



EPP Update

Issue 3 | September 1998 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING



EPP Could Save Academia \$2.6 Billion Annually

Many public and private universities are saving money while preserving the environment. These schools, which are using their multimillion dollar budgets to purchase environmentally preferable goods and services, also are discovering that EPP offers significant financial benefits. *Green Investment, Green Return*, a report written by David J. Eagan, Ph.D., and Julian Keniry of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), discusses environmentally preferable purchasing on 15 college campuses. The procurement practices undertaken by these institutions

resulted in cost savings of more than \$16 million annually. In addition, the report indicates a potential cost savings of \$2.6 billion annually if all of the nation's 3,700 college and university campuses practiced environmentally preferable purchasing.

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Highlights

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GSA Goes Greener

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the "nation's landlord" and a major supply and purchasing agency for the federal government, acquires more than \$40 billion in goods and services from the private sector annually, affording many opportunities for the agency to go "green." David J. Barram, GSA Administrator, introduced "Planet GSA," with the goal of enhancing GSA's efforts in four areas— buying green (procurement), building green (design and construction), driving green (alternative-fuel vehicles), and saving green (energy), at GSA's annual Earth Day celebration in April 1998.

While some departments and individuals at GSA have implemented their own environmental initiatives in years past, Planet GSA is the first comprehensive, agencywide environmental program that aims to coordinate and build on what has been done to date, and might prove to be an effective model for other federal agencies.

Buying Green

In an effort to increase the procurement of green products, GSA developed the *Environmental Products Guide*. The guide features a wide variety of items with reduced environmental impacts, including 1,000 recycled paper items, generating

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EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline

Program is part of EPA's continuing effort to promote the use of materials recovered from solid waste. Each year, EPA designates additional products that can be purchased with recycled content. Buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products. All federal agencies are required by RCRA 6002 and Executive Order 12873 to purchase CPG items.

EPA's Energy Star programs and products are designed to promote energy efficiency, reduce pollution, and save money for consumers, organizations, and businesses.

sales of more than \$200 million each year. The guide also contains information on products designed to prevent pollution, minimize waste, and conserve natural resources. Working with EPA, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), GSA promotes the procurement of energy-efficient computers, office equipment, and household appliances, and offers more than 2,000 Energy Star items on its Federal Supply Schedules. Tom Daily, coordinator of GSA's Buy Green program, sees Planet GSA as an opportunity to build upon and capitalize on these ongoing efforts to educate GSA's employees and other agencies. Providing information on products with environmental attributes in all of GSA's catalogues is one example of this procurement education effort.

Building Green

GSA oversees more than 250 million square feet of office space for more than 100 federal organizations. It designs, constructs, leases, and maintains diverse facilities, including office buildings, federal courthouses, border stations, and data processing centers. While details are still in development, GSA has already outlined short-, mid-, and long-term goals for the Building Green portion of Planet GSA, according to Debra Yap, GSA's Building Green coordinator. Short-term goals include promoting the use of building materials with more recycled content as required by EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG); mid-term goals focus on construction waste management; and the long-term goals concentrate more broadly on sustainable design.

Driving Green

GSA operates an interagency fleet of more than 14,500 alternative-fuel vehicles that run on ethanol, methanol, natural gas, and electricity, thus reducing air pollution. In fiscal year 1999, GSA will increase acquisitions of passenger vehicles and light vans for major metropolitan areas to 75 percent, according to Larry Frisbee, GSA's Drive Green coordinator. Other

Drive Green initiatives include using retread tires and re-refined oil, and taking fuel efficiency into consideration when acquiring fleet vehicles. To promote Planet GSA's green fleet, GSA and Federal Aviation Administration employees drove a Ford Crown Victoria, fueled by compressed natural gas, from Washington, DC, to the National Fleet Manager Workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona, this summer.

Saving Green

GSA already maintains an innovative energy and water management program that has reduced utility costs and helped to protect the environment while still providing a quality work space for clients. GSA tracks energy usage and is making the necessary adjustments to cut that amount 20 percent by 2000 and 30 percent by 2005. Additionally GSA is partnering with DOE to institute solar power projects. The procurement of solar power and other green power sources, such as wind power, are part of GSA's plans to conserve energy, explained Beth Shearer, head of the Save Green component of Planet GSA.

