

EPP Update

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ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING



JWOD Initiates Environmental Mission

The federal government's Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is proving that achieving environmental and social goals simultaneously is possible. JWOD is "greening" its program to make it easier for government purchasers to adhere to the mandatory source requirements of JWOD, UNICOR, and other laws and to comply with Executive Order (EO) 13101 mandates that require "greener" procurement. Nonprofit organizations associated with the JWOD Program currently are reviewing their products and interviewing their raw materials

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PROFILE OF A PIONEER:

EPP on the Islands

Kent Bullard, maintenance mechanic supervisor at Channel Islands National Park in California, likes to refer to himself as the chief chili maker—trying out different environmental purchasing recipes, seeing what works, making changes, and serving up a variety of satisfying solutions. More specifically, Bullard has been responsible for installing three hybrid wind/solar, 64 photovoltaic (PV), and several other solar thermal systems at the park. In addition, he is leading the push to purchase alternatively fueled vehicles and to use green building materials in park projects. Bullard is currently responsible for demonstrating

the use of 100 percent vegetable oil-based biodiesel fuel to power the park's marine research vessel.

Just off the coast of Southern California, Channel Islands National Park has been under Bullard's care for more than 18 years. When he is not designing or implementing PV systems or supervising construction, maintenance, and restoration of facilities at the park, he is serving as Webmaster of the park's Web site at <www.nps.gov/chis>. ■



Highlights

- Interview With the Federal Environmental Executive
- Green Cleaning Products Outshine the Competition
- Governments Think Locally About Environmental Purchasing
- New Ballot for ASTM Sustainability Questionnaire Set for April
- JWOD Products Seek Green Seal's Approval

Excerpt From an Interview With the Federal Environmental Executive

The EPP Program recently had a chance to talk with Fran McPoland, Federal Environmental Executive, about the federal government's green purchasing efforts. For the full text of this interview, please visit the EPP Web site at <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/mcpoland.htm>.

The federal government has a number of programs that fall under the umbrella of "green purchasing." Can you briefly describe the goals of each?

Green purchasing encompasses so many different activities—everything from buying energy-efficient light bulbs to activities under the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and EPP Programs. It would be difficult to describe the unique aspects of each program in a reasonable amount of time. In most respects, however, we're moving in one direction—trying to use the tax dollars that we are entrusted with to conserve resources in both an economically sound and environmentally efficient manner.

As the Federal Environmental Executive, what is your role with respect to these various programs?

I've been described in many different ways by many different people. Someone at the Department of Defense once described me as a cheerleader, and in some respects that's not too far off. I see my job as having two primary parts. The first part involves urging and educating the government, trying to increase green purchasing throughout the federal government. The other part of my job is to tell the world how well the government is doing with its green purchasing efforts.

Are there any interrelationships or overlaps between the programs, or do you see them more as independent entities?

In some cases the programs complement each other better than others. The

CPG and EPP programs have been working together to resolve some issues between the regulatory requirements to buy recycled and the need to examine multiple environmental attributes. It's been a little difficult, but I think we've done a fairly good job. We've been having meetings with one another because I want to keep the dialogue moving. Education is an important role of the White House Task Force on Recycling, and this effort includes conveying information on all of the different greening programs. Our emphasis is on CPG and EPP, but we will always include information on the Federal Energy Management Program's efforts, ENERGY STAR, and other programs. Sometimes coordination can be a bit difficult because some programs report to agencies other than the Task Force such as the Office of Management and Budget, and some programs are more proactive than others. We will continue working together, however, to make sure inconsistencies between programs are minimized.

What steps can be taken to increase green purchasing throughout the federal government?

Overall, I think you need two things. You need someone from the top of the organization or agency to agree that green purchasing is important, and then you need people at the ground level who want to get things done and have the authority to do so. I think the Department of the Interior (DOI) right now has a good combination of people who are very committed and have the authority from their management to make things happen. Among other efforts, they're doing a pilot project with biodegradable cafeteriaware and a "green" custodial contract. DOI has the support of Secretary Babbitt and has empowered the staff to get things done. ■



Fran McPoland, Federal Environmental Executive

What Is JWOD?

