



# Federal Pioneers:

## Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Success Stories From the Federal Government



“ **We, as government employees, have a responsibility to the American public**

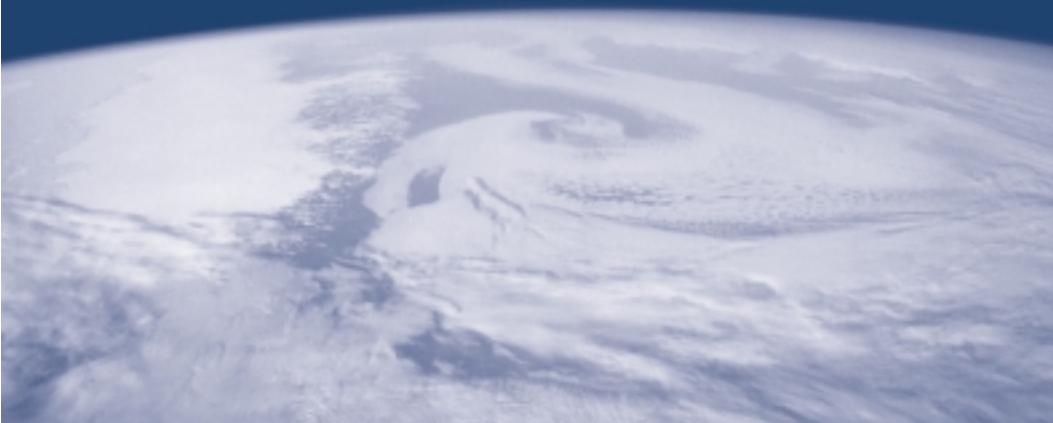
as custodians of their interests to do what is in their best interest. This includes making informed decisions in our procurement practices about what products and practices reduce impacts on the environment and human health...**The entire environmentally-preferable purchasing process has been an epiphany for me.** I am much more sensitive about how my individual decisions effect the environment. I'm also a much more informed consumer.

—Robert Cox, Chief of the Pentagon Technical Staff,  
U.S. Department of Defense

“ We bought a large, complex product composed of many components—a new facility. Rather than just looking at individual parts, we also considered the environmental performance of the total package. **In many cases, we found that greener approaches could actually save money**

—like making concrete at the site, saving 10,000 gallons of fuel while cutting the cost of construction. In other instances, we paid for environmental features by limiting costs in other areas—like eliminating extra doors to pay for daylight dimmers and motion sensors for lights. **I have found that green building products, with recycled content or low toxicity, are readily available.** Often, there is no difference in cost and it's simply a matter of asking.

—Chris Long, Chief of the Facilities Development Staff,  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



# Introduction

The federal government purchases more than \$200 billion worth of goods and services each year. Recognizing that purchasing decisions can have important environmental consequences, federal agencies are considering some environmental impacts when buying goods and services. As mandated in Executive Order (EO) 13101, *Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed guidance on environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), outlining principles federal agencies should use to identify products and services that have a reduced effect on human health and the environment. This guidance is available at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/finalguidance.html>.

EO 13101 and EPA's EPP guidance are making a difference. Environmental performance of products and services is increasingly important to federal purchasers when they decide what to buy.

As EPA's guidance notes, there is no "cookie cutter" formula for successfully applying EPP principles. To demonstrate some of the different ways EPP is being incorporated and to provide models for other federal purchasers, EPA has documented pilot procurement projects undertaken by federal agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector. Included in this booklet are federal government EPP highlights.

Each day, federal government agencies and their employees have opportunities to make EPP decisions, big and small. The pioneering projects described here are just a subset of the EPP activities occurring throughout the federal government. Web site addresses are provided for additional information on each project. Please also visit the EPP Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp> for additional case studies and EPP resources.

**Environmentally preferable products** are "products and services [that] have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared to other products and services that serve the same purpose." This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service.

