

## Guiding Principles

### Laws:

- ◆ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Section 6002 (RCRA, 1976)
- ◆ Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, Section 9002 (FSRIA, 2002)
- ◆ Food, Conservation, and Energy Act, Section 9002 (FCEA, 2008)
- ◆ Energy Policy Act (EPACT, 2005)
- ◆ Energy Independence and Security Act (2007)

### Executive Orders (EOs):

- ◆ **EO 13423**, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management (January 24, 2007)
- ◆ **EO 13221**, Greening the Government Through Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices (July 31, 2001)

### Regulations:

- ◆ Federal Acquisition Regulation: Part 23 especially, and Parts 2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 36, 37, 42, and 52.  
[www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/FARTOCP23.html](http://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/FARTOCP23.html)
- ◆ VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR)  
[www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/ars/policyreg/vaar/index.cfm](http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/ars/policyreg/vaar/index.cfm)

### VA Policy and Guidance:

- ◆ VA Directive and Handbook 0052, Affirmative Procurement, Recycling, and Waste/Pollution Prevention Program (June 14, 2002)
- ◆ VA Directive 0057, VA Environmental Management System and Governing Environmental Policy (September 14, 2004)
- ◆ Information Letters 049-07-04, 049-02-07, 049-02-11, and 90-01-1

## Go Shopping!

**Comprehensive Procurement Guideline, EPA**  
[www.epa.gov/cpg](http://www.epa.gov/cpg)

**Environmentally Preferable Products, EPA**  
[www.epa.gov/epp](http://www.epa.gov/epp)

**Energy Star®, EPA**  
[www.energystar.gov/products](http://www.energystar.gov/products)

**Non-Ozone Depleting Substances, EPA**  
[www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html)

**Energy Efficient Products and Low-Standby Power Devices, DOE**  
[www.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp/procurement)

**Federal Fleet/Alternative Fuel Vehicles, DOE**  
[www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact](http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact)

**Department of Defense—DOD EMail**  
[www.email.dla.mil](http://www.email.dla.mil)

**Defense Logistics Agency**  
[www.dla.mil](http://www.dla.mil)

**BioPreferred (Biobased Products), USDA**  
[www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)

**GSA Advantage!® Environmental Aisle**  
[www.gsaadvantage.gov/environmental](http://www.gsaadvantage.gov/environmental)

**Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net)**

**Ability One (formerly JWOD) Program**  
[www.abilityone.gov/jwod/index.html](http://www.abilityone.gov/jwod/index.html)

**Water Sense (water efficient), EPA**  
[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

**VetBiz Veteran-owned Business**  
[www.vip.vetbiz.gov](http://www.vip.vetbiz.gov)

# Green Purchasing

*Recycled Content*      *Energy Star*  
*Alternative Fuel Vehicles*      *EPEAT*  
*Non-ozone depleting*      *Biobased*  
*Environmentally Preferable*



**VA Environmental Program**  
**Office of Asset Enterprise Management**

[www.va.gov/environment](http://www.va.gov/environment)

## What is “Green” Purchasing?

Both Congress and the President have directed Federal agencies to be good stewards of the environment by conserving energy, water, and other natural resources. One way that we can be good stewards is to buy products and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This is generally referred to as “green” purchasing.

Under Presidential Executive Order 13423, green purchasing includes the following components:

- ◆ Recycled content products, also known as Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) items
- ◆ Energy Star® and energy- and water -efficient products; standby power devices
- ◆ Alternative fuel vehicles/alternative fuels
- ◆ Biobased products
- ◆ Non-ozone depleting substances
- ◆ Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP)
- ◆ Products with low or no toxic or hazardous constituents
- ◆ Electronics with environmentally preferable attributes (i.e. Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool – EPEAT)

An Affirmative Procurement Plan (APP) is an agency’s plan for buying green products and services. VA’s APP (Directive and Handbook 0052) addresses the purchase of recycled content, Energy Star®, biobased, and other green products.

## Where Can I Learn More?

To learn more about the VA and Federal-wide green purchasing program, visit:

- ◆ OAEM, Environmental Affairs-Greening VA [www.va.gov/environment](http://www.va.gov/environment)
- ◆ Office of the Federal Environmental Executive [www.ofee.gov/gp/gp.asp](http://www.ofee.gov/gp/gp.asp)

## Why Buy Green?

The Federal government spends more than \$200 billion on goods and services each year. The **Green Purchasing Program** minimizes negative environmental effects through the use of environmentally-friendly products.

**Buying green helps to:**

- Conserve natural resources and minimize our environmental “footprint”
- Improve worker safety and health
- Reduce Federal energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and waste to landfills
- Stimulate new markets and create jobs
- Reduce liabilities
- Provide potential cost savings \$\$\$

**It also is...**

- The law and national policy;
- Increasingly easier to do; and
- Closes the loop on the recycling process

## Who is Required to Buy Green?

The **green purchasing** requirements apply to *all* Federal agencies *and* their contractors. The requirements pertain to simplified acquisitions and large purchases, as well as to both direct purchases of products and to support services contracts.

These requirements *also* apply to federal purchase cardholders and to micro-purchases.

**VA is committed to being a good steward of the environment**



## How Do Your Purchases Impact the Environment?

**Do you purchase, contract, or initiate a request for goods or services that include...**

- Paper or non-paper office products?
- Computers or other electronic equipment?
- Batteries?
- Appliances?
- Awards or plaques? Signs?
- Paint?
- Light bulbs?
- Vehicles, gasoline, oil, or tires?
- Park benches or picnic tables?
- Janitorial supplies or services?
- Landscaping products or services?
- Construction products or services?

**Your purchases could impact the environment by...**

- Containing hazardous or toxic chemicals that, if spilled or released, could pollute the air, soil, or groundwater
- Depleting the availability of natural resources if virgin or raw materials are constantly used
- Creating more waste in landfills that could pollute the soil and groundwater

**Work to...**

- Ensure awareness of and compliance with all **green purchasing** requirements
- Substitute **green** products for virgin products to the extent practicable
- Use recycled content office products
- Purchase Energy Star® and energy-and water-efficient products
- Find alternatives for products with excessive packaging and those with toxic chemicals
- Buy EPEAT-registered (green) computers
- Consider the entire life cycle of the product
- Include green purchasing in your Environmental Management System (EMS)

**Always think green at the start of the acquisition process!**