



EPPUpdate

Issue 7 | September 2000 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

New FAR Language Emphasizes Green Purchasing



The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council recently adopted a rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement Executive Order (EO) 13101. The rule is intended to improve the government's use of recycled and environmentally preferable products and services as mandated under the EO.

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PROFILE OF A PIONEER:

EPP at the Pentagon

Bob Cox, chief of technical staff for the Federal Facilities Division at the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), has always felt a responsibility towards the environment. Since his early days as a facility management officer for the National Guard, he has constantly sought ways to improve the environmental performance of the various organizations he represented. He lead efforts in two groundbreaking EPP pilot projects, which convinced his Division to make EPP the standard for all of its contracts. He has also been instrumental in implementing building commissioning and sustainable design into the \$1.2 billion renovation of the Pentagon. He didn't stop at just trying to educate his organization. He has spoken at several national conferences, sharing what he has learned and trying to teach others of new and better ways to implement EPP into contracting practices and how to create affirmative procurement practices. The White House recently rec-

ognized his efforts by presenting him with a White House "Closing the Circle Award."

Bob Cox is a true EPP pioneer because his efforts have cleared the path for many others. Most importantly, through the two pilot projects, he proved EPP could be incorporated into large-scale, federal contracts without a cost increase and without compromising quality. Now he is helping to implement EPP and sustainable design into a 14-year, \$500 million contract through performance-based specifications that will provide a major overhaul to the entire Pentagon facility's building infrastructure. He also has ambitious plans for incorporating EPP into many new Federal Facilities Division contracts, including DoD custodial, operations and maintenance, and recycling programs.





The *EPP Update* is highlighting a variety of paper types EPA has determined to have certain positive environmental attributes. The paper choice for this issue is Everest #24. Look to future issues of the *EPP Update* to highlight additional paper types.

EPP in Practice

This issue of the *EPP Update* is printed on Everest #24, developed by New Leaf Paper. It is a processed chlorine-free (PCF), acid-free paper made from 100 percent postconsumer waste. The paper is manufactured using hydrogen peroxide rather than chlorine to produce the crisp white color, which reduces the amount of toxic dioxins and other persistent organic pollutants released into the environment with the more traditional chlorine bleaching method. This paper can be made with custom watermarks and in custom colors upon request.

New Leaf also offers a coated (glossy) paper that contains 100 percent recovered fiber, 50 percent of which is postconsumer waste. (This issue of the *EPP Update* is printed on uncoated paper.) Coated papers can be recycled, but it depends on the technology employed by the mill. Coated papers also tend to yield less fiber than uncoated papers, making them less desirable by many paper recyclers. In some cases the use of coated paper might be preferred because the long-term durability of the printed piece is the main consideration (e.g., an art book or poster that will not quickly enter the waste stream). Like the Everest #24, New Leaf's Reincarnation coated paper is PCF. If you must use coated paper, please consider one that is PCF and highest in recycled content. To our knowledge, New Leaf is the only manufacturer that offers coated paper with 100 percent recovered content, half of which is post-consumer. If you are aware of others, please let us know by e-mailing epp.pilot@epa.gov.

For more information on New Leaf Paper, contact Reece Gordon at 336 992-3880.

Buy Clean—Preventative Procurement for Schools



A new multiagency initiative is making schools safer for our children. As part of the Asthma and the Environment Strategy, issued by the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, the Buy Clean Initiative will aid schools in purchasing products and services with reduced adverse respiratory effects on children. Children can be particularly susceptible to these types of health risks. It is prudent, therefore, to select products and services used in schools in a way that will minimize the risk of triggering asthma attacks and other adverse health impacts.

The goals of the Buy Clean Initiative are to develop procurement guidelines that promote the purchase and use of lower risk products and services and to identify effective incentives for developing, marketing, and buying lower risk products and services. In order to accomplish these goals, EPA Regional offices will issue grants to selected school districts and form partnerships to assist them in minimizing harmful products. Schools will choose their target products (e.g., pesticides, cleaners) and services (e.g., building maintenance, cleaning, landscaping) on an individual basis and develop procurement specifications that encourage the purchase of these lower risk products and services.

