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# **GreenBuy: The DOE Sustainable Acquisition Recognition Program**

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## Overview



The GreenBuy Awards recognizes DOE facilities that purchase products with leadership-level sustainability attributes that save energy, conserve water, and reduce health and environmental impacts.



## Federal Policy



- Federal policy requires DOE and its contractors to purchase environmentally-friendly products to:
  - Reduce or eliminate waste at the source;
  - Promote the use of nontoxic or less toxic substances;
  - Implement conservation techniques; and
  - Reuse materials rather than put them into the waste stream.



# DOE Procurement Tracking and Reporting



- DOE has a two-phase tracking process for sites to report on implementation of DOE sustainable acquisition goals:
  - DOE sites must report integration of sustainable acquisition requirements in new contract actions, as required by Executive Order 13514 and as explained in the DOE guidance document.
  - DOE sites may report on their purchases of specific products to qualify for the GreenBuy recognition program.



## Background



- GreenBuy is modeled after the successful Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC). Almost all DOE sites are FEC members and 28 DOE facilities have won FEC awards in the past five years.
- DOE sites are now familiar with the Federal reporting requirements for required contract actions while providing product-level data is now optional.
- The recognition program provides significant incentives to report on a voluntary basis for a smaller number of products in order to reward effective procurement programs.



# DOE GreenBuy Program Goals



- DOE seeks to incentivize purchase of products with multiple and greater sustainable attributes. The market however, has developed at faster rates than the regulations. Meeting mere “compliance” is not necessarily the most sustainable option.
- DOE created leadership goals and the GreenBuy voluntary recognition program for DOE site that purchase designated Priority Products.





# Priority Products List



The Priority Products list is the backbone of the GreenBuy program.

- The list of 40 products in 7 categories was developed by the DOE Sustainable Acquisition Working Group after extensive research and review of dozens of green product categories.

Listed products go beyond compliance to embody leadership-level sustainability attributes.

Sites can tailor the list to meet specific needs and select categories and products of most value at the local level.



## Priority Products List (Cont'd)



Facilities may report additional green products and are encouraged to nominate new candidates for the list.

This list also assists in engaging with the vendor community and informing contract language and related reviews.

The full list is available at

<http://www.hs.doe.gov/sesa/sustainability/epp/>



# Priority Product Examples



## 1. Concrete with 40% or more fly ash content

DOE sites consume many tons of concrete annually. Current Federal requirements only require zero to forty percent fly ash. Utilizing the highest percentages of fly ash can not only improve concrete performance but reduce a potential hazard.

## 2. Adhesives for use in new construction, remodeling, maintenance, and operations.

Traditional construction adhesives have thousands of grams per liter of volatile organic compounds and known carcinogens. Using adhesives meeting Priority Products standards reduces volatile organic compounds and eliminates ingredients known to cause health problems.

## 3. Herbicides containing 100% biobased content and no glyphosate.

Traditional herbicides, used to keep grounds weed-free, contain glyphosate which can cause problems with kidneys and reproduction. Herbicides with Priority Product attributes eliminate staff exposures causing health problems and displace petroleum with biobased content.



## Team Participation



DOE site facility management and line staff involved in procurement operations have an opportunity to pool resources and knowledge to form a “sustainable acquisition team” for exemplary performance in green purchasing, that cover areas such as:

**Construction**  
**Procurement**  
**Custodial**  
**Sub-contract admins**

**Facility**  
**Fleet**  
**Material analysts**  
**P-card purchasers**



## How Does It Work?



- Sites may qualify for 3 levels of GreenBuy Awards:
  - **Gold**: At least 9 products covering at least 5 product categories;
  - **Silver**: At least 6 products covering at least 3 product categories;
  - **Bronze**: At least 3 products covering at least 2 product categories.
- Sites must extensively document each product including the quantities purchased, history of usage, and validation methodologies.



# Future Challenges



As a challenge program, the GreenBuy Awards will become progressively more difficult to achieve.

- Sites cannot be recognized for the same award level two years in a row except for Gold.

For future recognition, Bronze Award winners need to achieve the Silver-level and the Silver-level winners need to achieve the Gold-level.

- Sites may report up to 3 of the same products from the previous year but must transition to other products from the Priority Products list.



## First Year Success



- The 2012 GreenBuy Program exceeded all expectations in its first year.
- Nearly three-quarters of all the DOE sites voluntarily reported Priority Product performance.
- 22 DOE facilities achieved GreenBuy recognition, with 3 Gold, 8 Silver, and 11 Bronze Award winners.
- Site procurement staff are actively integrating more Priority Products into their missions and qualifying for future GreenBuy recognition.
- The list will be improved and expanded for fiscal year 2013.



## Resources



The DOE Sustainable Acquisition Working Group:

- Has more than 400 Federal and contractor members;
- Was founded by the Office of Sustainability Support more than a decade ago; and
- Sponsors bimonthly conference calls, special trainings, technical support, and site-specific assistance.

<http://www.fedcenter.gov/members/workgroups/sustainableacquisition/index.cfm?>





# Contacts



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