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is a mandatory product and service source for all federal government offices. The JWOD Program originated with the Wagner-O'Day Act, passed in 1938, which required government agencies to purchase necessary products and services from nonprofit agencies employing people who were blind. Senator Jacob Javits spearheaded the drive to amend the act in 1972 to include people with other severe disabilities. The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled is the government agency that administers the JWOD Program. The Committee designated the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (serving people with other severe disabilities) as "umbrella" organizations that provide technical assistance to community-based nonprofit organizations interested in obtaining federal contracts under the JWOD Program. As a result, the JWOD Program, together with NIB, NISH, and a variety of nonprofit organizations, serves more than 33,000 employees across the United States, providing jobs and training opportunities for people who are blind or severely disabled. The unemployment rate for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities is over 70 percent, even though studies show that when queried, most say they would prefer to work.

manufacturers and vendors in order to document environmental attribute claims. In cases where manufacturers are unwilling or unable to provide documentation of their products' environmental attributes, JWOD agencies will look for alternative suppliers. JWOD will determine whether the product attributes are consistent with EO requirements, particularly those of EO 13101, *Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*, which promotes the purchase of recycled-content and environmentally preferable products.

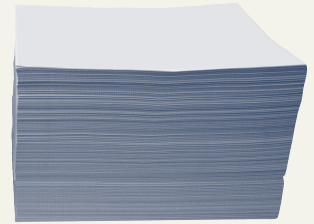
For example, Signature Works of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, has been working in partnership with private industry for more than a decade to develop biobased cutlery composed of corn starch or other biodegradable materials. Clovernook Center for the Blind of Memphis, Tennessee, has developed a biodegradable paper cup. Initially developed for the United States Navy, this product is available to any federal

consumer. Also, Greensboro Industries of the Blind of Greensboro, North Carolina, furnishes a clipboard made of 90 percent postconsumer recycled paper and 100 percent recycled plastic, and ink pens manufactured from biodegradable corn starch.

According to Lee Wilson, executive director of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, "The 'greening' of the JWOD Program is one way to assure our federal customers that, to the highest degree possible, JWOD is synonymous with protecting the environment. It seems fitting to help save our precious resources while at the same time creating jobs for people with disabilities."

For more information on JWOD's efforts to comply with EO 13101 requirements, contact Joan Smith with the JWOD Program at 703 603-0664 or via e-mail at <jsmith@jwod.gov>.

(See p. 11 for a related article on JWOD.) ■



The *EPP Update* is highlighting a variety of paper types that EPA has determined to have certain positive environmental attributes. Read below to find out about the paper choice for this issue—New Life DP 100. Look to future issues of the *EPP Update* to highlight additional paper types.

New Life for EPP Update

This issue of the *EPP Update* is printed on 100 percent processed chlorine-free (PCF) paper developed by Rolland Inc. Called New Life DP 100, the paper is bleached with hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine and helps reduce the amount of toxic dioxin and other persistent organic pollutants released into the environment. In addition, it contains 60 percent postconsumer fiber. New Life DP 100 is the first product in Canada to earn PCF certification by the Chlorine Free Products Association. For more information on New Life DP 100, call Robert Boivin at 800 363-1867.

Green Cleaning Products Ou

The city of Santa Monica, California, estimates that its green cleaning product purchases have eliminated the purchase of 3,200 pounds of hazardous materials annually.

By purchasing and using “green” cleaners, growing numbers of government and private sector agencies are cleaning up the environment one dirty surface at a time. Switching from traditional cleaning products to biodegradable, low toxicity, or otherwise less harmful products can dramatically improve the environmental profile of routine cleaning activities without sacrificing cleaning effectiveness. As many users have discovered, using green cleaners also can reduce costs and improve employee productivity.

Cleaning products present several human health and environmental concerns. Traditional cleaning products can contain chemicals associated with cancer, reproductive disorders, respiratory ailments, eye or skin irritation, and other human health issues. They also can include materials that can accumulate in the environment with potentially harmful consequences, ozone-depleting substances, and toxic materials that adversely affect plant and animal life. For example, Green Seal, a nonprofit environmental standards organization, estimates that cleaning products contribute approximately 8 percent of total nonvehicular volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, which contribute to smog formation, degrade plant growth, and can cause respiratory distress in some people.

