



Annotated Bibliography

Commission for Environmental Cooperation Publications and Work on

Green Purchasing in North America

Trade and Environment, August 2005

Introduction

The first item on this bibliography provides a brief description of the North American Green Purchasing Initiative (NAGPI), its mission and objectives, and provides information about its web sites. NAGPI works to inform the public and procurement officers about green purchasing, provides tools (such as Eco-S.A.T.) to support them and documents the development of the initiative across North America. Subsequently, documents commissioned by or created for the CEC and NAGPI are described. The last section of this bibliography proposes some useful links to our partners and to more complete information on green purchasing of goods and services and on green procurement.

North American Green Purchasing Initiative

<http://www.nagpi.net>

http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/trade_envIRON_econ/nagpi/index.cfm?varlan=english

The CEC is the coordinating body for the North American Green Purchasing Initiative (NAGPI). NAGPI's mission is to improve, promote, and facilitate the development of green purchasing tools and activities across North America in order to create markets for environmentally preferable products and services from sustainably managed companies, thereby producing tangible economic, social and environmental benefits. NAGPI's objectives are to coordinate and encourage collaboration among all stakeholders involved with green purchasing.

The NAGPI web pages are separated as such: Section 1, "What is Green Procurement," explains what green procurement (GP) is, and explains the business case for GP; Section 2, "How can Green Procurement Help," illustrates the advantages of GP at company and government levels; Section 3, "About the NAGPI Group," outlines the work of the NAGPI Steering Committee; and

Section 4, “Documents and links,” provides a list of reports published by the CEC on GP, as well as the proceedings to all NAGPI meetings.

NAGPI Tools

<http://www.cec.org/eco-sat/english/index.html>

The North American Green Purchasing Initiative’s Self-Assessment Tool (Eco-S.A.T.) is designed to help professional purchasers evaluate their organization's environmental purchasing initiatives and identify opportunities for improvement. Environmental purchasing is a set of policies, procedures and tools that allow an organization to make the most efficient use of materials, produce a minimum of waste and pollution, and to stimulate the use of post-consumer material. The Eco-S.A.T. consists of a Checklist and a corresponding Best Practices Guide and can be used by any organization with a structured purchasing system, including all levels of government (national, provincial/state and municipal levels), hospitals, schools, universities, and large corporations. Purchasers can also share this tool with their suppliers to help them anticipate possible future needs. The tool is not limited to any specific product group and will apply to any commodity purchased including services. Eco-S.A.T is available also in French and Spanish.

Links to Some NAGPI Members

Centre for a New American Dream: <http://www.newdream.org/>

Environment Canada: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/>

Office of the Federal Environment Executive: <http://www.ofee.gov/>

Reports and Other CEC Publications

The North American Green Purchasing Initiative’s Eco-S.A.T.—A Green Purchasing Self-assessment Tool. Draft. CEC. Fall 2004.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1651

Also available in French and Spanish

The Eco-S.A.T., the North American Green Purchasing Initiative’s Self-Assessment Tool consists of a two-part best practices guide as well as a corresponding checklist. The intention is for professional purchasers to evaluate their own organization’s overall environmental purchasing initiatives and identify opportunities for improvement. The organization will then be able to understand and communicate the sophistication and effectiveness of their environmental purchasing strategy in a quantifiable manner. With an overall approach, the Eco-S.A.T.’s suggestions and questions concurrently relate to most commodities purchased, with slight variations.

Environmental Purchasing Policies 101: An Overview of Current Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies. Scot Case, Center for a New American Dream. March 2004.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1556

Also available in French and Spanish

This report is based on a review of more than 80 environmental purchasing policies. It is designed to make it easier for policy writers or reviewers to know what policy components others thought of as most relevant, and why. The report includes extensive examples of the actual policy language used to outline their environmental purchasing objectives. A sample purchasing policy

is included. Overall, the report describes all of the required components for developing a successful environmental purchasing policy.

Environmental Purchasing Priorities; A Brief Overview of the Products and Services Purchased By North American Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Programs With Recommendations for Future NAGPI Priorities. Scot Case, Center for a New American Dream. March 2004.

