

Chicago GSA Building GOES GREEN

With White, Tan Soy-Biobased Roof and Living Plants

A typical, 10-story, brick 1940s office building used by the General Service Administration (GSA) in Chicago's Loop has added a 21st Century roof that features living green plants and a white biobased roof coating, both of which help the environment and reduce urban heat. (The project, completed in October, was first reported on in *Biobased Solutions for Government Winter 2007* issue available at www.soybiobased.org.)

The soy-based products are white Environmental Liquid Membrane System® (ELMS) Liquid membranes and ELMS Masonry Jacket in a tan color are now installed on more than 6,500 square feet of masonry. More than 15,000 plants specific to the geographic region were also planted.

Architect Will Wagner, GSA Office of Tenant Operations in Chicago, was the “visionary” who conceived and executed the project to add to the city of Chicago’s cutting edge efforts to improve its urban environment.

Director of Business Development for Roofing Resources, Erich Poch, points out that his firm’s GSA contract GS-07F-5624P now includes ELMS products and Roofscapes Green roof systems. Detailed information is available at the GSA Advantage Website www.gsaadvantage.gov/advgsa/advantage/search/search.do?contract=GS-07F-5624P&sin=563+4.

BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER



Two New Guides for Biobased Procurement Available *continued from page 1*

Available online at www.soybiobased.org as well as in print and CD formats, the Guide offers a list of the products officially designated as “biobased” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as the law and regulations, relevant Executive Orders, factual information, descriptions of actual practices, and examples of procurement of biobased products by government employees. The online version is continually updated to include all new product categories designated as biobased by the USDA, any changes in various regulations pertaining to preferred procurement program implementation and case histories as they become available. The Guide also has sample language for government service contracts to encourage the use of biobased products.

The second resource is the amendment to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). On November 7, 2007, the federal government amended the FAR to add procurement preference provisions for biobased products. This is an important step in the implementation of the BioPreferredSM program because the FAR contains the uniform

policies and procedures used by federal agencies when purchasing products and services. The new biobased provisions in the FAR include requirements that agencies consider the “maximum practicable use” of biobased products and services:

- *when developing or revising their specifications, product descriptions and standards;*
- *in describing government requirements for products and services; and*
- *in developing source-selection factors.*

The new provisions also require agencies to establish affirmative procurement programs for biobased products and sets procedures for contracting officers when purchasing biobased products or services using biobased products, including requirements for solicitation and contract clauses. FAR amendments are online at www.soybiobased.org/resources/FARBiobasedProcurement-2007-11-07FR.pdf.

AbilityOne

Adds Soy Products to Procurement List



The Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled recently expanded its Procurement List with four soy-based products that can be used for a multitude of jobs. The Procurement List contains the products and services that have been placed in the AbilityOne Program. (See www.abilityone.gov/JWOD/p_and_s/p_and_s.htm.)

The Committee is the independent federal agency that administers the AbilityOne (formerly JWOD) Program. The AbilityOne Program's mission is to provide employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government.

Among the approved SKILCRAFT®/Spartan products are a soy-based industrial degreaser/tar/mastic/adhesive remover, a graffiti remover, and two waterless hand cleaners. According to the manufacturer, the BioRenewables® Degreaser rapidly dissolves heavy grease, oil, tar, and mastic making quick work of the toughest jobs. The soy-based Graffiti Remover SAC® effectively removes unwanted ink and paint from a variety of surfaces. The manufacturer reports it increases user safety over traditional graffiti removers, which generally contain a variety of petroleum-based solvents or caustics.

The soy-based BioRenewables® Waterless Hand Cleaners are available with and without grit to efficiently clean even the dirtiest of hands. The hand cleaners are also fortified with lanolin to aid in preventing irritation and chapping of the hands.