Shearer says that though conserving energy has been one of GSA's ongoing goals, "having the support of the administration, through the Planet GSA program, makes a huge difference and helps us focus our efforts."

Additional environmental conservation efforts undertaken by GSA include recycling paint, purchasing carpet made from plastic bottles, promoting less-toxic cleaning products, and advocating safer pest-control technologies.

To further encourage environmental practices, GSA is pursuing partnerships with other federal agencies to help identify and develop additional "greening" opportunities. EPA firmly supports the Planet GSA program and currently is exploring the partnership potential between the two agencies. ■

For more information on GSA's "green" products that are available for purchase, please see GSA's Advantage Program, an online shopping service, at <www.fss.gsa.gov>.

A few examples of academia's new environmentally preferable procurement strategies, documented in *Green Investment*, *Green Return*, include microscale science labs; integrated pest management, native landscaping, and groundcovers; and ecological building design and maintenance. Other cost-saving environmental purchasing efforts documented in the report include energy conservation, transportation, and reuse in dining facilities. In addition, the book *Ecodemia*, also written by Keniry, discusses in detail the methods public and private universities employ when procuring environmentally preferable products.

Microscale Science

One procurement method that has significantly changed many university chemistry laboratories is microscale science, a new way of conducting experiments using smaller amounts of chemicals and miniature glassware. This alternative teaching method was first developed and used at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, by Dr. Dana Mayo, a chemistry professor. In the fall of 1979, Bowdoin faced serious air pollution problems in its organic chemistry labs due to large amounts of chemicals used in crowded and poorly ventilated spaces. To remedy this situation, Bowdoin was prepared to fund extensive and expensive lab renovations. Instead, to prevent pollution and avoid such costly reconstruction, Mayo proposed a down-scaling of the methodologies used to perform experiments. By significantly decreasing the amount of chemicals

purchased and lowering the disposal fees for managing hazardous wastes, Bowdoin reduced its annual organic laboratory operating costs by 87.5 percent.

The University of Minnesota (UM) is another school benefitting from microscale science. Due to air and water quality regulations, UM developed a blend of conventional and microscale lab experiments that reduce the use of heavy metals and hazardous solvents. The result was an annual cost savings of \$37,000.

Integrated Pest Management, Native Landscaping, and Groundcovers

Integrated pest management (IPM) and native landscaping are methods of grounds maintenance that reduce pesticide use. Rather than blanketing an area with pesticides, IPM uses certain pesticides at specific times of the year to control targeted pest populations. Intended to complement IPM, native landscaping uses local plant species as primary vegetation. Both methods promote the growth of native plant and animal species. James Luce, director of grounds for Connecticut College, uses native landscaping techniques, but relies on IPM as a last resort. Instead of treating an existing problem, Luce prevents pests and weeds from invading in the first place. The college maintains taller grass in its lawns, for example, to shade out weeds. To avoid overgrown lawns, the grounds crew mows more frequently.

According to Luce, "We're doing different work, not more of it. Instead of spraying pesticides we are mowing the lawns more frequently, composting leaves, and

Schools are discovering that EPP offers significant financial benefits.



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Cost Savings from Reducing Hazardous Wastes Generated by Chemistry Labs at the University of Minnesota			
Volume of waste before conversion	Volume of waste after conversion	Average disposal cost	Annual cost savings
2,500 gallons	23 gallons	\$15/gallon	\$37,000*

*The total cost of the lab conversion was \$30,000, with most expenses covered by a grant from the Minnesota Office of Waste Management. The payback period for this initiative was less than 1 year.

A New Pilot Approach for EPP

In an effort to help federal Executive branch agencies achieve their environmentally preferable purchasing goals, EPA has published a notice of availability of a Pilot Project Approach on the Use of Nongovernmental Entities. Examples of “nongovernmental entities” include, but are not limited to, environmental standard setting organizations, environmental labeling programs, and third-party certification programs, to which agencies may refer for technical assistance in meeting EPP goals. EPA acknowledged a potential role for such entities in its proposed *Guidance on the Acquisition of Environmentally Preferable Products and Services*, published in September 1995.