Reducing these human health and environmental impacts is an important incentive for implementing an EPP cleaning products program. The city of Santa Monica, California, for example, esti-

mates that its green cleaning product purchases have eliminated the purchase of 3,200 pounds of hazardous materials annually. Other green cleaning product purchasers such as the U.S. Department of Interior; Ben & Jerry’s; the city of Richmond, California; King County, Washington; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and the states of Minnesota and Vermont also have reduced their environmental impacts by purchasing cleaning products each has determined to be environmentally preferable.

Improving environmental performance, however, is not the only advantage practitioners are reporting. Some also are reporting financial benefits. The city of Santa Monica estimates that its switch to green cleaning products saved approximately 5 percent of annual spending on cleaning products when compared with the traditional products it was purchasing. Perrigo, a mid-sized company and the leading manufacturer of generic and “store brand” pharmaceuticals and personal care products, is saving more than \$35,000 annually after switching to green cleaning products.

While part of the reported savings can be attributed to some green cleaning products being less expensive than the traditional products, most of the reported and anticipated savings appear to result from new bulk purchasing opportunities, reduced workers compensation claims, and improved employee productivity. The National Park Service (NPS), for example, used to buy more than



Outshine the Competition

130 different cleaning products, but switched to a family of products it considers to be more environmentally preferable. It now buys only 15 products. Purchasing a smaller number of products allows NPS to buy them in greater volumes and at a bigger discount than purchasing small quantities of a large number of different products.

Janitorial contractors in the city of Richmond, California, are expecting the switch to green cleaning products to reduce worker compensation claims. According to a study conducted by a consultant to the city, a cleaning chemical accident requiring medical treatment costs an average of \$615 per incident, excluding long-term disability costs. The study also reveals that 1 out of every 100 janitors have reported work-related injuries attributable to the cleaning products being used. The project team believes the actual number of incidents, however, is 6 injuries per 100 janitors because many people are reluctant to report injuries fearing disciplinary measures.

By switching to less toxic cleaning products, contractors in Richmond are expecting to reduce the number of incidents, the severity of any incidents, and the cost per incident. The contractors anticipate that worker compensation insurance costs might decrease because the insurance premiums are based on the number and severity of the claims. In addition, if the contractors make all the potential changes available to them,

their use of hazardous materials will decrease by 3,000 pounds per year.

Finally, several purchasers have noted that the lower VOC content and reduced toxicity of green cleaning products help improve overall indoor air quality. This affects all employees, not just the janitorial staff, and could have considerable impacts on employee productivity, absenteeism, and the general well-being of building occupants. Some studies have suggested that improving indoor air quality can improve overall productivity by more than 8 percent. Since labor costs are typically the largest cost for most organizations, small increases in productivity can result in substantial savings.

As these green pioneers have continued to demonstrate, purchasing cleaning products with reduced environmental impacts has significant advantages. From improving environmental performance to saving money, green cleaning products can outshine the competition. ■

For additional information on environmentally preferable cleaners, contact Jim Darr of EPA at <darr.james@epa.gov> or Eun-Sook Goidel of EPA at <goidel.eunsook@epa.gov>. In addition, the following information can be accessed via the EPP Web site at <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/cleaners/resources.htm>:

- An extensive list of EPP cleaning product resources.
- A list of environmental attributes some organizations consider when selecting a cleaning product.
- Yellowstone National Park's list of cleaning product chemicals and ingredients to avoid.



Governments Think Locally About

EPP Starter Kit Available

Interested in implementing a state or local environmental purchasing program but not sure where to begin? Help has arrived! The National Association of Counties (NACo) just released its EPP Starter Kit, which includes program implementation strategies, case studies, model resolutions, and a resource list. To obtain a copy, contact NACo's Publications Department at 202 942-4256 or visit the NACo Web site at <www.naco.org>. The kit is free to NACo members and \$10 for nonmembers.



According to the National Association of Counties, state and local governments purchase more than \$1 trillion in goods and services each year. By purchasing products they deem environmentally preferable, these organizations not only reduce their impact on the environment, but also strengthen markets for these products. Currently, there are a number of state and local governments at the forefront of environmental purchasing. This article chronicles three of them: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; King County, Washington; and Santa Monica, California. A future EPP case study will highlight a much wider variety of state and local EPP efforts. (See sidebar at right.)