Buy Clean is part of the overall federal initiative on asthma, which also includes efforts by various EPA offices, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information, contact Christina Cinalli at cinalli.christina@epa.gov or 202 260-3913.

How Do I Make EPP Happen? Check Out EPA's Web-based Tools!

Putting EPP into practice has never been easier. EPA's new Web-based teaching module—the EPP Training Tool—is here! Check it out at www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/tools.html. This interactive, multimedia teaching tool uses audio narration and animated graphics to introduce EPP principles and to teach purchasers how to apply these concepts in the real world.

Next, check out EPA's newly revised online EPP Database at www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/database.htm. It's jam-packed with environmental specifications, contract language, and great links to the best and most relevant product- and service-specific environmental information available today. The newest update has added a search engine and covers additional hot topics, including health care, green power, and organic food. The Department of Interior (Interior) used the EPP Database in preparing for its \$45 million uniforms contract. According to Heather Davies of Interior, "the EPP Database served as a helpful starting point for us when we began to consider how the National Park Service could make its uniforms greener. This resource gave us a direct link to the European Union standard for environmentally preferable textiles. From there, we were able to learn about attributes of concern. We didn't directly use the EU standard, but instead used it as a starting point to craft our own approach to greening our uniform contract."



Who is visiting the EPP Database?

Lots of people, according to a recent data gathering effort. Check out the numbers.

To date there have been 1,125 new visitors to the EPP Database, and still counting!

New FAR Language < Continued from Page 1 >

The most significant modifications to the FAR include:

- Subpart 7.1 was revised to ensure that requirements for printing and writing paper meet minimum recycled-content standards. Stronger language now emphasizes the importance of acquisition planning.
- Subpart 11.3 redefines terms such as postconsumer material to reflect EO requirements and EPA regulations regarding the acquisition of printing and writing paper. This section now clarifies that contracting officers can include additional information in solicitations to determine if a product meets requirements for recycled content or related standards.
- Part 13 clarifies that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act's (RCRA's) procurement requirements apply to micro-purchases (i.e., any purchase under \$2,500) and acquisitions up to \$100,000.
- Subparts 23.4 and 23.7 were reorganized and revised to conform to additional EO regulations and RCRA.

According to Linda Mesaros of the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, the new FAR language adopts a holistic approach to government purchasing, placing a stronger emphasis on the considerations and requirements for environmentally preferable purchasing. "One of the easiest ways to encourage recycling and environmentally preferable purchasing is to consider it early on in the building blocks and planning stages," Mesaros said. "And the new language in the FAR does just that."

One of the most important changes, according to Mesaros, is the addition of procurement requirements for micro-purchases. She explains that anyone with a government purchase or credit card can make micro-purchases, but many of these purchasers are not cognizant of EPP requirements. "The people who are responsible for the majority of purchases are unaware that they are supposed to be buying green products, even when using a purchase card," Mesaros said.

For more information or to download the complete *Federal Register* notice with the new FAR language, visit www.ofee.gov.

United States Postal Service

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is delivering an environmentally sustainable future through a variety of “green” activities. This article highlights a few USPS initiatives serving as models for others.

Building a Green Future

USPS awards 400 to 500 new building contracts each year and is using the opportunity to advance its Green Buildings Program. USPS, for example, recently completed a “green” post office in Fort Worth, Texas. The building incorporates a number of environmental attributes, including recycled-content concrete and extensive natural lighting. Rainwater is collected from the roof for landscape irrigation. Because of these features, USPS is anticipating annual savings of \$1,100 and \$2,800 in energy and water costs, respectively.

USPS has reduced its energy use by 18 percent since 1991 and will reach a 30 percent reduction by 2005.

Driving the Green Message Home

USPS has been and continues to be a leader in the use of alternatively fueled vehicles. It already delivers mail in compressed natural gas vehicles and flexible fuel vehicles, which run on either gasoline or ethanol. In December 1999, USPS announced it would purchase 500 electric vehicles and should receive the first shipment in January 2001. Of the 500 electric vehicles, 480 will be deployed in California, and 20 will be deployed in Washington, DC.

