

# Buy Green!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Green Seal®  
[www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

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

## Where Can I Learn More?

Visit us on the web  
[www.osc.doc.gov/oas/ore/esed.htm](http://www.osc.doc.gov/oas/ore/esed.htm)  
or contact us at  
[gogreen@doc.gov](mailto:gogreen@doc.gov).



# GREEN Purchasing

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Administrative Services  
Office of Real Estate Policy and Major Programs  
Energy, Safety, and Environment Division



## 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. **Green purchasing** is one way that we can be good stewards by buying products and services that conserve our precious resources.

### Green purchasing includes the following components:

- Recycled content products, also known as Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) items
- Energy Star® and energy-efficient products; standby power devices
- Alternative fuel vehicles/ alternative fuels
- Biobased products
- Non-ozone depleting substances
- Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP)
- Non-toxic or less hazardous chemicals
- Electronics with environmentally preferable attributes (i.e. Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool – EPEAT)

The **DOC Affirmative Procurement Plan** addresses the purchase of recycled content, Energy Star®, biobased, and other green products.



## Why Buy Green?

The Federal Government spends more than \$200 billion on goods and services each year and can significantly influence the market place. **Green Purchasing** 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
- Increase potential cost savings \$\$\$

### It also...

- Is the law and national policy
- Is increasingly easier to do
- Closes the loop on the recycling process

## Who is Required to Buy Green?

**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.

## 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...**

- Meet all **green purchasing** requirements
- Substitute **green** products for virgin products
- Use recycled content office products
- Purchase Energy Star® and energy-and water-efficient products
- Find alternatives for products with excessive packaging or toxic chemicals
- Buy EPEAT-registered computers
- Consider the entire life cycle of the product