

The BioPreferred program is a Federal initiative designed to increase the development, purchase, and use of biobased products made from agricultural, forestry, or marine materials. The BioPreferred program aims to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally friendly biobased products, while spurring job creation through expanding new markets for farmers, manufacturers, and vendors. The program offers three major benefits: climate change impact reduction, energy/environmental security, and economic development.

There are more than 21,000 biobased products on the market today. The BioPreferred program has designated (identified) more than 5,000 products in 50 product categories for Federal preferred purchase. These "BioPreferred" products meet/exceed minimum biobased content levels set by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Many of these products are used in the cafeteria/food service sector, and they include:

Disposable Containers

Products designed for temporary storage or transportation of materials including, but not limited to, food items

Disposable Cutlery



Hand-held, disposable utensils designed for one-time use in eating food

Disposable Tableware



(Round 6 proposed designated product category)

Products used in dining, such as drink ware and dishware, including but not limited to cups, plates, bowls, and serving platters, and that are designed for one-time use; this item does not include disposable cutlery, which is a separate item

Food Cleaners

Anti-microbial products used to clean the outer layer of various food products such as fruit, vegetables, and meats

Finding BioPreferred products for the cafeteria/food service sector is simple, using the program's online catalog. To view the catalog, go to www.biopreferred.gov. To submit biobased products to be included in the catalog, email biopreferred@usda.gov.



BioPreferred Program
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The AbilityOne Program offers products that meet BioPreferred designated content requirements in this category. SKILCRAFT and other products produced through the AbilityOne Program fulfill required source provisions of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act and FAR 8.7. When you purchase biobased products through the AbilityOne Program, you provide meaningful employment for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.



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