The purpose of the pilot project approach is to demonstrate how Executive agencies can use nongovernmental entities to support federal environmentally preferable purchasing efforts. EPA believes there are several advantages to this approach. First, it allows the EPP program to increase the variety of product categories being examined. Second, EPA can determine when the use of outside expertise is appropriate and helpful. Third, results from the pilot will help EPA identify the most effective and practical ways to achieve the goal of environmentally preferable purchasing. Finally, this approach might encourage increased competition among existing and new organizations and programs that can support the procurement of environmentally preferable products.

Public input is welcomed. If you are interested in talking to EPA about this issue, please contact Julie Shannon at 202 260-2736 or e-mail her at <shannon.julie@epa.gov>. To obtain a copy of the Nongovernmental Entity Pilot Project Approach (document number EPA 742-B-98-003), write to the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (7409), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460; or call 202 260-1023. You also can obtain the document through fax on demand by dialing 202 401-0527 and requesting item 8001, or via the Internet at <www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. ■

Nongovernmental entities include, but are not limited to, environmental standard setting organizations, environmental labeling programs, and third-party certification programs, to which agencies may refer for technical assistance in meeting EPP goals.

Suggested Approaches Using Nongovernmental Entities

Federal Agencies can use existing information developed by nongovernmental entities to:

- Identify a range of environmental attributes that can contribute to EPA’s determination of environmental preferability.
- Buy commercial items off the shelves using literature provided by nongovernmental entities that profiles product performance on environmental attributes, so that informed procurement decisions are made.
- Denote specific information about a product’s environmental characteristics through the use of symbols from nongovernmental entities in Executive agency catalogs and schedules.
- Develop symbols to appear in agency catalogs and schedules, using existing information about environmental attributes provided by nongovernmental entities.

Use nongovernmental entities as “consultants” under Advisory and Assistance Contracts.

Use nongovernmental entities qualified to certify specific claims in order to verify environmental claims made by manufacturers or vendors.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing In Action



Parking Lot Project Fact Sheet

An EPP Pilot Project Update

After more than a year of experience with the “green” parking lot contract, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are sharing the most recent results of this Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) pilot project. This fact sheet describes the project’s background and current status, highlights recent project successes, suggests future challenges, and details the lessons learned. It is an update to *Paving the Road to Success*, an EPP case study published in November 1997 (EPA742-R-97-007). The full case study is available via the EPP Web site <www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp> or by calling the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202 260-1073.

Background

In June 1997, DOD awarded D-M&S, Inc., a 5-year, \$1 million per year, fixed-price, line-item contract to maintain and repair the parking lots and access roads at the Pentagon and three other DOD facilities. The contract includes traditional price and performance requirements as well as incentives to use products with multiple, positive environmental attributes.

The contract includes work sheets for 20 product categories representing 90 percent of the materials used to repair and maintain the parking lots. Each work sheet identifies the mandatory operational requirements for a product. Eleven work sheets also include optional environmental attributes for which D-M&S, with DOD approval, can earn a 2-percent price differential for each attribute it incorporates up to a ceiling of 10 percent per line item and an overall task-order price differential of 5 percent. The contract also provides additional opportunities for the contractor to improve environmental performance and earn price differentials, which are subject to the same line-item and task-order ceilings.

As of October 21, 1997, Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) require all federal agencies to purchase "environmentally preferable and energy-efficient products and services" (FAR 23.704). The DOD parking lot contract illustrates one way of satisfying this FAR requirement.

This fact sheet is designed to be removed from the EPP Update and kept with your existing copy of *Paving the Road to Success*, the EPP case study documenting DOD's parking lot pilot project. Living its mission, the EPP program determined that it was more environmentally preferable to insert this fact sheet in the newsletter than to produce and deliver it separately.



227,934 square feet of parking lots and roadways have been paved with products that contain positive environmental attributes.

