

# US EPA Green Purchasing: Policy and Directions

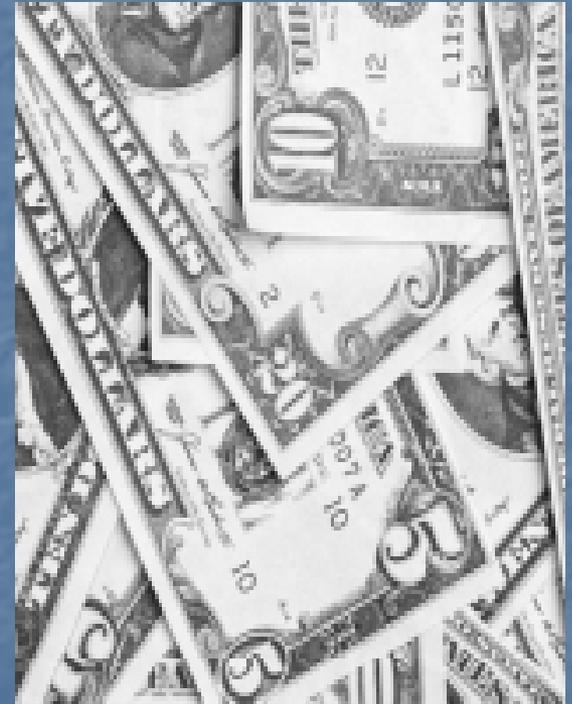
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US Environmental Protection Agency

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# Government Procurement

- Federal government spends:
  - over \$400 billion annually in direct purchases
  - over \$450 billion annually in grants
- State/local governments:
  - nearly \$400 billion annually in purchases



# Several Federal Green Purchasing Programs ...

- **Recycled content purchasing**
  - Mandated by RCRA, covers 61 products (paper, office supplies, landscaping, construction, vehicle products)
- **Energy efficient purchasing**
  - EOs, Energy Policy Act, Energy Independence & Security Act
- **Biobased content purchasing**
  - US Dept of Agriculture has developed list of biobased products
- **Environmentally preferable purchasing**
  - Life cycle, multiple environmental attributes

# Executive Order 13514

- **Goal - continue to work toward sustainability of federal agencies with strong focus on GHG reduction goals**
- **Federal Agencies shall:**
  - **“....Leverage agency acquisitions to foster markets for sustainable technologies and environmentally preferable materials, products and services...”**
  - **“....Advance sustainable acquisitions to ensure that 95 percent of new contract actions ... are energy-efficient, water-efficient, biobased, environmentally preferable....”**

# Many Federal EPP Efforts...

- **Construction-related**
  - Building materials, lumber, paints, parking lots
- **Office products**
  - Copier paper, printing paper, business cards, copiers
- **Services**
  - Conferencing, printing
- **Solvents**
  - Cleaning products, degreasers



# Serving Customers' Needs

EPP Program is:

- Focusing on specific products and services
- Developing standards
- Providing tools and measuring environmental benefits



# Why Focus on Electronics?

- Rapid advances in information technology (IT) have resulted in:
  - Increased sales of electronics worldwide
  - Increased energy consumption
  - A new stream of obsolete and discarded products



# What is EPEAT™?

Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

An easy to use environmental procurement tool designed to help institutional purchasers compare and select desktop computers, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes.



# What is the EPEAT™ System?

- 1) Standard comprised of 51 environmental performance criteria (IEEE 1680 American National Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products)
- 2) System for identifying and verifying products which meet these criteria ([www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net))
- 3) Environmental Benefits Calculator

# **EPEAT™ Environmental Performance Categories**

- **Environmentally Sensitive Materials**
- **Materials Selection**
- **Design for End of Life**
- **Product Longevity/Life Cycle Extension**
- **Energy Conservation**
- **End of Life Management**
- **Corporate Performance**
- **Packaging**

# EPEAT™ Tiers



Meets all 23  
required  
criteria



Meets all  
required  
criteria plus ½  
of optional



Meets all  
required  
criteria plus ¾  
of optional

# EPEAT™ Registered Products

(as of April 2010)

## EPEAT Registered Products Search Tool

<b>Product</b>	 <b>BRONZE</b>	 <b>SILVER</b>	 <b>GOLD</b>	<b>Total</b>
Desktops	1	49	81	131
Integrated Desktops	0	36	11	47
Displays	1	137	105	243
Notebooks	32	551	449	1032
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>1483</b>

# Internationalizing EPEAT

- Frequent inquiries from international purchasers/retailers since EPEAT began
- Used by numerous purchasers globally
- International country-specific registry developed, launched in August 2009
- All EU and EFTA countries, Japan, China, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico

# EPEAT™ Next Products

- EPEAT solicited input from stakeholders to identify the next product sets
- The four priority product categories are:
  - Imaging Products (Printers, copiers, etc.)
  - TVs
  - Servers
  - Handhelds (cell phones, PDAs, etc.)

# Developing Standards and Specifications

- Greening of federal buildings
  - Required by Executive Order
- Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers
  - <https://fedgreenspecs.wbdg.org>
  - More than 70 sections – covering:
    - General contract requirements,
    - Site construction,
    - Materials, and
    - Systems
  - Green guide model specifications based on:
    - EO 13423 requirements
    - LEED, Green Globes, ASTM, ASHRAE and other standards

# Developing Standards and Specifications

## ■ Green Meetings

- Developing a standard for what is a green meeting
- Voluntary, consensus-based process with balanced representation
- First stage focused on the meeting itself - may ultimately expand to include all aspects of the facility/venue.

