



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, or EPP, seeks the overall best value, taking into account price competitiveness, regulatory requirements, performance standards, and environmental impact. Because purchasers typically have clear sources of information on procurement and safety regulations and well-established methods for evaluating price and performance, the U.S. EPA EPP program has developed the *EPP Update* to help government purchasers consider the environmental factors in the EPP equation and to keep purchasers informed of EPP news. For more information about the EPP program's history, tools, and resources, please visit [www.epa.gov/oppt/epp](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp).

### Highlights

- **PBTs in Vehicles**
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# EPP Update

Issue 13 | January 2004

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

## New Specifications Drive Cleaner Vehicle Production

**W**hile most people are aware of the air pollution impacts caused by car and truck exhaust, fewer understand the enormous environmental impacts of vehicle production and disposal. The manufacture and end-of-life processing of motor vehicles generates significant releases of heavy metals and other persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals (PBTs). Some PBTs are linked to cancer, infertility, and neurological harm; children are most vulnerable to their effects.

### Mercury

Mercury is incorporated into vehicles in lighting switches, high-intensity discharge headlamps (often with a blue tint), anti-lock braking systems (ABS), ride-control switches, airbag sensors, and backlit liquid crystal displays. This potent neurotoxin is released into the environment when vehicles are crushed, shredded, and smelted by iron and steel manufacturers for recycling. In fact, metal smelting locally can be an important source of mercury emissions. Reducing new mercury releases is a priority at

the federal, state, and local level, largely because fish consumption warnings have been issued for thousands of waterbodies in the United States due to elevated levels of this PBT. (For specifics on mercury components in vehicles by make and model, see Vermont's manufacturer disclosure information posted at [www.cleancarcampaign.org/mercury.shtml](http://www.cleancarcampaign.org/mercury.shtml).)

**Vehicle production is the world's largest manufacturing industry, accounting for more than 6.6 million jobs worldwide. (Source: Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers)**

### Lead

Lead is used in numerous automotive applications, including batteries, wheel and steering column weights, gears, vibration dampers, electronic circuit boards, solder, and auto bodies. Facilities that manufacture vehicles and components, and smelters that recycle end-of-life auto bodies and other scrap metal, are significant sources of lead

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This article was contributed by Sarah O'Brien, senior outreach associate for the PBT-Free Purchasing Program at INFORM, which assists institutional buyers with developing contract specifications to reduce or eliminate the purchase of PBT-containing items. For more information on vehicle specifications, or help with purchasing cleaner vehicles, see INFORM's Web site at [www.informinc.org/fact\\_P3vehicles.php](http://www.informinc.org/fact_P3vehicles.php) or contact Sarah O'Brien at 802 479-0317 or [obrien@informinc.org](mailto:obrien@informinc.org).

# EPP in Practice

Each *EPP Update* highlights a different paper type that EPA has determined to have certain positive environmental attributes. Read below to learn more about the paper choice for this issue—Mohawk Options 100% Recycled.

## Powering Sustainable Paper Production

This issue of the *EPP Update* is printed on Mohawk Options 100% Recycled paper, which is processed chlorine-free, contains 100 percent postconsumer recycled fiber, and is certified by Green Seal. The manufacturer of the paper, Mohawk Paper Mills, Inc., strives to minimize environmental impacts in many aspects of its operations; as of August 2003, it is the country's first paper mill—and only major manufacturing facility in New York State—to buy electrical power from emission-free, wind-generated electricity.

A portion of the wind power will be used in the production of Mohawk Options 100% Recycled. Mohawk's 2-year contract with Community Energy, Inc. will supply power for 12,000 tons of premium paper per year—enough power to produce 600 tractor-trailer loads of paper.

Mohawk's Senior Vice President of Energy and Environmental Affairs George Milner observed, "As a company, we have always understood that our dependency on basic resources such as water, wood, and energy bestows on us a responsibility of environmental stewardship."

Mohawk's green power purchase will offset approximately 6 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, 40,000 pounds of SO<sub>2</sub>, and 15,000 pounds of NO<sub>x</sub> annually—the equivalent of taking more than 500 cars off the road per year or planting more than 300,000 trees.

"Switching a significant part of Mohawk's energy consumption to a non-polluting energy source has a direct and positive impact on our mission to provide forward-looking products to our customers, while minimizing impacts on the environment," says Tom O'Connor, Jr., president and CEO of the company.