Current Status

During the 15 months the contract has been in place, the contractor has used products with positive environmental attributes to pave 227,934 square feet of parking lots and roadways. When compared to traditional products, the contractor's products have increased recycled-content percentages, reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) levels, and decreased overall toxicity.

Use of Environmentally Preferable Products

Since the contract began, the DOD contractor has used:

- 3,328 tons of recycled asphalt
- 1,031 tons of recycled concrete
- 300 cubic yards of concrete containing recovered materials
- 3,558 linear feet of recovered glass for reflective surfaces
- 5,200 linear feet of an asphalt sealer containing recovered crumb rubber
- 3,558 linear feet of paint containing less than 50 grams per liter of VOCs
- 24,324 square feet of low VOC concrete curing compound
- 5,200 linear feet of recovered-content asphalt joint sealant

Project Successes

While this pilot project has enjoyed many successes, the two most recent success stories involve identifying new environmental attributes and promoting the wide-spread use of environmental products.

Identifying New Environmental Attributes

To prepare the contract work sheets, the DOD/EPA team used publicly available information and conducted a limited market survey to identify the environmental attributes. The team believed it would be challenging for the contractor to locate products exceeding the attributes it identified.

A few months into the contract, however, D-M&S had already identified eight products exceeding the environmental criteria detailed on the work sheets and had proposed an environmental attribute for several products for which DOD had not identified any criteria. The contractor conducted an extensive Internet search and queried numerous contacts and suppliers throughout the paving and road construction industry looking for products with improved environmental performance. "All we needed to know," according to Sam Croghan, a cost-estimator with D-M&S, "[was] what types of environmental information to look for."

Promoting the Wide-Spread Use of Environmental Products

Several of the products D-M&S identified as environmentally preferable perform better than traditional products. In fact, the contractor is using them on other projects, not because of their environmental features, but by virtue of their

performance. As a result, the use of environmental products is spreading beyond the scope of the pilot project, achieving one of the goals of the DOD/EPA pilot project team and of the EPP program. It also demonstrates that environmental improvements can be made without compromising cost or performance.

In addition, several organizations have contacted DOD and EPA regarding the environmental language used in the parking lot repair and renovation contract. Several cities, counties, and municipalities are considering incorporating similar language into their contracts.

Future Challenges

Currently, DOD officials can readily determine if a proposed product improves environmental performance because the parking lot contract clearly identifies the environmental attributes on 11 of the 20 product work sheets. If a work sheet identifies a VOC content of less than 80 g/L as environmentally desirable, for example, and the contractor proposes a product containing 60 g/L, the new product is considered environmentally preferable.

Determining environmental preferability will likely become more difficult as the contract continues, however. DOD, for example, is currently evaluating two competing sealants—a traditional sealant with environmental criteria defined on an existing product work sheet and another potentially revolutionary product that is more durable. While durability is generally a positive environmental attribute, it does not necessarily mean the new product is more environmentally preferable. It is possible, for example, that the processes used to manufacture the more durable product require more energy to produce and transport the product or are more toxic than those used to produce the traditional product. These additional environmental concerns might negate the environmental improvements attributed to its increased durability. From an environmental life-cycle perspective, it is still unclear which product is preferable.

At this point, DOD, EPA, and D-M&S have asked the manufacturer of the new sealant for additional environmental information about its product. The information provided by the manufacturer will help DOD determine which of the two competing sealants to use. Until the environmental benefits of competing products are clearly defined, traditional measures like price and performance will remain the primary determining factors.

This situation highlights the complexities associated with comparing the environmental attributes of two different types of products designed to perform the same function. As new environmental attributes are introduced, these decisions will continue to become more complex. It also should lead to the development of new environmental decision-making tools.

Lessons Learned

In addition to the lessons cited in the full case study, recent contract experiences demonstrate that contractors can locate environmental products as part of routine project performance, price differentials might not be necessary, and environmentally preferable does not necessarily mean “more expensive.”

New environmental decision-making tools will continue to develop as more environmental attributes are introduced to products.

