



Success Story

GPO uses biobased roofing materials to fulfill Federal procurement needs and reduce operating costs

The U.S Government Printing Office (GPO), comprised of four buildings totaling approximately 1.5 million square feet, was in dire need of a new roof system for three of its historic buildings.

“Maintenance and repairs were becoming a common occurrence and reliability of our old system was lost,” says Mike Brady, GPO’s Strategic Environmental Programs Manager. “GPO needed an entirely new roof due to the failure and continued deterioration of the old roof.”

GPO saw the failing roof as an opportunity to increase the energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of buildings.

Choosing a roofing system

GPO decided to open the solicitation only to roof contractors on the General Services Administration (GSA) schedule due to their experience selling to the Federal government. In addition, utilizing the GSA schedule allows for an expedited procurement process.

A request for proposal (RFP) was issued and proposals were scored based upon the following criteria: environmental requirements, warranty, project management and safety, technical requirements, references and past performance.

“In addition, the RFP also stated that each proposal would receive a higher rating in the applicable category based upon their ability to recycle existing materials and use materials with recycled and biobased content,” says GPO’s contracting officer, Bryan Cook.

Cook says the contractors had to prove their products were

History of GPO

GPO has been providing the American public with access to digital and printed copies of the nation’s most important documents for nearly 150 years.

“GPO opened its doors the same day President Lincoln was sworn into office - March 4, 1861,” says Gary Somerset, GPO Media and Public Relations Manager.

Created by an act of Congress in 1860, GPO was founded to print government documents such as the: *Congressional Record, Federal Register*, congressional bills, hearings and reports, official inaugural materials of the President and many more important government documents.

Today, GPO employs 2,300 people and is the largest manufacturing facility in Washington D.C. GPO is now comprised of four historic buildings, with the oldest building being opened in 1901.

environmentally friendly by showing they could meet or qualify for one or more of the following: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, GSA's Environmental Products and Services Guide, U.S. Department of Agriculture's BioPreferred program, Energy Star rating and/or Cool Roof Council listing.

The roof

After reviewing all of the RFPs, GPO decided to use Roofing Resources, Inc. (RRI) to build the new roofs. RRI was able to provide GPO with a biobased roof coating that met the content requirement (20% or more) for BioPreferred and provided a roof that had a Energy Star rating and qualified for the Cool Roof Council listing.

To ensure the roof would meet expectations, GPO created a pilot project.

"Basically we tested small portions of the roof to make sure it would work for GPO's buildings," Brady says. "The pilot project proved the roof would be effective and we have decided to move ahead with the completion of the roof."

RRI put new roofs on three of the four GPO buildings using a Build-Up Roofing (BUR) system, which utilizes many biobased materials. In addition a biobased roof coating was put on each roof during the pilot project to prolong the life of the roof.

"We chose the BUR system because it doubles the life expectancy of our roof and allows our rooftop equipment to run at a higher efficiency during the summer months," Brady says. "In addition, the biobased roof coating added immediate environmental benefits to our facility."

The biobased roof coating GPO chose is highly reflective, which reduces the temperature of the roof. The roof coating not only helped GPO reduce its environmental impact, but also fulfilled GPO's procurement requirement to purchase biobased products.

"We have been very pleased with the pilot project and are looking forward to discovering what benefits the completed project will bring," Brady says.

GPO plans to finish the roofing project during Fall 2010. This success story will be updated in 2011 to include any energy-saving benefits noticed during the first year.



GPO used biobased roof coatings to help prolong the life of the roofs.



(Top) Roof temperature prior to biobased roof coating. (Bottom) Roof temperature after the biobased roof coating was installed.