Making a Difference in Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts formally established its buy-recycled program in 1988 and more than 10 years later it is stronger than ever. In addition, Massachusetts recently began awarding product and service contracts that take into account multiple environmental attributes. In 1998, for example, the state selected five product lines for environmentally preferable cleaning products. The specifications for this contract included mandatory requirements banning carcinogens and ozone-depleting chemicals and establishing strict volatile organic compound (VOC) and phosphate limits. Voluntary environmental performance criteria for which companies were awarded additional consideration included reduced skin and eye irritability, biodegradability, further reductions in VOC levels, low pH levels, and reduced packaging. Massachusetts also has established multiple environmental attribute specifications for carpeting (recycled content and reduced VOC levels), motor oils (re-refined and biobased), and



computers (recycled content, recyclability, energy efficiency, and reduced cadmium and mercury). In fiscal year 1999, the Commonwealth spent \$42 million on recycled products and had in place more than two dozen contracts with hundreds of products that incorporate a variety of environmental attributes.

Environmental "Can Do" in King County

Across the country, King County, Washington, is well known for its environmental purchasing goals. In 1989, the King County Council passed a recycled product procurement ordinance requiring all agencies to buy recycled "whenever practicable." After achieving great success in its buy-recycled efforts, the county revised its policy in 1995 to incorporate the purchase of additional environmental products, including those with multiple attributes. Rather than centralizing purchasing or using an executive mandate, the King County Procurement Services Division decided the best way to institute environmental purchasing was through a comprehensive educational program that trains all users on how to incorporate environmental considerations into their purchasing decisions. The division built a network of departmental liaisons and an internal communication process to distribute relevant information, such as product successes and failures, to the many individuals that make purchasing decisions.



The county is focusing on refining its cleaning product contracts to further reduce their environmental impacts. The Roads Division also is researching the use of plastic lumber for a major wetland trail and for beachside road projects. Not only is plastic lumber made from recycled materials, but it also eliminates the need for chemically treated lumber and requires less maintenance.

Out Environmental Purchasing

Santa Monica Comes Clean



In the oceanside community of Santa Monica, California, environmental purchasing has been the standard practice for many years. Using existing procurement procedures, Santa Monica was able to switch to products it deems environmentally preferable without placing an extra burden on staff.

In 1993, the city developed environmental purchasing criteria for janitorial products as the first phase of the city's Toxics Use Reduction Program. Results of an alternative cleaners pilot contributed to the development of bid specifications, which included environmental and public health criteria as well as performance and cost criteria. Recognizing that EPP is an ongoing process, Santa Monica updated the bid specifications for custodial products in 1998 to allow the city to better measure the overall worker health and environmental impacts associated with their use. The city now analyzes 18 product categories based on pass/fail and relative ranking criteria. Under the mandatory criteria, the city prohibits carcinogens, aerosols, ozone-depleting chemicals, and

Toxic Release Inventory chemicals. It also sets strict standards for VOCs and biodegradability. Other considerations, such as dyes, fragrances, product packaging, and aquatic toxicity, are evaluated on a relative scale. The city's thorough evaluation of alternative cleaning products has served as a nationwide model for other state and local governments.

In other EPP news, in June 1999, the city began purchasing 100 percent renewable electricity for all its facilities. The first municipality to do so, Santa Monica is purchasing its "green" power from geothermal plants. A projection based on the city's 1998 energy consumption indicates the switch to 100 percent renewable energy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 13,672 tons, NO_x emissions by 16.2 tons, and SO_x emissions by 14.57 tons annually.

Santa Monica also uses an integrated pest management system to reduce the application of traditional pesticides. It also purchases a large number of recycled-content products; alternative products for its fleet maintenance, including re-refined oil and water-based cleaners; and alternative fuel vehicles. ■

Recruiting State and Local Government Pioneers

The EPP program is preparing a case study outlining the environmental purchasing efforts of state and local governments. Because so much has been written about recycled-content and energy-efficient purchasing, this case study will not emphasize those types of important purchases. Instead the case study will focus on state and local governments that examine multiple environmental attributes when making purchasing decisions, including low-toxicity, low-VOCs, resource efficiency, reusability, and increased durability, as well as recycled content and energy efficiency.