Electric vehicles are well-suited for dense urban environments because driving distances are short, so the risk of depleting battery power is small. They are also very environmentally beneficial when compared to traditional gasoline vehicles. According to EPA's Alternately Fueled Vehicles Program, electric vehicles can be up to 90 percent cleaner than the cleanest conventional gasoline-powered vehicle, even after considering power plant emissions.

Batteries for the electric vehicles can be costly, and replacement significantly affects the lifecycle cost expenditures. To minimize costs for the electric vehicles, USPS solicited outside funding from several key sources, including California state agencies, air districts, and utilities; New York state agencies; and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Power of Going Green

Next to the U.S. military, USPS consumes the largest amount of electricity in the federal sector. To reduce the costs and environmental impact of its electricity purchases, it is actively pursuing opportunities for increased energy efficiency and the use of renewable technologies.



e Delivers Green Message

USPS recently contracted with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to design a new interior lighting system for its post offices. A demonstration project using this new design in Rodeo, California, significantly reduced the building's electricity load and won an award from the U.S. Department of Energy.

To further reduce its environmental impacts, USPS committed in April to a 100 percent green power purchase. USPS will purchase 33 million kilowatt-hours of green power for each of the next 3 years to power more than 1,100 California facilities. USPS required the electricity provider to be Green-e certified, which ensures at least 50 percent of the electricity is derived from renewable sources such as geothermal, wind, and biomass energy. USPS will not pay a premium for the electricity because the supplier can purchase renewable power using California's "Customer Credit" discount.

Cleaning Green

USPS, through its environmental mission statement, has made a commitment to purchase environmentally responsible products. Maintenance staff in the operations and vehicle groups recently reviewed common products used by mechanics, engineers, and custodians to identify chemicals posing a serious hazard to humans and the environment. As a result, USPS is purchasing new products that reduce the safety and health risks to employees and reduce the risks to the environment associated with accidental hazardous releases. Many of USPS's new purchases, such as custodial cleaning solutions and parts washers for vehicles, contain low volatile organic compounds or alternative substances.

Aqueous-based cleaners are replacing hazardous chemicals in many USPS cleaning and maintenance operations. The use of 17 targeted hazardous chemicals has been reduced by more than 50 percent.

For more information on the programs highlighted in this article, contact the following individuals and Web sites:

Fort Worth Post Office

Visit EPP's Promising Practices Guide at www.ergweb.com/projects/epp/promprac/case/usps2.htm.

USPS Green Buildings Program

Contact Ujwala Tamasker at 703 526-2757 or visit www.usps.com/enviro/.

USPS Electric Vehicles Purchase

Contact Marguerite Downey at 202 268-5073 or visit www.usps.com/enviro/.

USPS Green Power Purchase and Other Energy Programs

Contact Paul Fennwald at 202 268-6239 or visit www.usps.com/enviro/.

Reduction of Hazardous Chemicals in USPS Purchases

Contact Mike Barr at 202 268-3135 or visit www.usps.com/enviro/.

Reducing Pesticide Use

IPM in Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been implementing IPM practices at its Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Maryland for the past 8 years. BARC's unique layout as a research center with agricultural fields enables a wide variety of IPM applications. For example, each week during the growing season, field scouts from the University of Maryland's IPM program survey BARC fields for pests. The farm foreman then decides whether or not to use pesticides based on the scouts' reports. This allows the farm crew to spray pesticides only when insect pests reach a certain level, rather than spraying on a predetermined schedule. For more information, contact Don Comis of USDA's Agricultural Research Service at 301 504-1625, or visit www.ars.usda.gov.