# Measuring Benefits

## Green Cleaning Pollution Prevention Calculator

- Benefits of using greener janitorial products and services
- Forecasts environmental benefits of reducing chemical use
- [www.ofee.gov/janitor/index.asp](http://www.ofee.gov/janitor/index.asp)

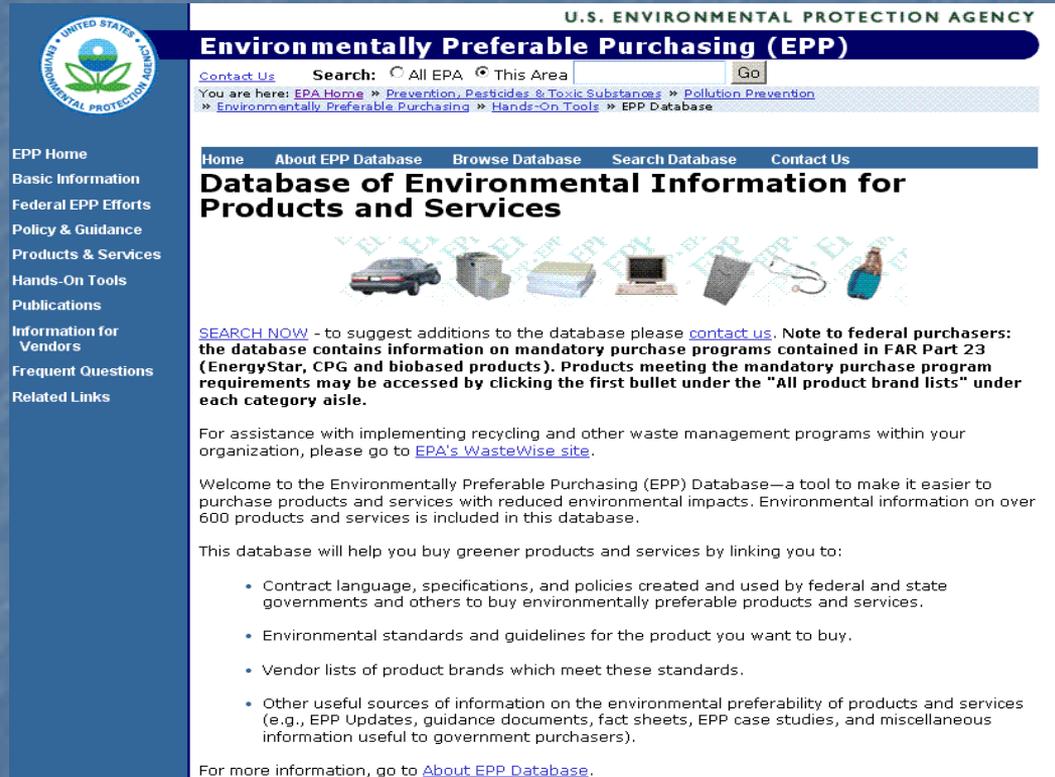
## Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator

- Benefits of environmental sound management
- Estimates environmental/economic benefits of purchasing EPEAT products
- <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net>

# Other Resources....

## EPP Database

Identify and compare environmental attributes for key products and services from various information sources, both domestic and foreign



The screenshot shows the EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Database website. The header includes the EPA logo and the text "U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY" and "Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)". A search bar is visible with the text "Search: All EPA This Area" and a "Go" button. Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu with links: "Home", "About EPP Database", "Browse Database", "Search Database", and "Contact Us". The main heading is "Database of Environmental Information for Products and Services". Below this heading, there is an image showing various products: a car, a printer, a box, a laptop, a monitor, a pair of glasses, and a bottle. The text below the image reads: "SEARCH NOW - to suggest additions to the database please [contact us](#). Note to federal purchasers: the database contains information on mandatory purchase programs contained in FAR Part 23 (EnergyStar, CPG and biobased products). Products meeting the mandatory purchase program requirements may be accessed by clicking the first bullet under the "All product brand lists" under each category aisle." Below this text, there is a paragraph: "For assistance with implementing recycling and other waste management programs within your organization, please go to [EPA's WasteWise site](#)." Another paragraph follows: "Welcome to the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Database—a tool to make it easier to purchase products and services with reduced environmental impacts. Environmental information on over 600 products and services is included in this database." Below this, there is a list of bullet points: "This database will help you buy greener products and services by linking you to: • Contract language, specifications, and policies created and used by federal and state governments and others to buy environmentally preferable products and services. • Environmental standards and guidelines for the product you want to buy. • Vendor lists of product brands which meet these standards. • Other useful sources of information on the environmental preferability of products and services (e.g., EPP Updates, guidance documents, fact sheets, EPP case studies, and miscellaneous information useful to government purchasers)." At the bottom, there is a link: "For more information, go to [About EPP Database](#)."

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)

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Database of Environmental Information for Products and Services

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# Resources

- [www.epa.gov/epp](http://www.epa.gov/epp)
- [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)
- [www.epa.gov/cpg](http://www.epa.gov/cpg)
- [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)
- [www.epa.gov/dfe](http://www.epa.gov/dfe)
- [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)
- [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- [www.eere.energy.gov/femp](http://www.eere.energy.gov/femp)



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