For more information on Mohawk's products and its green power purchase, visit <[www.mohawkpaper.com](http://www.mohawkpaper.com)> and <[www.CommunityEnergy.biz](http://www.CommunityEnergy.biz)>.

## Massachusetts: A Model for Cleaning Green

### Working Together for Greener Cleaners

It's now easier than ever to purchase green cleaners. For years, government and institutional purchasers attempted to develop a method for evaluating the environmental attributes of cleaning products. Despite their intentions to minimize environmental and health impacts, however, the seemingly wide range of environmental criteria that various purchasers included in their contracts made it difficult for the cleaning products industry to respond to the varying requirements of different purchasers. To address this hurdle, many of the government purchasing pioneers from around the country who originally attempted to buy safer cleaning products—the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; King County, Washington; Santa Monica, California; and others—participated in a cleaning products workgroup organized by the Center for a New American Dream.

After reviewing their own individual definitions and specifications for green cleaning products and those developed by ecolabeling organizations, workgroup members concluded that many of them described similar products, but used different approaches. This finding helped the group develop and agree on a single set of purchasing criteria—one that is modeled after the Green Seal Standard for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners (GS-37). GS-37 establishes environmental requirements for general purpose, bathroom, and glass cleaners. The workgroup also extrapolated the GS-37 criteria to cover additional product areas, including carpet cleaners, disinfectants, floor care products, and hand soaps. For more information about Green Seal's environmental standards, visit <[www.greenseal.org/standards.htm](http://www.greenseal.org/standards.htm)>.

### Putting the New Criteria to Use

In April 2003, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts became the first member of the workgroup to award a contract for environmentally preferable cleaning products using the group's new, consensus-based environmental criteria.

Other state and local governments, including the State of Minnesota and Santa Monica, California, are following in Massachusetts' footsteps and have begun incorporating the purchasing criteria in their contracts. Hopefully, the strides made by Massachusetts and other government purchasers that follow will help other purchasers procure safer cleaning products more easily. To view a list of the products known to meet the consensus criteria or to see the criteria as incorporated in the Massachusetts request for response, visit [www.newdream.org/procure/products/cleaners.html](http://www.newdream.org/procure/products/cleaners.html).

For more information on the consensus criteria for safer cleaning products, contact Jim Darr at [darr.james@epa.gov](mailto:darr.james@epa.gov).

## The Consensus Environmental Criteria at a Glance

### Product Categories:

- General purpose cleaners
- Bathroom cleaners
- Glass cleaners
- Carpet cleaners
- Disinfectants
- Floor care products
- Hand soaps

### Mandatory Environmental Criteria:

- Toxicity
- Carcinogens and reproductive toxins
- Skin and eye irritation
- Skin sensitization
- Combustibility
- Photochemical smog, tropospheric ozone production, and indoor air quality
- Aquatic toxicity
- Eutrophication
- Aquatic biodegradability
- Concentrates
- Fragrances
- Prohibited substances
- Training (to ensure proper use)
- Packaging
- Labeling

### Additional Desirable Criteria:

- Additional training attributes
- Additional packaging attributes
- Additional labeling information
- Dispensing equipment that reduces worker exposure to chemicals
- Non-animal testing
- Provided asthmagen data
- Corporate environmental commitment



# Hospitals for a Healthy Environment Recognizes Leaders

For more information on the H2E Program and its award programs, or to read more about the award winners, visit the H2E Web site at <[www.h2e-online.org](http://www.h2e-online.org)>. H2E's award application period for 2004 began in December 2003. For health care facilities and service providers interested in receiving public recognition for their good work, award applications are available on the Web site.

**D**ay in and day out, doctors, nurses, and paramedics work to keep entire communities healthy—but they are not alone. Behind the scenes in hospitals around the country, waste management professionals, procurement officers, and facility managers are also ensuring the health and safety of their communities. Now, more than ever, hospitals are taking a lead role in minimizing toxic chemicals in the waste stream, purchasing environmentally preferable products, and implementing programs to protect the environment and improve worker safety.

Recently, the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) Program—a joint venture involving EPA, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, and Health Care Without Harm—recognized 84 organizations in five categories for their exceptional efforts in reducing the impact of health care on the environment. Many of the award winners incorporated EPP activities to achieve the goals of the H2E program. The Environmental Leadership award was

presented to two facilities for their outstanding efforts in implementing innovative and sustainable environmental programs. The Champions for Change award was presented to seven organizations that have assisted health care facilities in achieving the national H2E goals and improving their own environmental performance. The Making Medicine Mercury Free Award is a one-time award given to facilities that have virtually eliminated mercury and developed policies to sustain the elimination. It was presented to 25 organizations.