Every year in the United States, more than 4.5 billion pounds of chemicals are used to control unwanted insects, rodents, and weeds. To minimize the environmental impacts associated with the use of these chemicals, purchasers are investigating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an environmentally preferable alternative. A wide variety of IPM approaches exist, from large-scale industrial agricultural applications to green building methods employing pest-resistant construction materials. Government purchasers, however, are primarily integrating IPM into building maintenance and landscaping contracts. In this context, IPM combines employee education, limited applications of less-toxic chemicals, and traps and barriers to drastically reduce pesticide quantities and environmental impacts. It can also save money because reduced pesticide use means fewer pesticide purchases. San Francisco and Santa Monica, California, have two of the most well-established IPM programs, but many others are currently exploring or practicing IPM, including the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts; Cape May County, New Jersey; Chatham County, North Carolina; King County, Washington; Monroe County, Indiana; and Portland, Oregon.

Prompted by an IPM ordinance passed in 1996, San Francisco established an aggressive IPM approach. As part of its program, San Francisco established a citywide IPM coordinator who is responsible for overseeing its IPM efforts. An essential component to this approach is requiring the city's pest control contractors to use less toxic pest control methods, including preventative measures and traps, before resorting to chemical application. If the contractor determines that chemical controls are necessary, it must choose from a list of 45 reduced-risk pesticides developed by an expert panel convened by the city. The list includes information about each pesticide's type (e.g., fungicide, insecticide), use category (allowed, limited, special concern), hazard tier (less hazardous to more hazardous), product name, active ingredients, EPA registration number, and use limitations. Products not included on the list can only be used with a one-time exemption approved by the citywide IPM coordinator.

According to Debbie Raphael, San Francisco's pesticide reduction coordinator, the city's emphasis on training and the willingness to pilot alternative pest control methods are the secret to its success. San Francisco has successfully stopped all indoor pesticide spray applications and eliminated the use of all organophosphates and the most acutely hazardous pesticides.





Through IPM

In place of chemical herbicides to control weeds, San Francisco gardeners have been piloting green-flamers (propane torches that heat, steam, and kill weeds), corn gluten meal, brush-eating machinery, and even a herd of goats. The pesticide contractor is emphasizing prevention through mechanical control (e.g., vacuums, steam cleaning trash areas), and it is working. The city's Recreation and Parks Department, formerly the largest chemical user in the city, has reduced its pesticide purchase and use by 60 percent. Furthermore, in 1997, 40 percent of visits by the pesticide contractor required no pesticide applications, and in 1999 that number reached 72 percent.

The city of Santa Monica is enjoying similar success with its IPM program. The city has drastically reduced pesticide usage and has reduced pest control costs by approximately 30 percent. The number of pest complaints received by facilities managers has also decreased.

Like San Francisco, Santa Monica designated a citywide IPM coordinator who oversees pest management practices and communicates the city's requirements to pest contractors. The IPM coordinator is also responsible for generating and updating the city's approved chemicals list and, if necessary, approving the use of pesticides not on the list.

To develop the contract language and list of approved chemicals, Santa Monica assembled a team of experts that included representatives from universities, governments, a nonprofit

organization, and an IPM contractor. The team provided the city with specific pest control techniques, including their relative efficacy and toxicity. It also provided advice on working with IPM contractors and the type of training that would be beneficial to city employees involved in pest management. After soliciting information on common pests from facilities managers, the city developed its IPM contract specifications.

In the past, Santa Monica's primary pest control method was to hire multiple contractors to regularly spray pesticides in and around city buildings. The city now has developed pest control specifications and more detailed contracts with service providers that emphasize long-term and preventative measures. Key management strategies include pest identification, baits, employee training, and employee behavioral modification to reduce food, water, access, and environmental conditions favored by pests.

Other communities are enjoying positive results from similar IPM efforts. Cape May County, for example, saved \$45,000 from 1993 to 1998 through its IPM program. Monroe County implemented an IPM program throughout its school system, decreasing pest control costs by 35 percent and pesticides use by 90 percent.

For additional IPM information, visit www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/ipm.htm. Here you will find an extensive list of federal, state, and local government IPM resources, among others.

Teaching IPM in Schools

One of EPA's highest priorities is protecting children from unnecessary exposure to pesticides used in and around schools. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs helps schools understand and implement IPM through printed publications, IPM program grants, workshops and courses, and partnerships with universities and national associations.