[Available upon request \(English only\)](#)

This report, based on a review of more than 80 environmental purchasing policies and the reported practices of more than 70 organizations, identifies the commodity areas where environmental purchasing policies and programs place the greatest emphasis. It also explains how organizations are selecting the commodity areas on which to focus. In addition, this report recommends areas where NAGPI might have the greatest impact. The report recommends three commodity areas on which NAGPI could focus its work.

Existing Green Procurement Initiatives. CEC. November 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1351

[Also available in French and Spanish](#)

The CEC summarized, in the form of a table, a list of more than 90 GP initiatives in North America and internationally as of November 2003. The table provides a short synopsis explaining what each initiative is about.

The North American Green Purchasing Initiative's Brochure. CEC. July 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1241

[Also available in French and Spanish](#)

This brochure summarizes what the NAGPI is, while providing some information on: GP; the business case for GP; how it can help private companies and governments; what the impacts of GP; what the supply chain effects of buying green are; how GP is implemented; and what the trade barriers to GP are. The brochure also provides examples of some concrete GP initiatives.

Green Procurement: Good Environmental Stories for North Americans. Five Winds International. March 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1180

[Also available in French and Spanish](#)

Many organizations worldwide are making an effort to purchase products and services that are less harmful to local and global environments. Both public and private sector organizations in North America are implementing purchasing practices that include environmental (and social) considerations – green procurement. These activities are part of a broader movement toward more sustainable forms of production and consumption. The purpose of this review paper is to summarize the trends and approaches to GP and provide a series of success stories from public and private sector organizations. It also outlines several business benefits of GP practices. The paper is based on insight and stories from NAGPI members and from several existing work on GP. References and contact information are provided throughout.

Green Procurement in Trade Policy. Jane Earley. 2003.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1166

[English only](#)

This report explores whether there are possible barriers to “green” procurement arising from the international agreements that discipline trade in goods and services: the Uruguay Round Agreements, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. It describes the important operational provisions of the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement and the NAFTA Chapter 10 Agreement on Public Procurement, and explores the likely limits of the FTAA procurement agreement. It also describes the standards disciplines relevant to defining “green” products, and procurement policies and practices relating to food. The conclusion is that there are no serious barriers to “green” procurement in these agreements, although standards disciplines could be used in some circumstances to challenge standards pertaining to particularly controversial products, such as transgenic maize. This would most likely happen, not in the context of procurement *per se*, but rather in situations where particular standards could be determined to effectively prevent or deny market access, whether they are the subject of procurement or not. This report also notes that standards equivalence will be a growing challenge as eco-labels proliferate and green buying programs become broader and more widely used.

Supporting Green Markets, Environmental Labeling, Certification and Procurement Schemes in Canada, Mexico and the United States. CEC. 1999.

http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=255

Also available in French and Spanish

This report provides an overview of several key programs in Canada, Mexico and the United States that are established to recognize and promote environmental characteristics or attributes of products and services. This report provides a synthesis of three separate reports prepared by three consulting firms in Canada, Mexico and the United States around issues of labeling, certification and procurement. Given the broad range of public and private sector schemes in place in the three NAFTA countries, this report is intended to be illustrative of key programs, rather than be comprehensive. It is underlined that it is not feasible to review all programs in place in the three countries, in large part because both environmental policy and markets are highly dynamic, constantly evolving, merging and changing. Among the highlights of this report, there are at least 25 important environmental labeling schemes in place in the United States. These schemes cover 156 product categories and approximately 310 actual products. While diversity of choice—especially in public policy instruments—is welcome, the current state of environmental labels may contribute to a bewildering array of choices for consumers, and the inability of one or two labels to carve a dominant market niche. Given the trend in United States markets toward the predominance of labels within different product categories, this fragmentation may contribute to somewhat disappointing results of labels in the United States. This diversity of schemes also makes it difficult to determine an overall or aggregated estimate of total expenditures on green labels in that country.

A complete list of CEC publications is available online at: <http://www.cec.org/bibliographies>

Should you require any other information on the work of the CEC on green purchasing of goods and services / green procurement, please contact: <info@cec.org>.