The availability of biobased products through the AbilityOne program can help federal

agencies find products to comply with the biobased purchasing requirements of the federal BioPreferredSM program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) pending biobased product designation of 30 additional items (the so-called rounds 2, 3, and 4) for preferred purchasing includes, among others, adhesive and mastic removers (58% biobased content minimum), hand cleaners (18% biobased content minimum), and graffiti and grease removers (21% biobased content minimum). For more information on the BioPreferredSM program go to www.biopreferred.gov.

These SKILCRAFT/Spartan co-branded products are being made available by the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) Lancaster, Pennsylvania, agency, Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired (SABVI) www.sabvi.com and Spartan Chemical Company, Inc. www.spartanchemical.com. Products are available through www.JWOD.com and on GSA Advantage (www.gsaadvantage.gov/advgsa/advantage/main/start_page.do). For additional information please contact Elwood Ditmer at SABVI by calling (717) 291-5951 x135.

"SABVI is pleased to have partnered with Spartan Chemical to be able to capitalize on the company's 51 years of experience in the development and manufacture of cleaning products. The partnership also provides SABVI customers access to Spartan's field support team of chemists and technicians who provide on-demand solutions for customer cleaning applications, Ditmer says.

Other biobased products available through the AbilityOne program can be located by going to the JWOD Catalog search page at www.jwodcatalog.com/search.aspx and searching on the word "biobased" in the product/keyword search box.



Signatories to the Summit agreement include the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Manitoba. The resolution also calls for creation of a regional task force of state procurement officials and others to design the rules of a regional biobased product system and make other recommendations as necessary. The task force will also work with the public and private sectors to oversee and implement the System as well as develop and recommend model rules by July 1, 2008.

The Great Plains Institute's Brendan Jordan said the genesis of state-level efforts stemmed from the *Powering the Plains* roadmap developed to identify measures and institutional arrangements needed to implement a transition inter-jurisdictionally over time. Jordan said the goal is "by 2015, the region will have established efficient biobased product procurement systems for state governments. Most states see biobased procurement as 'low hanging fruit' because the federal program is already in place and states can often easily adopt the federal program."

Powering the Plains • 3 Key Elements

1. Adopt biobased product procurement rules at the state level, which may mean simply adopting the federal rules
2. Create a regional product list and consistent set of rules to encourage regional collaboration
3. Expand the program further by creating a regional biobased product certification program and promoting through incentives and education

The Energy Summit's Advanced Transportation Fuels, and Biobased Products Working Group established goals and objectives to advance the bioeconomy. This included building the infrastructure to allow the bioeconomy to expand. The policy options also called for development of the Midwestern infrastructure for the manufacture of biobased products and development of Midwestern biobased products. They planned for adoption of biobased product procurement rules at the state level and participation in a regional biobased product procurement program with a common list of products.

Representative Dave Winters of Illinois explains his reasons for sponsoring biobased procurement legislation in Illinois, "I'm a farmer myself and not only does this expand the market for agricultural products, but the state can serve as a model in showing biobased products are readily available, can meet performance requirements and are often cost competitive." Illinois HB 0634, sponsored by Representative Winters, modifies Illinois Procurement Code to give preference to contractors using biobased products, provided the cost is no more than 5 percent greater. Biobased products are defined as in the federal BioPreferred program and the program went into effect January 1, 2008.

Arkansas, Indiana and North Dakota have also passed legislation, establishing varying levels of preference for the use of biobased products. North Dakota's law encourages the state Office of Management and Budget, institutions of higher education, and other institutions to purchase biobased. Indiana's law, introduced as HB 1281 and sponsored by Representative Erik Koch, requires state agencies to purchase biobased products if they are available at the time of the purchase and it is economically feasible to purchase them. The law allows for some exceptions under certain circumstances. Arkansas' law requires state agencies to give purchasing preference to biobased products.

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*-Illinois Representative
Dave Winters*



A New Profile / Case History

Another Facility in National Park Service Discovers Benefits of Soy-Biobased Products



photo credit: Whitman Mission

Bruce Hancock, chief of maintenance at Whitman Mission National Historic Site, started with biodiesel use in his facility's furnaces and has since added other biobased products, particularly in the maintenance shop.