—Executive Order 13101,  
*Greening the Government  
Through Waste Prevention,  
Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*

# Cleaners and Paints

## U.S. Department of the Interior

### Custodial Services at the Department of the Interior's Washington, DC, Offices

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ppg/case/doicase.htm>>

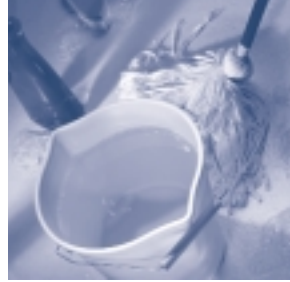
In November 1998, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) issued a request for proposals for custodial services (e.g., window washing, floor stripping, maintaining restroom supplies) in its Washington, DC, headquarters that incorporated "green" language into the scope of services. The 5-year, \$6.28 million contract covers the cleaning of 1.4 million square feet of office space. DOI evaluated the environmental characteristics (e.g., chemical makeup, recycled content) of five categories of cleaning products and recycled-content products such as bathroom tissue, paper towels, toilet seat covers, and trash bags. The contract also addressed health and safety concerns for DOI workers and other building occupants by requiring the cleaning products and supplies to be low toxicity, noncarcinogenic, and biodegradable; to reduce skin, eye, and respiratory irritability; and to contain no unnecessary dyes or fragrances. Environmental preferability considerations accounted for 30 percent of the evaluation score when selecting the new contractor. The solicitation process produced a winning bid that not only was the most environmentally preferable and least expensive of the bids submitted, but came in under the price of the current contract.

### Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park—Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Project

<[http://www.epa.gov/region8/conservation\\_recycling/p2home/greengov/yellowcln/yellowcln.html](http://www.epa.gov/region8/conservation_recycling/p2home/greengov/yellowcln/yellowcln.html)>

The goal of this project was to assist janitorial staff and supervisors in switching to environmentally preferable cleaning products at Yellowstone and Grand

Teton National Parks. The EPA Region 8 Pollution Prevention Program, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and the parks hired a contractor to provide leadership, training for the staff, and oversight of the project. The environmentally preferable



cleaning products were tested in a pilot project at Yellowstone, including park facilities at Mammoth and Old Faithful. As the pilot was ending, the project expanded to include all Yellowstone and Grand Teton facilities. With sensitive natural surroundings, reducing toxicity and increasing biodegradability was an important project benefit.

Yellowstone succeeded in decreasing the number of cleaning products it uses from 130 to 15, plus a few additional products for specialized or site-specific needs. While cost savings have not been quantified, supervisors and budget managers believe they are spending less thanks to the simplified procurement process. Supervisors have also noted less sick leave, heightened productivity, and increased morale among cleaning staff thanks to the green products. Products used at the parks also meet the bid specifications for environmentally preferable cleaning products developed and used by the city of Santa Monica, California.

## U.S. General Services Administration

### Cleaning Products Pilot Project

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/cleaner.pdf>> and <<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/cleaners/select>>

The Cleaning Products Pilot Project was a cooperative interagency effort between the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and EPA to establish a framework for identifying and comparing commercial cleaning products based on their environmental

# Construction

attributes. GSA and EPA identified cleaning products with reduced human health and safety impacts for use in federal buildings. As a result of this project, EPA developed a Web-based tool in which the user decides which attributes are most important and an online “purchasing wizard” identifies products matching the given criteria. This was the first environmentally preferable product pilot project under Executive Order (EO) 12873, a precursor to EO 13101. It demonstrated the feasibility of creating interagency partnerships to green the procurement process.

## U.S. Department of Defense

### Painting the Town Green—The Aberdeen Proving Ground Paint Pilot Project

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/paint.pdf>

Aberdeen Proving Ground, a Department of Defense installation in Maryland, initiated a pilot project to reduce the number, volume, and environmental effects of the paints it uses—in particular, their potential for contributing to air pollution. Aberdeen contracted with Green Seal, a nonprofit environmental standards organization, to help identify the relevant environmental attributes. Aberdeen then established environmentally preferable paint standards for the installation, focusing particularly on lower levels of volatile organic compounds and reduced toxicity. Through this project, Aberdeen discovered significant, growing competition in the market for environmentally preferable paints, resulting in a cost savings of \$1.78 per gallon. Added to the avoided hazardous waste disposal costs, Aberdeen is saving \$60,000 annually.

### Environmentally Preferable Degreasers

<http://www.apg.army.mil/AP2G/strategies.htm>

Aberdeen Proving Ground also is working with Green Seal to develop standards for degreasers the installation can consider environmentally preferable. The installation’s management strategies encourage purchasers to consider not only hazardous materials and recycled content, but the entire lifecycle impacts of products. When finalized, Aberdeen will use the standards to develop a list of products approved for use on the installation.