If you know of a state or local government pioneer that should be interviewed for this case study, please contact Julie Shannon at <shannon.julie@epa.gov>.

For more information on the local and state governments highlighted in this article, contact the following individuals:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

Eric Friedman, 617 720-3351
<www.magnet.state.ma.us/osd/enviro/enviro.htm>

King County, Washington:

Eric Nelson, 206 296-4324
<www.metrokc.gov/procure/green>

Santa Monica, California:

Sandy Schubert, 310 458-2255
<www.ci.santa-monica.ca.us/environment/policy>

The EPP Program has published full case studies on the Massachusetts and Santa Monica environmental purchasing programs. To view PDF versions of these case studies, go to <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/doccases.html>.



New Ballot for ASTM Sustainability Questionnaire Set for April

(See also *EPP Update* #5 [EPA742-N-99-002], September 1999, for a previous article on the ASTM and EPP sustainability questionnaire.)

Members of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) strongly endorsed the first draft of a standardized sustainable buildings product questionnaire during a recent vote. The questionnaire asks manufacturers and vendors about the environmental attributes of their construction products and services. While the questionnaire did not earn the required 100 percent consensus vote, Ruth Heikkinen, EPP Program staffer and EPA's representative on the ASTM Subcommittee on Sustainability (Committee E06.71), is pleased with the 80 percent positive vote received. "Standards take a long time to develop. To get such a favorable reaction on a first vote is gratifying," Heikkinen commented. As a result of the vote, the standard questionnaire developed by ASTM and EPA's EPP Program is one step further to being formally approved.

Once passed, the questionnaire can be used to gather environmental information about building products and services. This information will help create industry standards for sustainable building design and construction.

Before the next vote, due to be held this month, EPA and ASTM will work to improve the questionnaire based on the comments received from voters. People interested in developing this standard or participating in future ballots can become members of ASTM's Committee E06.71 by visiting the ASTM Web site at <www.astm.org>.

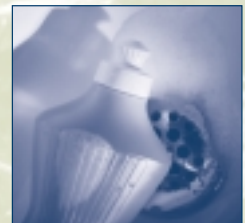
To learn more about the sustainability in buildings standards, contact Dru Meadows, chair of the ASTM Sustainability Subcommittee, at 918 599-7567 or <dmeadows@busprod.com>, or Ruth Heikkinen or Lena Ferris with EPA's EPP Program. Ruth can be reached at 202 260-1803 or <heikkinen.ruth@epa.gov> and Lena at 202 260-2237 or <ferris.lena@epa.gov>. ■

National Sanitation Foundation— Setting a Standard

National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International recently notified the American National Standards Institute that it would explore the feasibility of developing environmental standards for several product categories, possibly including carpets, adhesives, paints, lubricants, soaps, detergents, and cleaners. Other categories also are under consideration. NSF currently is meeting with industry representatives to determine which industries and products would benefit from development of environmental standards.

"We want to discover whether or not there is sufficient interest for NSF to write standards for product categories," explained Andrea Jensen, Director of Standards for NSF.

For more information on NSF standards visit the foundation's Web site at <www.nsf.org>. Also look to future issues of *EPP Update* for more news on projects related to environmental standards development. ■



Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

(See also *EPP Update* #4 [EPA742-N-99-001], March 1999, for a previous article on *EPP* in hospitals.)

EPP might soon be standard operating procedure in medical institutions across the country. EPA and the American Hospital Association (AHA) are forging ahead with their partnership to spread the EPP message throughout the medical community. AHA's EPP workgroup will soon release a new Web-based EPP "How-To Guide" for hospitals.