In addition, the Partner Recognition Award was presented to 25 H2E Partners who have met their self-identified H2E goals but have not met the evaluation criteria for the H2E Partners for Change Award. The Partners for Change Award, which is more specific and comprehensive, was presented to 27 Partner facilities that have initiated comprehensive waste minimization and pollution prevention programs in ways that are measurable and sustainable, and contribute to the goals of H2E.

## About H2E

The primary goal of the H2E effort is to educate health care professionals about pollution prevention opportunities in hospitals and health care systems. The goal is achieved through several activities, including virtually eliminating mercury-containing waste from health care facilities, reducing overall volume of waste, and identifying hazardous substances for pollution prevention and waste reduction.

The program offers two different ways to participate. Health care facilities, such as hospitals, can join through the Partners for Change Program. As Partners, facilities gain access to many tools to help guide pollution prevention activities. Organizations other than health care facilities that would like to assist the H2E effort can join the Champion Program. Champions encourage their members to join the H2E Program and strive to attain the program's goals.

releases in the United States. Batteries represent one of the largest sources of automotive lead. While most lead-acid batteries are recycled, battery manufacturing and recycling operations in the United States still discard thousands of tons of lead in landfills every year. The European Union enacted a directive phasing out most uses of lead, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium in vehicles entering the market as of July 2003 (see <[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2000/l\\_269/l\\_26920001021en00340042.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2000/l_269/l_26920001021en00340042.pdf)>).

### **Vinyl**

Vehicles often contain numerous vinyl (also called PVC) components, including cable and underbelly coatings, instrument panels, and interior and exterior trim. PVC typically contains heavy metal stabilizers, which sometimes include lead or cadmium. When vehicles are dismantled, PVC parts are often shredded and incinerated, which can release these heavy metals and, under certain combustion conditions, contribute to dioxin formation. (For commercial-scale incinerators, chlorine levels in the waste feed are not the dominant con-

trolling factor for rates of dioxin stack emissions. For uncontrolled combustion, chlorine content of wastes may play a more significant role in affecting levels of dioxin emissions than observed in commercial-scale combustors.)

### **EPP Approaches**

Institutional vehicle purchasers across the country are developing and implementing bid specifications that encourage automakers to eliminate mercury, lead, and other PBTs from vehicles sold in the United States. In 2002, Minnesota put manufacturers on notice that the state intended to purchase only mercury-free vehicles starting in 2005 and would require immediate disclosure of components containing mercury or vinyl. In Fall 2003, Vermont established a preference for mercury-free models and requires vendors to disclose the mercury content of all vehicular components. Numerous other federal, state, and local agencies are incorporating similar mercury provisions and requiring lead component disclosure as a precursor to specifying lead-free vehicles in the future.



# Putting Electronics Products in Their Place

**E**ver wonder where your old computer is now? Was it sent to a landfill? Was it exported and dismantled to capture a few cents worth of copper? Were parts of it reincarnated to help create a newer, faster computer? Is someone else—a student maybe—tapping away on the same keyboard your fingers knew so well?

Computers and electronics have quickly become part of our daily lives, but many people are unaware of how employers purchase these products and how they eventually dispose of them. Yet the path of a computer—from the time it is designed to when it becomes obsolete a few years later—can have a dramatic effect on the environment.

As one of the largest consumers of electronics products, the federal government has a unique opportunity to set the pace for environmentally sound electronics procurement and end-of-life management. And the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) is doing just that. Launched in May 2003, the year-long pilot phase is setting the stage for a purchasing and end-of-life challenge that will encourage environmentally sound electronics management at all federal facilities and agencies.

“Electronic products today are replaced so frequently that it is important to have a balanced electronics management program. That is why the Challenge encourages electronics management from beginning to end, addressing the entire life cycle,” said Charles Johnson, Department of Defense (DOD) represent-

ative in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE).

The Challenge is open to all federal agencies and facilities. Partners will learn the importance of applying environmentally sound electronics management throughout lifecycle stages—from the acquisition and procurement of environmentally preferable products to the operations and maintenance and end-of-life management of those products. After completing a baseline survey, Partners will set realistic goals to improve the management of their electronic assets and will track their progress. Depending on their commitment level and achievements, Partners can qualify for a bronze, silver, or gold award. The more Partners do, the higher the recognition they will receive, with Gold Partners receiving White House recognition. Partners will also receive technical assistance, networking opportunities, and additional tools and resources as they work to reduce their environmental footprint.