Contractors Can Locate Environmental Products

D-M&S's ability to collect information on the environmental attributes of the products used under the parking lot renovation and repair contract suggests construction contractors might be in a better position than federal purchasers to identify the environmental attributes of construction products because of the contractors' previous experience with the products and their contacts throughout the industry. After DOD identified the environmental attributes of concern, D-M&S obtained product information that allowed DOD to compare products based on their environmental performance. This experience suggests the contracting mechanisms used in this innovative contract might be appropriate in other situations.

Price Differentials Might Not Be Necessary

The DOD/EPA team included price differentials in the contract fearing small businesses would not otherwise be able to afford to conduct the product research. D-M&S claims, however, the price differentials had no effect on its decision to bid on the project. According to Mr. Croghan, the 2-percent price differential is not nearly as important or as profitable as the following:

- Keeping the customer happy.
- Gaining knowledge and experience in identifying and working with environmental products and processes.
- Using the experience working with environmental products and processes to distinguish D-M&S from its competitors.

Environmentally Preferable Does Not Mean 'More Expensive'

After more than one year of experience with the contract, the average cost for the work completed is significantly *lower* than similar work on other DOD parking lot repair contracts, which do not include environmental features. The price differential has increased expected contract costs by only 0.5 percent. In fact, even if the contractor had earned the maximum price differentials as defined in the contract, the average costs still would be lower than other DOD parking lot repair and maintenance contracts.

Bob Cox, the DOD program manager for the contract, attributes the favorable contract price to DOD's competitive contracting process and the traditional evaluation factors—price and performance. Furthermore, as a fixed-price, line-item contract, the contractor, not DOD, absorbs any cost difference between the contractor's proposed line-item cost and actual costs. The contractor might be making additional profits on some line items and losing money on others, but the cost to the government does not change. "With this contract," according to Mr. Cox, "DOD is receiving a quality product with improved environmental performance at a lower cost, which proves you do not have to pay more to go 'green.'"

“No one will get rich off of the price differential, but we believe the knowledge we gain will bring us a lot of future business.”

— Sam Croghan,
D-M&S, Inc.
DOD Parking Lot
Repair Contractor

“Green” Conference Planning

EPA is currently developing guidance to help conference planners incorporate comprehensive environmental improvements into their events planning. The final product, an interactive, Web-based, multimedia planning tool, will answer important questions about how to plan a “green” conference.

EPA recognizes that conferences and large meetings consume a significant amount of natural resources and generate large volumes of waste. From the initial planning stages to the distribution of the proceedings, conference organizers and participants use pamphlets, flyers, papers, and presentation materials; consume food, water, and electricity; and require many forms of transportation. Since these conferences and meetings involve many people, these events also are highly visible, providing opportunities to raise environmental awareness and to practice pollution prevention.

A number of documents already exist on holding “green” conferences. Most of these documents, however, focus on particular conference elements, such as specific pollution prevention opportunities within waste management or general pollution prevention opportunities within the lodging service sector. In an effort to fill the gap, EPA’s green conferencing tool will provide a comprehensive overview of the different stages, products, and services involved in conference planning and the “green” opportunities within each.

The Web-based tool will undergo three stages of development. In the first stage, existing information on conference planning will be identified, com-

plied, and organized into a comprehensive list of environmental opportunities. For easy access by conference planners, these opportunities will be chronologically organized by service sector and inserted into a matrix. The second stage involves testing each opportunity at an actual conference from an environmental, logistical, and economical perspective. These first two stages are expected to be completed in July 1999. The third and final development stage involves the actual production of the interactive, Web-based, multimedia tool. Based on the results of the test experience, the opportunities will be grouped on the Web according to their ease and difficulty of implementation, economic costs and savings, and environmental return. EPA intends to widely publicize this information to all event planners and sponsors. For more information on this project, please e-mail Russell Clark at EPA at <clark.russell@epa.gov>. ■

EPA’s Web-based “green” conferencing tool will provide a comprehensive overview of the different stages, products, and services involved in conference planning and the “green” opportunities within each.