The guide, which is currently available at <www.geocities.com/epp_how_to_guide>, documents the process of setting up an EPP team in a hospital and covers key topics such as how to implement the following:

- Define the goals and objectives of an EPP team
- Work and negotiate with Group Purchasing Organizations
- Create a preferred vendors program
- Meet the educational needs of hospital personnel on EPP issues
- Locate EPP-related resources specifically for hospitals

In addition to incorporating the plan's information into hospital education curricula, EPA and AHA plan to sponsor training sessions across the country, teaching hospitals how to save money and reduce liability through EPP and other efforts. The EPP workgroup consists of local, state, and federal environmental agencies; community-based advocacy groups; hospital health care, procurement, and environmental services staff; and group purchasing representatives.

The EPP workgroup is one of 12 established after EPA and AHA joined forces in 1998 to eliminate the health care industry's mercury-containing waste by 2005 and reach a 50 percent total hospital waste reduction by 2010. These joint environmental efforts recently garnered the Office of the Vice President's Hammer Award for excellence in reinventing government. Other ongoing projects of the workgroup include developing a Web site to help hospitals reach their waste reduction goals, conducting a comprehensive survey of hospital waste management practices, and creating a model plan for mercury and ethylene oxide elimination. For more information, please contact EPA's Chris Kent at 202 260-3480 or AHA's Kathy Svedman at 312 422-3861. ■



Improving the Environmental Preferability of the *EPP Update*

While the *EPP Update* is printed on paper with positive environmental attributes—this month's paper is processed chlorine-free and contains high postconsumer recycled content (see page 3)—we are continually looking for ways to make additional improvements in how we deliver EPP news to you. Each month the *EPP Update* also is published online as a PDF file on the EPP Web site <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp>. If you would prefer to read the *EPP Update* online rather than in hard copy, please e-mail <epp.pilot@epa.gov>. Instead of mailing you the next *Update*, we will e-mail you with the exact Web site location.

EPP Sets the Standard for Copiers

(See also EPP Update #4 [EPA742-N-99-001], March 1999, for a previous article on the Copier Pilot Project.)

Federal agencies are always looking for ways to cut costs. One recent trend is the switch to cost-per-copy service contracts. In a cost-per-copy service contract, agencies purchase photocopier services rather than purchasing the photocopiers.

For more information on cost-per-copy service contracts and their environmental benefits, visit the EPP Promising Practices Guide on the EPP Web site at www.epa.gov/oppt/epg/ppg/NASA.htm.

The EPP Program has been working with EPA contracts staff to incorporate environmental considerations into the procurement of several photocopier machines. The EPP team conducted four “mini-pilot” procurements using a set of environmental requirements and preferences it had previously developed. The response from vendors was low for each of the four separate solicitations, but this could be because each procurement was for only a single photocopier. The EPP Program believes bulk or cooperative purchases will generate higher interest from vendors and is anxious to test its new approach in these larger procurement settings.

As part of its efforts, the EPP Program initially reviewed existing environmental standards for photocopiers developed by domestic labeling programs such as EPA/DOE’s ENERGY STAR Program, standards organizations such as Green Seal, and labeling programs in other parts of the world. Based on the review of these standards, the EPP Program developed a

set of environmental requirements and preferences to evaluate the photocopiers.

EPA recently decentralized its photocopier purchasing process. As a result, the EPP Program will have to work separately with individual program offices throughout the Agency. Other federal agencies might be better positioned to incorporate the EPP photocopier requirements and preferences if they maintain a centralized purchasing process for photocopiers. Centralized purchasing may make it easier to apply environmental purchasing policy considerations to procurements. It also may increase the size of procurements and, therefore, the likelihood that vendors and distributors will consider environmental features an important selling point.

Many of the photocopier standards the EPP Program reviewed are available in the EPP Standards Database on the EPP Web site www.epa.gov/oppt/epg/database.htm.

For more information on EPA’s photocopier pilot project, contact Russell Clark at 202 260-4418 or russell.clark@epa.gov. ■



Requirements and Preferences for Copiers Used by EPA

Required Attributes

- ENERGY STAR compliant
- Default duplex options
- Returnable, recyclable, or remanufactured toner cartridges
- Organic photoreceptor

Preferred Attributes

- No wet process technology
- Ozone emissions not exceeding 0.02 mg/m³
- Dust emissions not exceeding 0.25 mg/m³