## U.S. Department of Defense

### Defending the Environment at the Department of Defense

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/envdod.pdf>

More than 35,000 employees work at the Department of Defense’s (DOD’s) Washington, DC, facilities, including the Pentagon. Routine office repairs and renovations are a big undertaking—and a prime opportunity to put EPP principles to work. A 5-year, \$10 million per year contract awarded in 1997 requires the DOD construction contractor to use construction materials and practices DOD considers environmentally preferable. Specifically, the contractor must use products with minimal or recycled-content packaging, water-saving plumbing fixtures, recycled-content steel rods and masonry units, paint with low amounts of volatile organic compounds, and recycled-content building insulation that is manufactured without ozone-depleting blowing agents. The contract did not require changing the traditional purchasing process or performance requirements, which allowed DOD to remain within traditional price and time parameters. The contractor has completed hundreds of jobs, all of which use products meeting DOD’s environmental and performance criteria.



### Paving the Road to Success—The Department of Defense’s Parking Lot Repair and Maintenance Contract

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/eppdod1.pdf>

The Pentagon’s parking lots are turning “green” thanks to an innovative EPP pilot project. In June 1997, DOD awarded a 5-year, \$1 million per year contract to maintain and repair the parking lots and access roads at four Washington, DC, facilities—the Pentagon, the Military Court of Appeals, the Navy Annex, and the Hybla Valley Federal Building. In addition to stipulating that the work must meet price and performance requirements, the contract also promotes the use of products with positive environmental attributes (e.g.,

recycled-content, including recycling old asphalt into new; low levels of volatile organic compounds; limited or restricted use of chemicals). This is done by providing opportunities for the contractor to earn a price differential for identifying and using such products. Price differentials allow the contractor to earn additional money by locating and proposing products with minimal environmental impacts that meet or exceed the baseline environmental attributes identified by DOD. The price differential helps promote the use of products with multiple environmental attributes.

### **Navy at the Leading Edge of Green Design**

[<http://www.buildinggreen.com/news/navy.html>](http://www.buildinggreen.com/news/navy.html)

The Department of the Navy is the first federal agency to require that all facility and infrastructure-related designs incorporate sustainable design principles. The Navy's definition of sustainable design includes increasing energy conservation and efficiency, increasing use of renewable energy resources, reducing or eliminating toxic and harmful substances, utilizing efficient resources and materials, selecting materials and products based on their lifecycle impacts, increasing use of materials and products with recycled content, and recycling construction waste and building materials. At the Washington Navy Yard, sustainable design measures resulted in annual energy savings of \$130,000 and at a bachelor enlisted quarters complex in Illinois, the Navy estimates an annual energy savings of \$110,000.

### **U.S. Department of Interior Exterior Lumber Testing in Western National Parks**

[<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update5.pdf>](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update5.pdf)

The National Park Service (NPS) Inter-Mountain Region, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and EPA's Region 8 EPP Program office are working together to increase NPS's use of products with environmentally preferable attributes. NPS and EPA will test and evaluate products using the principles and concepts contained in EPA's EPP guidance. The first pilot under the partnership will test the performance of recycled-content plastic lumber in varied climates in western national parks, including Dinosaur National Monument in Utah. For some uses, NPS considers recycled-content plastic lumber to be environmentally

preferable because it is made from post-consumer plastic and lasts longer than some alternative materials. For other uses, NPS prefers pressure-treated wood. To help NPS employees decide which type of lumber to purchase, the project team is developing a purchasing toolkit. To address concerns about the toxicity of pressure-treated wood (one common preservative in pressure-treated wood is arsenic-based), NPS is investigating the use of wood treated with oil- and water-borne preservatives.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

#### **EPA's Region 10 Remodels With EPP**

[<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ppg/case/region10.htm>](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/ppg/case/region10.htm) and

[<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/innovation.htm>](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/innovation.htm)

In April 1999, EPA Region 10 put the finishing touches on the 2,085-square-foot executive office space for its offices in Seattle, Washington, which included remodeling the Regional Administrator's office. With its wide variety of green features—from sustainably harvested wood products to carpeting designed to be renewed (supercleaned, retextured, and recolored)—the project serves as an innovative model for others in both the public and private sector. The \$137,000 contract included \$81,000 of products with positive environmental attributes.