EPA Initiates Copier Paper Pilot Project

EPA recently had the opportunity to put environmentally preferable purchasing into practice when deciding what brand of copier paper to purchase. For the past several years, EPA has purchased a brand of paper containing 100 percent recovered fiber, including 50 percent postconsumer fiber. After learning that this brand would be discontinued in 1997, the Agency began investigating which new paper to purchase.

EPA's print shop, which is responsible for purchasing paper through the Government Printing Office (GPO), suggested that a pilot be conducted to test a paper with at least 30 percent postconsumer content. This standard was chosen because it puts the Agency in compliance well ahead of the December 1998 deadline issued by Executive Order 12873, which requires federal agencies to purchase 30 percent postconsumer copier paper by the end of the year.

In addition to recycled content, the print shop also wanted to consider other environmentally preferable product attributes for the paper it was seeking to buy. With the help of the EPP program, EPA identified several environmental attributes related to copier paper and then determined how to fit the attributes into the procurement process. GPO is supportive of

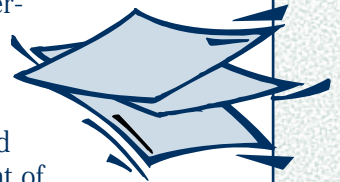
the goals of the pilot and has provided invaluable input throughout the process.

The final contract language will require bidders' products to meet current GPO performance requirements and contain a minimum of 30 percent postconsumer recycled content. Beyond that, bidders also will be invited to voluntarily document their progress with regards to a number of additional environmental attributes. Their progress will then be weighed along with price, in a best-value, rather than low-bid, procurement approach.

The details of this innovative paper procurement will be shared in a pre-bid conference that will convene this fall.

Public feedback on the voluntary attributes will be welcomed by GPO at the pre-bid conference. The U.S. Department of Justice, DOE, and the U.S. Department of Interior have all expressed interest in joining the pilot project and will soon review the contract language to make their official commitments.

For more information on EPA's copier paper pilot project, please e-mail Russell Clark, EPA, at <clark.russell@epa.gov>. ■



EPP Upcoming Events

GREEN BUILDING CHALLENGE '98

October 25 to 28, 1998

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Contact: Nils Larsson, Phone: 613 769-1242, Fax: 613 996-9416, E-mail: larsson@greenbuilding.ca.

Attendees: Green building researchers, designers, developers, and investors.

ECOEXPO 1999

May 3 to 5, 1999

Anaheim, CA.

National Marketplace for the Environment, 800 334-3976.

Attendees: Federal procurement, contract, maintenance, and managerial personnel.

Private-sector attendees: procurement and environmental officers, engineers, designers, office managers, fleet managers, marketing and sales executives, consultants, and investors.

84TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PURCHASING CONFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT

May 23 to 26, 1999

San Diego Marriott & Marina, San Diego, CA.

Contact: Jolene Gulley or Judy Welp, Phone: 800 888-6276, Ext. 3008 or 3049.

Attendees: Senior buyers, purchasing agents, purchasing and materials managers, directors and vice presidents of purchasing and materials.

For a list of other EPP events, or to post an event of your own, refer to the EPP Web site at <www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>.

EPP Resources

One-Stop Shopping for Green Product Standards Information

The EPP Team is developing a database that will give federal purchasers and others access to U.S. and international green product standards for a variety of products. Initial research for product information on existing Internet resources has been completed, and a draft structure for the database has been created. To assure that this resource is user friendly and meets the needs of federal purchasers, the EPP Team is in the process of obtaining user input on the database's structure. After revisions are made, the database will be beta tested before it is made publicly available. Future phases of the database will include links to existing federal, state, and local specifications in contracts for greener products, as well as standards information. For more information on this effort or to learn how you can provide comments on the draft structure, please e-mail Holly Elwood at <elwood.holly@epa.gov>.

Learning from the Private Sector

Many companies in the United States and abroad have already attained impressive results from their environmental purchasing efforts. These "recipes of success" also can be applied to the public sector. The EPP Team is currently compiling data on these corporate efforts and plans to publish a corporate case study report, in both hard copy and on the EPP Web site. For more information on this research, e-mail Holly Elwood at <Elwood.Holly@epa.gov>.