The Agency will also further IPM's cause in schools through the Center for IPM Excellence, which will be established next year through an EPA grant. The IPM pilot program will provide guidelines, contract specifications, outreach, and consultants to conduct onsite evaluations of participating schools. EPA officials are hopeful that the Center will educate and inform the public about IPM. For more information, contact Kathy Seikel at 703 308-8272, or visit:

- EPA's IPM in Schools Web site
www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm
- The National Directory for IPM in Schools Web site
www.epa.gov/reg5foia/pest/matilla/ipm.html
- The University of Florida's School IPM Web site
<http://gnv2.ifas.ufl.edu/~schoolipm/>

Pentagon Renovations Include New EPP Approach

“Doing what’s easiest isn’t the same as doing what’s right. I don’t want to be in the position of telling my children or grandchildren that I didn’t do everything I could to ensure they inherited a world where they can breathe the air, drink the water, and enjoy the diversity and wonder of life on earth.”

—Bob Cox, Chief of Technical Staff, DoD Federal Facilities Division

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is no stranger to EPP. Over the last 5 years, DoD’s Federal Facilities Division, part of the Washington Headquarters Services, has successfully incorporated EPP into two pilot projects—a \$5 million Parking Lot Repair Project and a \$50 million Pentagon Interior Renovation Project. The Federal Facilities Division is responsible for the operation of the Pentagon and several other DoD-owned and operated buildings in the National Capitol Region. Now the Washington Headquarters Services Pentagon Renovation Office is going one step further by using an even more innovative approach for its upcoming \$500 million, 14-year contract for the Pentagon’s renovations.

Unlike earlier DoD contracts that incorporated EPP, the new contract does not list environmental specifications for the hundreds of products and services needed for the project. Instead, DoD is using a “performance-based” contract that sets a number of environmental goals the contractor must try to achieve. Project goals include using products made from sustainably harvested wood; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; establishing an onsite recycling program to divert 50 percent of construction and demolition debris from landfills; and eliminating the use of and preventing the generation of ozone-depleting substances, volatile organic compounds, polyvinyl chloride, and all other chlorine-based compounds.

DoD’s new approach builds upon the experiences gained from its previous efforts. Although DoD believes its earlier method of writing EPP specifications into its contracts was effective, DoD also found this had some drawbacks. Writing EPP specifications required DoD to conduct extensive market research to determine the types of environmentally preferable products contractors should be able to find in the marketplace. In addition, once



written, DoD found the specifications limited the contractor to the types of products existing at the beginning of the project. This did not encourage the contractor to seek out products with additional environmentally preferable features as new technologies emerged. DoD’s new approach overcomes these drawbacks since it requires the contractor—not DoD—to conduct market research to determine the availability of environmentally preferable products, and also places no limits on the positive environmental attributes a product can have.

DoD’s new approach incorporates a monetary incentive called an award fee. The award fee motivates the contractor to achieve DoD’s environmental goals, as well as meet other aspects of the contract such as quality of work, schedule adherence, safety, and socioeconomic program compliance. It can total up to 10 percent of the \$500 million contract and is awarded based on DoD’s periodic assessments of the contractor’s performance. Since DoD will evaluate the contractor’s environmental performance, it is in the contractor’s best interest to adopt an aggressive EPP policy. In addition, DoD will select the contractor based on the company’s past sustainable design experience and its proposed methods for meeting DoD’s environmental goals.

For more information, contact Bob Cox, chief of technical staff, DoD Federal Facilities Division, at 703 693-3765, or Tom Fontane, public affairs officer for the Pentagon Renovation Office at 703 693-8935.

EPP Leaders Discuss Smart Green Purchasing

More than 50 federal, state, and local government EPP practitioners and other advocates recently convened to discuss the issues and challenges facing EPP programs. The workshop, “Government to Government: A Smart Green Purchasing Summit” met on July 21 and 22 at the White House Conference Center in Washington, DC. The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the Center for a New American Dream sponsored the event. “The environment is in serious trouble, in large part due to unsustainable patterns of consumption. Local governments are already alleviating many environmental problems by simply buying green, for example, saving thousands of trees by using recycled paper products, and taking tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere by purchasing refined oil for public vehicles. This meeting was convened to help strengthen the EPP programs nationwide,” said Betsy Taylor, executive director of the Center for a New American Dream.

