executive Orders were developed under the general heading of "Greening the Government" in an effort to use the government's purchasing power to develop and direct markets:

Executive Order 13123 Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management June 3, 1999

Executive Order 13148 Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management

Executive Order 13149 Greening the Government Through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency April 21, 2000

**Requirements**

Of the products we purchase, which have been designated by the EPA for purchase with recycled content, 100 percent of them must contain the specified recycled content. The designated product areas are:

1. Paper and Paper Products

- Printing and writing papers (including copier paper, file folders, notepads, etc)
- Commercial/industrial sanitary tissue products
- Miscellaneous papers
- Newsprint
- Paperboard and packaging products

2. Construction Products

- Building insulation products

Carpet  
Carpet cushion  
Cement and concrete containing:  
-Coal fly ash  
-Ground granulated blast furnace slag  
-Cenospheres  
-Silica fume  
Consolidated and reprocessed latex paint  
Floor tiles  
Flowable fill  
Laminated paperboard  
Modular threshold ramps  
Nonpressure pipe  
Patio blocks  
Railroad grade crossing surfaces  
Roofing materials  
Shower and restroom dividers/partitions  
Structural fiberboard

### 3. Non-Paper Office Products

Binders, clipboards, file folders, clip portfolios, and presentation folders  
Office furniture  
Office recycling containers  
Office waste receptacles  
Plastic desktop accessories  
Plastic envelopes  
Plastic trash bags  
Printer ribbons  
Toner cartridges

### 4. Vehicular Products

Engine coolants  
Rebuilt vehicular parts  
Re-refined lubricating oils  
Retread tires

### 5. Transportation Products

Channelizers  
Delineators  
Flexible delineators  
Parking stops  
Traffic barricades  
Traffic cones

## 6. Landscaping products

- Compost made from yard trimmings or food waste
- Garden and soaker hoses
- Hydraulic mulch
- Lawn and garden edging
- Plastic lumber landscaping timbers and posts

## 7. Park & Recreation Products

- Park benches and picnic tables
- Plastic fencing
- Playground equipment
- Playground surfaces
- Running tracks

## 8. Miscellaneous Products

- Awards and plaques
- Bike racks
- Blasting grit
- Industrial drums
- Manual-grade strapping
- Mats
- Pallets
- Signage
- Sorbents

The EPA continually adds to the list of designated products and updated categories and products can be found on their webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm>

### **Exceptions**

The only exceptions allowed for not purchasing a designated product with recycled content are: Cost too high, not Available, poor Performance. Because the market has already responded to federal requirements, there are no exceptions allowed for book paper, carbonless paper, computer printout paper, copy paper, cotton fiber paper, cover stock, file folders, forms bond, office paper (such as notepads), and white woven envelopes.

Each year when ORNL reports our environmentally preferable purchasing statistics, we report only purchases made by UT-Battelle (deemed non-Federal purchases) containing the required recycled content, the non-recycled products for which a justification is allowed, and the unjustified purchases. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports consolidated numbers for all their governmental purchases to the Office of Management

and Budget. The three elements in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)'s program are Preference, Promotion, and Monitoring.

**Preference Program Requirement:**

The preference program should demonstrate that a federal agency has a preference for products that contain recovered materials and these materials meet the standard for recycled content established by EPA. Additionally, EO 13101 explains that preferable may also include products that may not contain recycled content but are environmentally preferable over the recycled version because they are made from environmentally sustainable materials or the manufacturer used environmentally sound processes.

**Implementation:** ORNL demonstrates a preference program through the adoption of the Secretary of Energy's goal of purchasing 100 percent of the products designated by the EPA with the recycled content. Exceptions are those products, which do not meet the CAP: Cost too high, Not available, Poor performance. The adoption of the Secretary of Energy's goals of purchasing 100 percent of the designated products is reflected in the following ORNL documents:

Purchasing Supplies and Services Subject Area:

<http://sbms.ornl.gov/sbms/SBMSearch/SubjArea/Procurement/procuresa.cfm>

Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Subject Area

<http://sbms.ornl.gov/sbms/SBMSearch/SubjArea/P2/P2sa.cfm>

The DOE has adopted the US EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines which may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products.htm>

**Promotion Program Requirement:**

The promotion program encourages employees, contractors, vendors, and others associated with a federal agency to adhere to the requirements of the established Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. Each employee should procure, use, and/or provide products that contain at least the minimum specified recycled content.

**Implementation:** The Secretary of Energy's goal of purchasing 100 percent of the EPA designated products is promoted by the ORNL Pollution Prevention Program staff by:

- Working with suppliers to ensure the recycled products are available with the price and performance needed (notably AVID contracts)
- Adding clear guidance to the Purchasing Products and Services Subject Area and Credit Card Training.
- Targeting key organizations. Pollution Prevention Program staff will work with groups who purchase significant amounts in the EPA categories (Facilities and Operations

Division with the automotive and landscaping products; Facilities Development Division with construction products, etc.) to incorporate information on environmentally preferable purchasing into their operations.

- Providing technical assistance to all staff to help solve purchasing problems
- Working with buying agents and P card holders to ensure they have sufficient training
- Providing awareness information at least twice a year to ORNL staff.

**Monitoring Program Requirement:**

The Pollution Prevention Program monitors the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program by annually reviewing the effectiveness of the program. The monitoring program tracks the purchases and percentage of recycled-content materials. Review of the Annual Progress Reports on Implementation of Greening the Government Executive Orders 13101 and 13148 reveals trends and opportunities for improvement.

**Implementation:** Each year, the ORNL Pollution Prevention Program completes and submits to DOE the Annual Progress Reports on Implementation of Greening the Government Executive Orders 13101 and 13148. One of these reports is the annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program for the Laboratory. ORNL has tracked the purchase of recycled products since fiscal year 1995.