EPP on the Web

EPA's new EPP Web site will be available on the Internet at <www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp> by mid-October. You'll find useful information on the EPP program, access to EPP publications, examples of EPP success stories, environmental purchasing tools for purchasers and suppliers, and information on upcoming EPP events. The new EPP Web site also will feature a discussion bulletin board in an effort to collect and share information related to environmental purchasing. EPA will continue to improve and expand the Web site features in the future, so check the site frequently.

EPPNET Provides Forum for Discussion

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) hosts EPPNET, an environmentally preferable products discussion list server. EPPNET provides an open forum for posting and discussing news and information on the procurement of environmentally preferable products such as product specifications, vendor lists, pricing, strategies to achieve EPP goals, and federal procurement policies. EPPNET is open to all public and private sector procurement officials and advocates of environmentally preferable procurement. To subscribe to EPPNET, send an e-mail to <epratt@sover.net> describing your job and place of employment. NERC pre-approves all EPPNET members. Also, send an e-mail message to <lyris@aladdin.webrover.com> with SUBSCRIBE EPPNET<FIRST NAME> <LAST NAME> on the subject line or in the body of the message. If you have questions about EPPNET, or if you experience problems with the server, contact Ellen Pratt with NERC at <epratt@sover.net> or 802 254-3636.

Massachusetts Case Study Available Soon

Green Spending—A Case Study of Massachusetts' Environmental Purchasing Program (EPA742-R-98-002) is the most recent EPP publication. The case study describes how Massachusetts incorporated environmental attributes into its purchasing process and how it spread the word to Commonwealth purchasers about the importance of buying environmental products. This publication, as well as all other EPP documents, can be obtained free of charge by calling EPA's Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202 260-1023, by e-mailing PPIC at <ppic@epa.gov>, or by accessing the EPP Web site at <www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>.

EPP Pilot Project Group List

Interested in learning more about the EPP program's pilot projects? EPP created a group e-mail list to keep interested parties updated on pilot project activities and opportunities. To be added to the group list, e-mail your request to <epp.pilot@epa.gov>.

planting endophytic (naturally pest-resistant) plants and grasses.

“The university has saved substantially by using these alternative methods because they don’t require purchasing expensive pesticide chemicals or application equipment.” In other words, the potentially higher costs for practicing IPM and native landscaping are offset by lowered chemical costs.

Seattle University also has achieved considerable annual cost savings through environmentally preferable landscaping. Grounds Manager Ciscoe Morris used dense-growing “weed fighter” groundcovers to obtain weed-free areas within 3 years, while reducing chemical inputs, reducing soil loss due to erosion, and lowering equipment maintenance costs. Thanks to its use of groundcovers, the university saves \$1,300 annually.

Ecological Building Design and Maintenance

Ecological building design and maintenance, or “green building,” is another new purchasing practice that saves money. Universities are “going green” by installing low-flow shower and faucet heads, weatherstripping windows and doors, installing motion sensors for lights, and taking advantage of solar energy for heating and lighting. The Energy and Environmental

Education building at the University of Northern Iowa, for example, uses daylighting (the illumination of rooms with sunlight) to reduce the need for electrical lighting. In addition, the building minimizes fuel consumption by using direct sunlight as a primary source of heat. Architects incorporated energy conservation into the building design by choosing construction materials that require less energy to produce and transport. The structure’s limestone, for example, came from a local quarry. Northern Iowa’s green building initiatives reduced the school’s annual energy expenditures by 50 percent, while initial construction costs remained comparable to those of a regular building.

These are just a few EPP strategies that have proven to be both financially and environmentally rewarding. All across the country, academic institutions are finding that protecting the environment and cutting costs go hand in hand. For further information on environmentally preferable purchasing, call NWF’s Campus Ecology Program at 202 797-5468. To order *Green Investment, Green Return* (094-505-1654, \$14.95) call 410 516-6583. For general information about the Campus Ecology Program, call 703 790-4318, or visit the NWF Web site at <www.nwf.org/campus>. ■



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Environmental Protection Agency
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Washington, DC 20460

Official Business
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