- Styrene emissions not exceeding 0.11 mg/m³
- No polybrominated biphenyls or diphenyl ethers
- Carcinogen-, mutagen-, and teratogen-free toner
- Company offers line of refurbished/reconditioned/remanufactured photocopiers
- Use of remanufactured parts in new photocopiers
- Materials made with recycled content in new photocopiers
- Minimal or returnable packaging
- Machine returnable for reconditioning or recycling at end of life

JWOD Products Seek Green Seal's Approval

Soon it will be easier for government purchasers to identify the environmental attributes of products furnished by Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program nonprofit agencies. The JWOD Program contracted with Green Seal, a nonprofit environmental standards organization, as part of a product review pilot project. Green Seal examined the environmental attributes of selected JWOD-manufactured items. Products that meet Green Seal's established standards will display its seal. The seal is accompanied by text explaining why the product displays the seal. The JWOD Program and Green Seal believe the seal will facilitate the purchase of products that meet Executive Order 13101's purchasing mandate for environmentally preferable products and the goals of the JWOD Program, which generates employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The JWOD Program is also a mandatory source of products and services for government purchases.

JWOD selected the following products to be examined by Green Seal for this pilot project:

- Paper towels.
- Paper napkins.
- Paper used to manufacture business cards.
- Paper used to manufacture organizer and calendar refills.
- Paper used to manufacture desk pads.
- All-purpose cleaner.

JWOD chose these products because they are common items that every government office purchases and because the federal government already has developed environmental standards for these products through programs such as the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines. Green Seal has completed the manufacturing plant visits for several of the prod-

uct lines and has given its seal to the following products:

- Calendars produced by the Easter Seals of Western Pennsylvania, printed on paper from Pittsburgh Badger Paper.
- Business cards produced by Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind, printed on paper from Georgia Pacific.
- Paper towels produced by Signature Works, LC Industries, and New Orleans Lighthouse for the Blind, made from paper manufactured by American Tissue.

The calendar paper and business cards were approved under Green Seal standard GS-7, *Environmental Standard for Printing and Writing Paper*, which states that the product either contains 30 percent post-consumer materials or is manufactured using chlorine-free processes. The paper towels were approved under Green Seal standard GS-9, *Environmental Standard for Paper Towels and Paper Napkins*, which states that the fiber used to manufacture the product contains 100 percent recovered material and at least 40 percent post-consumer material. GS-9 also requires the product to be manufactured using chlorine-free processing. In addition, both standards dictate that the products' packaging contains reduced toxics.

Several manufacturers, upon discovery that their product initially did not meet the Green Seal certification standards, voluntarily made changes in their materials and manufacturing practices. Easter Seals of Western Pennsylvania, for example, produces desk pads that it believed complied with Green Seal standards, but when Green Seal informed them the product did not meet its certification standards, the company willingly changed the product to meet the standards. Green Seal plans to work with manufacturers to bring additional products into compliance. ■

For more information on the JWOD pilot, contact Joan Smith with JWOD at 703 603-0664 or <jsmith@jwod.org>. For more information on Green Seal and its standards, visit the Green Seal Web site at <www.greenseal.org>.

On the Horizon in EPP

Over the past few years, the EPP Program has developed 10 in-depth case studies that discuss EPP practices and EPP success stories. All of these publications are available on the EPP Web site <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp>. The EPP Program continues to identify and highlight successful projects. In the future, look for the following reports to come your way:

- **State and Local Government EPP Pioneers.** Similar to the recent *Private Sector Pioneers* case study, this document will look at an impressive array of state and local governments that have made strides in incorporating EPP into their everyday activities.
- **Federal Government EPP Efforts.** This case study will highlight more than 20 federal sector EPP efforts, including the Department of Transportation's Alternative Method for Aircraft Deicing and the U.S. Postal Service's "Green" Post Office.
- **Green Conferencing.** This report will identify the factors to consider when incorporating EPP into conference planning activities such as lodging, food services, transportation, buildings and facilities, tradeshow and exhibitions, and communication and office practices. ■



Check It Out!

Two more tools are now available as part of the Greening Uncle Sam Purchasing Tool Suite. The EPP Database and the Promising Practices Guide for Greening Contracts are now online. For descriptions of these tools, see *EPP Update* Issue #5, September 1999. Check out both tools at <www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/tools.html>. ■