



# The National Park Service EnviroFact Sheet

## Environmental Purchasing (G-6)

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### Environmental Purchasing (EP)

Involves the purchase of products and services that are environmentally preferable or "green" because they have fewer negative impacts on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

Green products contain recycled materials or are more recyclable, less toxic, or more biodegradable; have less packaging or cost less to transport; are more durable or use less energy or natural resources over their useful life.

To aid park procurement staff, including end users, and program and contracting personnel in purchase of green products and services, the National Park Service (NPS) has developed an Environmental Purchasing (EP) Handbook and an EP Toolkit. The Handbook provides EP strategies applicable to NPS procurement activities and serves as a formal EP Program outline for the NPS. The EP Toolkit is meant to supplement the Handbook and provides EP examples and tools.

### FOR MORE INFO...

NPS Environmental Purchasing website:  
[http://pfmd.nps.gov/EMP/hazm/at/EMP\\_LIB/library\\_EPP.cfm](http://pfmd.nps.gov/EMP/hazm/at/EMP_LIB/library_EPP.cfm)

Greening the National Park Service website (energy and water conservation):  
[www.nps.gov/renew/](http://www.nps.gov/renew/)

Office of the Environmental Executive:  
[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)

Federal Energy Management Program:  
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/emp/>

USDA's Federal BioPreferred website:  
<http://www.biobased.oce.usda.gov/fb4p/PurchasingBiobased.aspx>

### APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The following apply to federal facilities regarding environmental ("green") purchasing:

- *Executive Order 13432, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management* – requires federal agencies to increase and expand markets for recovered materials through greater federal government preference and demand for such products.
- *Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)* – directs EPA to create a list of items that are produced with recovered materials and to recommend practices for buying these items. Under 40 CFR 247, *Comprehensive Procurement Guideline for Products Containing Recovered Materials*, EPA establishes procurement requirements for designated products.
- *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 ("Farm Bill")* – requires all federal agencies to purchase biobased products designated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (i.e., products that are composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials or forestry materials). The Farm Bill requires agencies to purchase biobased products except when such products are not reasonably available, fail to meet applicable performance standards, or are available only at unreasonable prices. Under 7 CFR 2902, the USDA has promulgated guidelines for the purchase of biobased products by federal agencies.

### EPA'S COMPREHENSIVE PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES

Under the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG) program, Federal agencies must ensure that the products they purchase meet or exceed CPG requirements. The most recent list of products under the CPG is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/cpg/>.

Items currently designated by EPA under the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines include products in the following categories:

- Paper and paper products;
- Vehicular products (e.g., lubricating oil, tires, coolants);
- Construction products (e.g., shower and restroom dividers containing recovered plastic);
- Transportation products (e.g., parking stops containing recovered plastic);
- Park and recreation products (e.g., park benches and picnic tables containing recovered steel, aluminum, plastic, or concrete);
- Landscaping products (e.g., plastic lumber landscaping timbers);
- Non-paper office products (e.g., plastic trash bags, printer ribbons); and
- Miscellaneous products listed at 40 CFR 247.17 (e.g., sorbents containing recovered materials for use in oil and solvent clean-ups).

Any park staff having the authority to make purchases using federal funds should be aware of the necessity to purchase products meeting the specifications indicated for products on the CPG list.



RCRA Section 6002(i) requires that each federal facility purchasing items listed in the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines establish an Affirmative Procurement (aka, "environmental purchasing") program for purchasing those items. The program should contain the following elements:

- A preference for purchasing items listed on the CPG. Agencies must institute practices and procedures favoring the specification and procurement of recovered/recycled content products.
- Methods of actively promoting their desire to buy recovered/recycled products.
- Procedures for obtaining and verifying estimates for the recovered/recycled content in products being purchased. Contractors must certify the actual percentage of recovered/recycled content of CPG items used or delivered.
- Annual review and monitoring of the effectiveness of the Affirmative Procurement Program.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Checklist Item	Notes
1. Ensure that the park implements an environmental purchasing program using the NPS EP Handbook and Toolkit as guidance.	
2. Ensure that the park staff makes a demonstrated effort to purchase environmentally preferable products whenever feasible.	
3. Ensure that training on the provisions of the Executive Order 13101 is provided for program managers, contracting personnel, procurement and acquisition personnel, facility managers, contractors, concessioners and other personnel as appropriate	
4. When purchasing products designated by EPA under the CPG, ensure that park staff making those purchases procure products composed of the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable. If the park does not procure such items, ensure that documentation is maintained indicating that they are not reasonably available, fail to meet performance standards, or are not available at a competitive price.	
5. Ensure that all park procurement staff are aware of the requirement for the purchasing of biobased products, and that procurement of such products is part of the park's EP Program.	
6. When comparing products for purchase, ensure that park staff making purchases make an effort to purchase products with fewer hazardous substances.	
7. Ensure that design and construction projects and policies incorporate sustainable design principles and require consideration of recovered materials and environmentally preferable products and practices.	