Recruitment for the FEC pilot phase is currently underway and has already garnered interest from several federal agencies. For more information about the Challenge, or for details on how to participate in the pilot phase, contact Charles Johnson at <johnson.charles@ofee.gov> or Christopher Kent at 202 564- 8842 or <kent.christopher@epa.gov>.

FEC is currently sponsored by OFEE, EPA, DOD, GSA, the Federal Network for Sustainability, and possibly more agencies to come.

## What Makes Electronics So Special?

Electronic products are made up of a combination of precious and other metals, engineered plastics, glass, and other materials—all valuable resources that are thrown away without a second thought. Some electronic products contain hazardous or toxic substances. Products containing cathode ray tubes, circuit boards, batteries, and mercury switches can contain lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, and some types of flame retardants, which can pose serious environmental risks if not properly managed.

## Get Involved!

### Pilot Partners

The FEC Steering Committee is targeting 15 facilities in Washington, DC, and the Great Lakes and West Coast regions of the country for the pilot phase.

### Stakeholders

FEC welcomes information from the electronics industry, recyclers, and non-government organizations. For more information on how you can become involved, visit <[www.federalelectronicschallenge.net](http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net)>.

## Facts & Figures

**Fact 1:** The federal government has an estimated 10,000 computers that become obsolete and must be discarded each week—nearly 500,000 computers each year. (Source: Office of Management and Budget)

**Fact 2:** More than 20 million personal computers became obsolete in 1998. Only 13 percent were reused or recycled. (Source: EPA, *Electronic Reuse and Recycling*, EPA530-N-00-007, October 2000)

**Fact 3:** Electronic products are made from valuable resources, all of which require energy to extract and manufacture. Many electronic products also contain parts that could be profitably refurbished and reused with little effort.



# Need a Vendor List? Check Out the EPP Database

**A**re you looking for “green” products? The EPP Database <[www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm)> now provides a list of vendors selling products that meet government and third-party environmental performance standards and guidelines. For each product listed, the database indicates whether the environmental claims for the product have been checked by an independent third party.

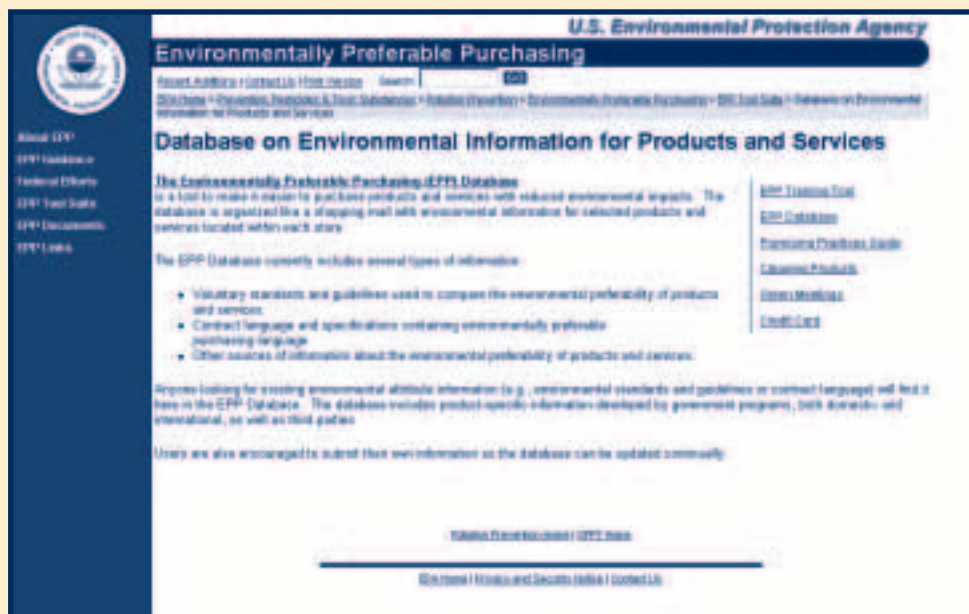
Other recent changes to the EPP Database include the following:

