



Go Green



Go Green With The Acquisition Services Directorate

The Federal government is the single largest consumer in the nation, purchasing more than \$350 billion in goods and services each year. But with countless laws, executive orders and regulations to adhere to, the procurement process can be complex for even the most astute Federal agencies.

Introducing the Acquisition Services Directorate, a line of business within the US Department of the Interior's National Business Center. For more than a decade, we've been a leader in Federal procurement, solving a full spectrum of acquisition challenges for government agencies. Today, we're proud to offer cutting-edge acquisition solutions that make green procurement easier than ever for Federal agencies.

Green Procurement Made Easy

Green procurement, which refers to the purchase and use of environmentally preferable products or services, is mandatory for Federal agencies. The Acquisition Services Directorate helps agencies to buy green through our award-winning acquisition support services. We constantly assess — and give priority to — a wide range of products and services that are environmentally preferable. These include:

- Recycled content products
- Biobased products
- Energy and water-efficient products
- Products that use renewable energy
- Alternatives to hazardous or toxic chemicals

Whether you're looking for an ENERGY STAR computer, or a product that has been reformulated to be less environmentally harmful, we will keep your agency on the right track. Our experienced contract specialists will guide you through all phases of your procurement, ensuring that you meet all green purchasing requirements and mandates.

Why Buy Green

Not only is it the law, but buying green has innumerable benefits, including:

- Reducing the impact on the environment
- Conserving natural resources
- Reducing foreign oil dependence
- Improving health and safety
- Reducing energy consumption
- Lessening the impact on the waste stream
- Stimulating new markets
- Saving money

Agencies sometimes find that green products have a higher initial purchase price, but the cost of these products over their useful life may be significantly less than disposable or single-use alternatives. Additionally, purchasing and using environmentally friendly products can add to your agency's bottom line by minimizing potential health impacts and lost workforce productivity.

Cutting-Edge Practices That Keep You Green

The Acquisition Services Directorate understands the complexities of green procurement and will assist you throughout the buying process. Our goal is to provide cost-effective acquisition solutions that let you achieve full compliance so your agency can operate at its highest level possible. Let us help you get an edge on green procurement. Contact us today at 703-964-8800 or www.aqd.nbc.gov.



Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Environmentally preferable refers to products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison takes into account raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service.

Environmentally preferable purchasing requires the identification of environmental attributes pertinent to a product or service — and the acquisition of a product or service with those attributes. While the acquisition of most green products considers a single attribute (such as the percentage of recycled content), the acquisition of environmentally preferable products looks at multiple attributes (e.g., recycled content plus no or low emissions of volatile organic compounds). This allows agencies to tailor their acquisitions to the key environmental attributes most relevant to their needs.

Green Mandates

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Section 6002
- Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, Section 9002
- Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition (Executive Order 13101)
- Leadership in Environmental Management (Executive Order 13148)
- Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management (2007), Executive Order 13423
- Federal Acquisition Regulation: Subparts 23.2, 23.4, 23.7, 23.8 and Parts 7, 11, 12, and 13

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