Bruce Hancock, chief of maintenance at Whitman National Historic Site near Walla Walla, Washington, is a biobased convert and wants to spread the word. In fact, he has written an article for the United Soybean Board (USB) that we've published as one of our Profiles of Biobased Success. [Go to www.soybiobased.org](http://www.soybiobased.org) to read the entire article.)

In the profile, he talks about how his experience with biodiesel peaked his interest and eventual use of a variety of soy-biobased products at Whitman. The conversion to biobased products has been rapid and rewarding to the facility, according to Hancock.

"In the short two years that Whitman Mission has been using biobased products we've received six major environmental awards. In 2007, we received the National Park Service Environmental Achievement Award. This national award is due in part to our innovative use of biobased products. In September 2007, the Washington State Department of Ecology presented us with the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. That was followed a month later by the Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award. Earlier the U.S. Environmental Protection recognized Whitman Mission with its 'Champion of Environmental Leadership and Green Government Innovation Recognition Program,'" Hancock reported.



photo credit: Whitman Mission

Maintenance Worker Diana Elder checks a biodiesel-powered furnace. The biodiesel blend helps Whitman Mission reduce nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions.



photo credit: Whitman Mission

Maintenance Worker Jim Knapp and biodiesel used for heating and equipment fuel.

Biobased Products Used at Whitman Mission

- Biodiesel in all Diesel Engines and for Heating
- Penetrating Lubricants
- Bar & Chain Oil
- Two-cycle Engine Oil
- Parts Cleaner/Degreaser
- Food-Grade Grease
- Cutting Oil
- Gear Oil
- Hydraulic Fluids

Biobased products are used in a wide array of equipment at Whitman Mission, like the vehicle pictured here.



photo credit: Whitman Mission

Georgia Association of County Commissioners Uses Carpet with Soy-based Backing

When it comes to counties, Georgia has them—159, in fact, which is second only to Texas (254 counties). It also has a very active Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), and together, the counties and their association have green long before green was cool.

ACCG Deputy Director Ross King says Georgia county governments' proactive environmental stance goes back to the early 1960s and water quality issues. "Now everyone nationwide knows about our drought, but water quality and water conservation have been issues we've dealt with for years. And, it doesn't stop there—whether it's recycling or air quality Georgia counties are likely to be on the cutting edge. In fact, we like to call it 'bleeding edge' that's how important it is to us."

King says that the "ACCG not only talks the talk, but it walks the walk", and their recent installation of soy-based carpeting is just one of many examples. "When David Dunning, a sustainability consultant, and our other friends told us about their carpet with soy-based backing, it was a no brainer. There is no reason not to use it. It's cost competitive and it's of equal quality."

The carpeting is just one of the many "green" aspects of the newly remodeled and decorated headquarters facility. In total, they have installed 13,093 square feet of new carpet of which 5,175 square feet

were soy-backed carpet (all staff offices).



Carpet with soy-based backing

The ACCG, according to King, recently conducted an informal "audit" based on Office Depot's Green Purchasing catalogue, and discovered that 30% of their office supply purchases were in that category. "When Office Depot advised us of the fact that we had the highest "green purchase" percentage of all county association counterparts across the nation we were understandably pleased. They also pointed out several ways in which we could quickly achieve over 50% "green purchases" and we have implemented plans to accomplish that task." King concludes "it simply takes an organizational awareness and dedication to be a good sustainability steward. I am proud to work for an organization like ACCG which has this high level of awareness and dedication."

King says the environmentally friendly products purchased and used by ACCG will be publicized widely to their members by use of their monthly Georgia County Government magazine and E-newsletter (County Line).



photo credit: ACCG

Association of County Commissioners Deputy Director Ross King had 5,175 square feet of soy-backed carpet installed at their headquarters as part of their greening initiatives.

For more information write to
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Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board (USB), which is composed of 68 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for the soybean checkoff.