During the meeting, participants:

- Reviewed success stories.
- Examined obstacles to future progress.
- Explored promising strategies for accelerating green purchasing by city, state, and county government agencies.
- Discussed how to increase public awareness and support for these programs.

According to Eric Friedman at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Operational and Services Division, “The workshop was successful because it brought together people from different areas of EPP—federal, state, and local—and identified the real barriers and key issues that all of us face. There are prob-

lems we all deal with that cross geographical barriers, political affiliations, etc.”

“An emphasis was also placed on learning from the valuable lessons available in those already well-established and successful EPP programs,” said EPA’s Julie Shannon. Hallmark programs such as those in the city of Santa Monica, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and King County, Washington, were featured at the workshop in presentations geared towards helping jump-start nascent programs.

Participants in the workshop identified several key areas in need of attention. They include:

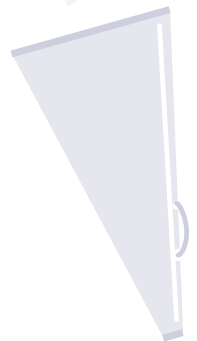
- How to generate broad-based political support and develop constituencies.
- How to develop forums for information exchange so that new programs learn from the lessons of successful, well-established programs.
- How to establish relationships with non-environmental groups that are involved with purchasing

In order to sustain the momentum generated by the conference, attendees formed a steering committee to help oversee a new national network of government purchasing experts and agents dedicated to accelerating and expanding EPP. The committee’s first meeting will be at the beginning of September, and the new network of officials will be staffed by the Center for a New American Dream, a nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible consumption.

For more information, contact Betsy Taylor at the Center for a New American Dream at 301 891-3683 or betsy@newdream.org.

Calling All EPP Pioneers and Pilots!

The EPP Program encourages federal agencies to put environmentally preferable purchasing concepts into practice by initiating EPP pilot projects. Green purchasing “pioneers” already exist in many agencies, but EPA wants to expand the list. The EPP Program is currently accepting proposals for pilot projects, and a modest amount of seed money is available. If interested, contact the EPP Program for an application at pilot.epp@epa.gov. The due date for applications is October 31, 2000.



BEES, Please

Do you manufacture a building material? "BEES Please" is an initiative that promotes the exchange of environmental data between product manufacturers and software developers. Currently, the 65 products that BEES analyzes represent generic products based on industry averages. By providing product data to BEES, you can benchmark the environmental performance of your products against the industry average. BEES developers anticipate having product-specific environmental data available next year. If you are interested in finding out more about "BEES Please," contact Barbara Lippiatt with NIST at [<blippiatt@nist.gov>](mailto:blippiatt@nist.gov).

The Buzz About BEES

(See EPP Update #2 [EPA742-F-97-002] for a previous article on the BEES software.)

Evaluating the environmental preferability of building products has just become easier, thanks to an upgraded software program. Within 3 weeks of its release, more than 500 people had downloaded free copies of version 2.0 of the Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES) software. BEES 2.0 offers comparative environmental and economic performance data for more than twice as many building products as the previous version, and provides environmental analyses of four new impact categories (ozone depletion, smog, ecological toxicity, and human toxicity) for several products. Together with the original six, there are now a total of 10 impact categories for many products.

Designed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with support from the EPP Program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH), BEES helps designers, builders, manufacturers, purchasers, and specifiers select cost-effective "greener" building materials. The decision-support software supplies environmental and economic impact data for 65 building materials.

The software developers expect to update BEES every 12 to 18 months. Analyses of the four new environmental impact categories will be expanded to cover all building products. Other enhancements will include adding region-specific environmental data and combining building product data to enable a comparative analysis of entire buildings.