#### **EPA Builds Lab With Green Rider**

[<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/region7.htm>](http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/region7.htm)

In March 2001, EPA's Region 7 plans to break ground on a 37,000-square foot laboratory in Kansas City, Kansas. The region issued a "Green Lease Rider" (or "Green Rider") in July 1999, specifying a comprehensive set of environmental design considerations for the new laboratory. When potential construction contractors submit bids to build the new laboratory, they are required to address the Green Rider as part of the proposal process. The contract is expected to be awarded in Summer 2000.

#### **Leading by Example: How EPA Incorporated Environmental Features into New Buildings**

[<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/grnblgd.pdf>](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/grnblgd.pdf)

EPA's new headquarters facility in Washington, DC, and its new 1 million-square-foot, \$250 million research facility in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, both include features designed to protect



indoor air quality, maximize energy efficiency, reduce water consumption, encourage alternative forms of transportation, and promote pollution prevention throughout the construction process. Design teams for both facilities also examined the environmental impacts of selected materials and furnishings from a lifecycle perspective to select those with minimal adverse effects to human health and the environment.

## United States Postal Service Fort Worth Post Office Showcases Green Building

<<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/usps2.htm>>  
and  
<<http://www.usps.gov/environ/welcome.htm>>

The 8th Avenue Station of the United States Postal Service (USPS) in Fort Worth, Texas, assembled a task force with the sole purpose of “greening” the organization’s current design criteria, which are the key elements of USPS’s Building Design Standards. The task force identified approximately 120 environmental attributes that were incorporated into the organization’s building design standards. The materials and systems used to construct the 8th Avenue USPS office building were selected to promote a healthy indoor environment and water and energy efficiency and to maintain the environmental integrity of the local ecosystem. USPS was able to incorporate a significant number of environmental attributes into the new

post office without compromising its budget. Opened in January 1999, the 26,000-square-foot, \$2.5 million post office serves as the showcase of the USPS Green Buildings Program and demonstrates

its commitment to EPP. Anticipated annual savings include \$1,100 in energy costs and 1 million gallons—or at current prices, \$2,800—of water.



# Copiers, Paper, and Printing Projects

## U.S. Department of Defense Fort Bragg Solves a Pressing Dilemma

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update5.pdf>>

A mix of creativity and technology helped the U.S. Army’s Fort Bragg purchase new digital printing equipment that is preventing pollution and saving money. As a result of this EPP-based decision, Fort Bragg, located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, has eliminated 1,500 gallons of hazardous waste from its printing operations and slashed its chemical purchasing and disposal costs by more than \$100,000 a year.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### EPA Sets the Standard for Copiers

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update6.pdf>>

As part of its 1999 photocopier pilot project, EPA’s EPP Program reviewed green copier purchasing standards adopted by several different countries. It also reviewed standards developed by EPA’s ENERGY STAR® Program and organizations such as Green Seal, an environmental standards organization. Based on its review, the EPP Program identified mandatory and preferred environmental attributes, such as energy efficiency and low emissions of dust and ozone, which were incorporated into two recent photocopier solicitations. The solicitations garnered a small response from photocopier vendors, which the EPP Program attributes to the small size of the purchase requests—one small copier for each solicitation. Bulk or cooperative purchases are expected to generate higher interest from vendors.

### Paper Pilot Projects

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/docupdates.htm>>

Beginning in March 1999, EPA’s EPP Program began printing its newsletter, the *EPP Update*, on different kinds of paper selected for their positive environmental

attributes. The *Update* has featured kenaf paper, which comes from the kenaf plant and requires less energy and fewer chemicals to convert to pulp than wood-based paper, as well as a 100-percent post-consumer paper that is not chemically de-inked and is process chlorine free. The *EPP Update* is published two to three times per year and has a circulation of about 3,000 readers. Whether printing is done in-house by the government or contracted to other printers offsite, the goal of the pilot is to encourage the use of more environmentally preferable papers. EPA's EPP Program also is involved in a paper pilot project involving the Government Printing Office and a number of other federal agencies. Initially, this project aims to identify, procure, and pilot test environmentally preferable copier paper. As this project evolves, environmental considerations could be applied to government purchase of envelopes, stationery, and other types of paper.