- To facilitate compliance with Executive Order (EO) 13149, *Greening the Government through Federal Fleet and Transportation Efficiency*, three sections of the EPP Database have been consolidated into a Fleets aisle and a Fleet Maintenance aisle. This restructuring will help purchasers find specifications, contract language examples, and vendor lists for high fuel economy vehicles, re-refined oil, biobased motor vehicle products, and other items required by the EO.
- New links include: Specifications created by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) for verifying environmental claims of biodegrad-

ability, recycled and recovered content, and no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) <[www.scs-certified.com/manufacturing/manufacture\\_programma.html](http://www.scs-certified.com/manufacturing/manufacture_programma.html)>; the Pennsylvania Green Building Operations and Maintenance Manual <[www.dgs.state.pa.us/dgs/lib/dgs/green\\_bldg/greenbuildingbook.pdf](http://www.dgs.state.pa.us/dgs/lib/dgs/green_bldg/greenbuildingbook.pdf)>, created with assistance from Green Seal; and links to vendors of biobased products compiled by the United Soybean Board <[www.unitedsoybean.org](http://www.unitedsoybean.org)>.

- To make the database more user-friendly, each aisle of products now provides separate sections for specifications, contract language, vendor lists, and additional information instead of all being combined together on one page.

Most of the changes to the EPP Database are initiated by users. Government purchasers and other interested parties are encouraged to provide suggestions for database improvements to Jesse Eaves at 202 564-8867 or <[eaves.jesse@epa.gov](mailto:eaves.jesse@epa.gov)>. Please let Jesse know of URLs linking to green contracts or contract language as well.





# Greening the Government Conference: A Model and A Message

If you've had any doubts concerning the government's efforts to green its operations and facilities, you'd better think again. "Greening the Government: A Sustainability Conference for Government Officials," held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, proves that sustainability efforts and environmental awareness on the part of government agencies are alive and kicking. This was evident not only by the information presented, but also by the commitment to making the conference itself as green as possible (see sidebar).

The conference, held June 4 to 6, 2003, was developed and hosted by EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3 and the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA). More than 125 attendees, representing multiple federal and state government agencies from Maine to Virginia, were treated to a keynote speech by William McDonough, an internationally recognized sustainable designer. McDonough is the only individual to receive the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development—the nation's highest environmental honor. Festivities continued with speeches by John Howard, the Federal Environmental Executive, and Richard Lemley of EPA's Office of Administration and Resources Management.

Some of the topics covered at the conference included the following:

- Green building tools and resources
- Buying green
- Green meetings
- Green e-procurement
- Purchasing green electronics
- Healthy indoor environments
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Beneficial landscaping
- Implementing pollution prevention through environmental management systems
- Green cleaning
- Alternative fuels/alternatively fueled vehicles
- Green cafeterias
- Establishing a green infrastructure

Conference organizers hope that the interactive exchange of thoughts and ideas that occurred during the conference will spur the development of a Federal Network for Sustainability (FNS) for the East Coast, in coordination with the West Coast's FNS.

For more information about the conference, contact Russell Clark at <clark.russell@epa.gov> or Jesse Eaves at <eaves.jesse@epa.gov>.

## Green Conference in Practice

To further demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, EPA and NEWMOA held the conference at the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel—the first Green Seal certified "green" hotel in the nation and the first hotel in Pennsylvania to purchase wind power. Some of the many environmental attributes exhibited by the hotel include:

- Energy efficient lighting.
- A "water wall" that brings humidity into the lobby on dry days.
- A bamboo garden in lobby that oxygenates air.
- 100 percent organic cotton linens.
- Non-toxic detergents.
- A high-tech air filtration system.
- Reduced off-gassing of toxic chemicals .

Conference organizers struck a deal with Amtrak to encourage attendees to use public transportation. In addition, to reduce paper use and waste, the conference did not distribute hard copies of presentations.

# RCRA Report—Some Agencies Staying on Track

## CPG Indicator Items

Sanitary tissue

Toner cartridges

Cement and concrete

Landscaping timbers and posts

Park benches and picnic tables

Traffic barricades

Re-refined oil

Signage

**D**o you know how much your agency spent on recycled-content products last year? You should. Not only are federal agencies required by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Executive Order (EO) 13101 to purchase certain products containing recovered materials, but they are also required to track and report their annual purchases of these EPA-designated items. Procuring agencies are required to report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE), which compiles a report to submit to the President. The next reports are due by March 15, 2004 and should cover the percent of CPG products bought by your agency between September 30, 2002 and October 1, 2003. In addition to OFEE's report, OFPP is required by RCRA to report to Congress every 2 years on the actions taken by federal agencies to implement the statute.