You can download a free copy of BEES from the Internet at [<www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/bees.html>](http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oae/bees.html) or contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202 260-1023. For additional information, contact Barbara Lippiatt with NIST at [<blippiatt@nist.gov>](mailto:blippiatt@nist.gov).



Wearing It With Environmental Pride

Throughout history and across cultures, uniforms have been a symbol of pride. When National Park Service (NPS) rangers don new uniforms later this year, they will have even more to be proud of. These new uniforms are not just green in color—they're environmentally "green," as well. For the first time, NPS sought a supply contract for its uniform program that emphasized environmental preferability in addition to cost and quality.

The new contract, which begins October 1, 2000, includes uniforms for NPS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Office of Surface Mining—approximately 24,000 personnel in all. The contract includes environmentally preferable features such as online catalogs and ordering to reduce the tons of paper and ink previously used for paper catalogs and order forms; shipping materials made from postconsumer recycled content that meet EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines; and garment care instructions that include the least toxic method for effectively cleaning the garment. The garments themselves will have environmental features. Fleece jackets and vests, for example, will be made from 100 percent recycled plastic and a 65 percent recycled cotton twill fabric.

"We realized that a conservation agency needed to be a step above just compliance of environmental laws," explained Ken Mabery, NPS's uniform program director. "We needed to go the extra mile."

That extra mile will include quarterly environmental performance reviews, plus working with the contractor's environmental performance coordinator and a mentoring group composed of environmentally preferable purchasing experts from EPA and other organizations. Together, the group will identify ways to increase energy efficiency in the production phase and determine ways to cost-efficiently eliminate waste streams. "This doesn't mean just complying with laws on how to dispose of machinery oil or dyes," Mabery pointed out. "This is determining how and where material, thread, and leather scraps can be recycled, or switching to more energy-efficient light bulbs and using recycled-content paper in the contractor's office."

While negotiating the contract was challenging at times, NPS thinks the new contract is better than originally anticipated. The new contract is more environmental in focus, but remains less than 1 percent more expensive than the current contract, an increase deemed appropriate when factoring in administrative costs. Mabery credits the bid's success to the contractor's willingness to move beyond its initial hesitance and lack of understanding of the EPP process. "We had a choice at the onset to either incorporate a lot of 'must dos' into the contract or just offer concepts that we wanted to incorporate," Mabery said. "We chose to let the contractor have more of a role in determining how the contract would develop, and that helped [the contractor] buy into the idea more." Now it will be up to NPS and the vendor to work together to ensure the environmental performance elements of the contract are met.

For more information about the NPS Uniform Program, contact Ken Mabery at 202 208-6380 or Shawn Norton, NPS's environmental leadership manager, at 202 565-1260.

New MOA Aims to Green Mandatory Sources

A recently signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will focus on enhancing the supply and purchase of environmentally preferable products and services through mandatory federal procurement sources. The MOA, signed by the Department of the Interior (Interior), EPA, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee), National Industries for the Blind (NIB), and NISH (serving people with a range of disabilities), presents an opportunity to not only green the procurement process across the federal government, but also to promote employment opportunities for individuals who are blind or severely disabled.

NIB and NISH are organizations that work with associated nonprofit agencies to provide products and services to government agencies as mandatory sources under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act. The JWOD Act is intended to generate training and employment opportunities through the federal acquisition process for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

“This is a defining moment for the JWOD Program, as it—like the country—transitions to the more resource-conscious and resource conservation buying practices of the 21st century.”

—Leon A. Wilson, Jr., Executive Director of the Committee that administers the JWOD Program

The MOA outlines specific responsibilities for each of the participating agencies. Interior will promote the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services from NIB and NISH organizations. The Committee, NIB, and NISH will increase efforts to incorporate environmental considerations into the products and services they manufacture and provide. EPA will assist NIB and NISH organizations in greening their products by preparing a “Green Product Development” guidance and by providing training.

To access a copy of the MOA, visit www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/jwodmoa.htm.



United States
Environmental Protection Agency
(7409)
Washington, DC 20460

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use
\$300