## National Aeronautics and Space Administration

### NASA's Environmental Copiers

<<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/larc.htm>>

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has approximately 2,000 copy machines throughout its 14 nationwide facilities. Thanks to the agency's innovative leasing practices, NASA saved \$4.5 million dollars during a 5-year photocopying service contract. NASA's "cost per copy" contract, which means the agency leases copy services rather than purchasing copiers, includes several environmental features important to NASA, such as recycled-content paper and energy efficiency requirements.

# Electric Power

## U.S. Department of Interior

### Department of Interior—Making EPP Part of the Mission

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update5.pdf>>

The National Park Service has installed several photovoltaic (PV) systems throughout its parks, including the

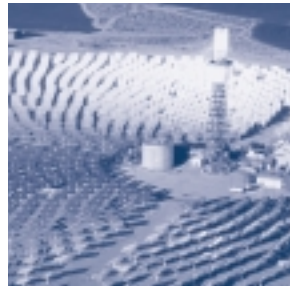
Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, Isle Royale, and Glacier National Parks. PV systems contain solar cells that convert sunlight into electricity, which is less polluting than traditional energy sources. Producing 5 to 20 kilowatts, the PV systems are used to replace diesel-fueled generators or to supplement existing power supplies. Excess power generated by the PV systems can be sent back into the power grid.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### EPA Purchases Renewable Power

<<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/grnpwr.htm>>

Taking advantage of the nationwide deregulation of the electric industry, EPA is now purchasing 100 percent renewable energy in its Region 9 laboratory in Richmond, California, and its Golden, Colorado, laboratory. EPA's purchase of 100-percent "green" electricity for the Region 9 laboratory is a cooperative effort between Region 9, EPA's Office of Administration and Resource Management, EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the General Services Administration (GSA). The green electricity for the Region 9 laboratory is obtained from a nearby landfill gas plant. For Golden, Colorado, EPA has pledged to purchase 100 percent of its electricity from wind



energy. Since Colorado is still a fully regulated market, EPA is buying green power through a GSA area-wide con-

tract. EPA is currently pursuing additional 100 percent renewable energy power purchases in Washington, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.



# Miscellaneous

## U.S. Department of Defense Air Force Base, GSA Reduce Hazardous Purchases

<<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/mclelan.htm>>

McClellan Air Force Base, located in Sacramento, California, teamed with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and its suppliers to develop new contracts for unit-of-use purchasing and just-in-time delivery. This was the base's response to a 1993 U.S. Air Force mandate that requires all facilities to reduce hazardous waste generation. By employing EPP principles, such as purchasing smaller quantities only when needed, McClellan reduced its inventory of hazardous products (e.g., paints, primers, epoxies, and sealants used to maintain and repair aircraft) from \$3.2 million to \$414,000 and significantly reduced hazardous waste generation and disposal costs.

## U.S. Department of Energy DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

<<http://www.epa.gov/ppg/case/wipp2.htm>>

The Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located 26 miles east of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is the world's first underground repository licensed to safely and permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste, a byproduct of nuclear weapon research and production. In 1993, staff at the plant developed a green procurement program for the purchase of items such as lamps, exit signs, motors, carpets, paints, and cleaners. Through this program, WIPP procurement officials are encouraged to buy "green." They receive training on purchasing products that minimize energy use, reduce toxicity, or are recyclable or contain recycled materials. The plant also has a pollution prevention committee composed of staff from several departments. The committee's primary goal is to promote awareness about waste minimization and opportunities for environmental purchasing. WIPP's energy manager collaborates with the committee, as well as engineers, chemical and lab managers, and construction managers, to research and identify new products for use at WIPP facilities.

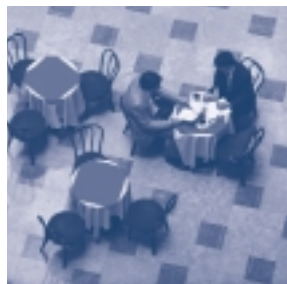
## U.S. Department of the Interior

### A Shell of Its Former Self

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update5.pdf>>

On Earth Day 2000, the Department of Interior (DOI) concluded a 1-year pilot project that demonstrated the performance of biodegradable plates and bowls in its Washington, DC, headquarters cafeteria. Each month, the DOI cafeteria used 6,400 plates and 3,000 bowls made from limestone and renewable potato starch. The cafeteriaware, made by EarthShell® Corporation, is not only biodegradable in marine and compost environments, but also requires less energy to manufacture than comparable paper or polystyrene containers. Another component of the pilot involved collecting the compostable plates and bowls along with paper napkins, paper trays, and food waste for use in a composting research study conducted by a local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) laboratory. USDA tested three different composting technologies. Each of them delivered a rich final product showing the great potential of a largely compostable cafeteria waste stream.

