

APD ALERT

USDA GREEN PURCHASING AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM (GPAPP)



PURPOSE

The purpose of this Alert is to notify acquisition personnel that the USDA Green Purchasing Affirmative Procurement Program (GPAPP) has been finalized and posted on the USDA Greening homepage <http://greening.usda.gov/purchasing.htm>. This document formally updates and revises the USDA GPAPP, originally established in July 2006 under Executive Order 13101.

AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM POLICY

Green Purchasing is defined as the purchasing and use of:

- ✓ recycled content;
- ✓ energy efficient (ENERGY STAR® labeled; Federal Energy Management Program [FEMP]-designated, and low standby power);
- ✓ biobased;
- ✓ environmentally preferable;
- ✓ Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT);
- ✓ water efficient;
- ✓ non-ozone depleting products; and
- ✓ alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels

Collectively, these items are referred to as green products and services. USDA will provide a preference for green products and services. This preference shall be established in all USDA contracts as appropriate. Appendix D includes a summary of the FAR Parts that provide a preference for green products. USDA's AGARs and Advisories have been updated to include information on green purchasing and will be further revised as more final FAR guidance is published. Appendix E provides information on each AGAR relevant to green purchasing.

Highlights of the GPAPP include:

- ✓ Recycled Content Products – requires procurement of EPA-designated recycled content items composed of the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable while maintaining a satisfactory level of competition.
- ✓ Energy Efficient Products – procurement of ENERGY STAR®, FEMP-designated, and low standby power products.
- ✓ Biobased Products – purchase USDA designated biobased items. Reference FAR Subpart 23.406, Biobased Product Certification and AGAR Advisory No. 82 for standardized FedBizOpps synopsis language for USDA contract requirements that contain biobased products.
- ✓ Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) – preference to the purchase of environmentally preferable products.
- ✓ Water Efficient Products – preference to the purchase of water efficient products meeting EPA's WaterSense standards and choosing irrigation contractors who are certified through a WaterSense labeled program.
- ✓ Non-Ozone Depleting Products – preference to the purchase of non-ozone depleting substances. Reference FAR Subpart 23.804 for applicable provisions and clauses pertaining to Ozone-Depleting Substances.
- ✓ Acquisition Planning – FAR Subpart 7.103 now requires agency planners to consider energy efficient products and services, products containing energy efficient standby power devices, products containing recovered materials, biobased products and environmentally preferable products and services. Appendix G provides a copy of AGAR Advisory No. 83, which offers guidance on acquisition planning and strategies.
- ✓ Specifications and Requirements – Reference the BioPreferred Website for contract templates.
- ✓ Source Selection/Evaluation – USDA will add source selection factors that can be used when evaluating all service contracts containing recycled content, ENERGY STAR®, FEMP-designated energy efficient, low standby power, biobased, EPP, EPEAT-registered, water efficient, and non-ozone depleting products and alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels.
- ✓ Mandatory Contracting Officer and Purchase Card Training – covers the vast majority of personnel across USDA involved in buying non-commodity supplies and services.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

USDA recognizes that the responsibility of implementing this GPAPP lies with every USDA employee. Through this document, USDA's objective is to enhance and sustain its operations by increasing purchases of green products and services to the maximum extent possible. Other objectives include the education of USDA employees, the expansion of the green products market, and the reduction of energy usage. Additionally, the GPAPP outlines department-wide guidance for an effective green purchasing program.

Any questions regarding this Alert can be directed to Jeannette Gibbs at 301-504-1116, or via E-mail at jeannette.gibbs@ars.usda.gov.

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