Many federal agencies, however, have encountered obstacles in reporting the required information. They have found that the requirement is overly burdensome and costly because the requested information is difficult to capture. Prior to 2002, the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)—a central repository of statistical information on federal contracting—included only information on federal purchases in contracts greater than \$25,000. Starting in 2002, FPDS started including information on the procurement of EPA-

designated products specifically, although still only those purchased in contracts greater than \$25,000. Information can be captured for products procured through GSA Advantage!, but not for those products procured through GSA's Schedule System. Another issue is tracking micropurchases—purchases under \$2,500—made by employees who hold government purchase cards.

To address these concerns, OFEE and OFPP formed an interagency workgroup to examine methods of streamlining the current reporting format. The workgroup agreed that the reporting requirements should take on less of a bean-counting approach and more of a basic accountability or auditing focus. In an effort to reduce the reporting burden on federal agencies, the workgroup selected an "indicator" item from each of the eight "buy-recycled" product categories (see sidebar) to get a general sense of how well agencies are complying with the requirements of RCRA and EO 13101. According to Dana Arnold of OFEE, the data reported in FDPS for these items for 2002 still do not capture the whole picture. She admits, however, that a learning curve is to be expected, and OFEE will be working on some training programs to improve future reporting.

For more information on RCRA CPG reports, contact Dana Arnold of OFEE at <arnold.dana@ofee.gov> or Cyndi Vallina of OFPP at <cvallina@omb.eop.gov>.

**The six largest federal procuring agencies—Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), General Services Administration (GSA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—account for more than 85 percent of annual federal expenditures.**

Some agencies have taken their reporting requirements quite seriously. They have developed their own systems to more accurately collect and report the required buy-recycled information.

DOE began its department-wide reporting efforts in 1993 by distributing report questions on computer disks to DOE sites across the country. Through reporting year FY 1996, these disks were mailed back and forth. By FY 1997, however, DOE was ready to launch its new automated Internet-based RCRA/EO 13101 Reporting System. The system has been up and running for 5 years now, with modifications made each summer and as needed to incorporate newly designated EPA products.

According to Mark Huffman, a DOE contractor who helps maintain the reporting system, each of the approximately 60 DOE sites has a designated “green acquisition advocate”—typically a contractor hired specifically for this position. At the end of each fiscal year, the green acquisition advocate at each site begins entering the amount of EPA-designated items purchased that year, the percent purchased with recycled content, and any reasons why the items were not purchased with recycled content. The data entry is completed by mid-December, and a report compiling data from all DOE sites is prepared and submitted to OFEE by March.

According to Huffman, the system has several distinct advantages. First, the people in charge of

the system are able to review the data in a real-time scenario as it is being entered by the various DOE sites. Therefore, if a site is negligent in entering data at the end of the fiscal year, someone can contact personnel at the site to remind them of their reporting responsibilities. A second advantage is that, since the database is populated in real time, Headquarters can review data for accuracy as it is entered. Recently, DOE provided its tracking tool to EPA for the Agency’s use in fulfilling its reporting requirements.

NASA has also made it easier to track and report on environmental information. The NASA Environmental Tracking System (NETS) is an agency-wide database for reporting on purchases of EPA-designated products as well as other data. NETS has improved NASA’s reporting by standardizing data and enforcing adherence to specific validation criteria, reducing time required to collect and summarize the data, and minimizing turnaround time for the submission of data from NASA facilities. NETS also has a similar feature to the DOE system, in that it allows for near real-time report generation and data analysis. NETS includes help desk support for users, a user guide for data entry instructions, a data dictionary, and online assistance.

In the future, these reporting systems could potentially be capable of tracking other environmentally preferable purchases, such as biobased products.



# EMSs Take Center Stage

**R**educing operating costs and improving overall environmental performance are goals that many organizations strive to achieve. Implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMSs)—programs that integrate environmental considerations into day-to-day decisions and practices—can help organizations meet these objectives.



To take advantage of the benefits that EMSs can offer the public sector, the President issued Executive Order (EO) 13148, “Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management,” which requires all federal agencies to implement EMSs by the end of 2005.

One of the key ways that federal agencies can improve their environmental performance is by buying environmentally preferable products and services. The EO 13148 requirement presents a perfect opportunity for agencies to integrate EPP into their EMSs. To assist agencies in doing just that, EPA is compiling a set of examples of ways federal agencies are incorporating EPP into their EMSs. For more information or to provide input to this effort, contact Holly Elwood at <elwood.holly@epa.gov>.

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