Although the pilot project has officially ended, the DOI cafeteria continues to use the EarthShell plates and bowls. The company is preparing to make the product commercially available and DOI continues to search for other environmentally preferable food service products.



## U.S. Department of Transportation

### Alternative Method for Aircraft Deicing

<<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/1997/apa5197.htm>>

The Federal Aviation Administration has approved the use of an innovative deicing system for business and general aviation aircraft, mitigating the potentially harmful environmental



effects of conventional chemical deicing. In the new deicing system, the plane travels through a special hangar where a

series of gas fired heaters emit infrared energy at wavelengths specially "tuned" to the absorption range of ice. The aircraft is deiced in minutes without the use of traditional deicing chemicals, which have been identified as potential water pollutants.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Green Conferencing Tool

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/conference.htm>>

EPA has compiled a comprehensive list of pollution prevention opportunities for greening conferences and meetings. EPA is also developing a multimedia, Web-based tool for conference planners and service providers. The "Planner's Track" of the interactive tool provides meeting and conference coordinators with a comprehensive overview of the different conference planning stages, products, and services, and the opportunities to "green" each. The "Service Provider's Track" educates hotels, printers, and caterers about the environmental opportunities in their service sectors. In addition, the site contains sample contract language for soliciting green conference and meeting support.

## We want to hear from you!

Please tell us about your environmentally preferable purchasing activities and efforts. We are collecting and sharing information, tools, and hints about what works and what doesn't as environmentally preferable purchasing evolves and expands. Please contact the EPP program by e-mail, regular mail, or fax:

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (7409)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20460  
E-mail: [epp.pilot@epa.gov](mailto:epp.pilot@epa.gov)  
Fax: 202 260-0178

# Institutionalizing EPP

A few federal agencies are beginning to integrate EPP activities into everyday operations and procedures. This move beyond pilot projects to applying EPP institutionally not only makes it easier for agencies to significantly reduce the environmental impacts of their purchases, but also supports a growing competitive market for green products.

## JWOD Organizations Are Greening Their Products

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/update6.pdf>>

In the 1930s, the Wagner-O'Day Act became a law, requiring federal agencies to purchase products and services from non-profit agencies employing the blind. Senator Jacob Javits spearheaded the drive to amend the act in 1972 to include people with other severe disabilities. Today, the federal government's Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is greening products sold through its program. Some of JWOD's nonprofit agencies already sell

products with positive environmental attributes, such as biobased cutlery manufactured with corn starch and clipboards made from recycled plastic.

Other nonprofit

organizations associated with the program have been examining the environmental attributes of their products. To help these organizations, JWOD contracted with Green Seal, a nonprofit environmental standards organization, to conduct a pilot project. Products meeting Green Seal's standards earn the "Green Seal of Approval." So far, the seal has been affixed to calendars produced by the Easter Seals of Western Pennsylvania; business cards manufactured by Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind; and paper towels made by Signature Works, LC Industries, and New Orleans Lighthouse for the Blind.



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### Green Tips for Government Credit Card Purchasing

<<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/creditcard.htm>>

Credit card purchasing guidelines on the EPP Web site now make it easier for government credit card holders to ensure that their purchases comply with environmental laws and EPA policies. The guidelines identify specific attributes to look for when selecting products, including recycled content, reduced packaging, minimal hazardous materials or toxic chemicals, and the ENERGY STAR® label. In addition, the guidelines provide information on the procurement process, including specific EPA requirements, where to find the products (e.g., through GSA's Environmental Products Guide or office supply catalogs), and other sources of information and guidance.

## U.S. Department of Interior

### Greening the Department of Interior

The Department of Interior developed a strategic plan to encourage its employees to purchase products the agency deems environmentally preferable. A companion Web site, under development at the time of publication, will provide information on energy- and water-efficient products and environmentally preferable products. In addition, the site will include a searchable procurement tracking database, which will contain recycling coordinator contacts, the agency's waste prevention and recycling goals, and green products and practices already in use. In 2001, a link to this site will be available at <<http://www.doi.gov/oepec>>.



United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
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Official Business  
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