



Integrating Biobased Purchasing into Federal Sustainability Programs

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Biobased Stakeholders Workshop
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DOE's Biobased Track Record



- **1995** – Began purchases of biobased insulation (Weatherization Assistance Program) and ethanol (Argonne National Laboratory)
- **2000** – Incorporated biobased products in EPP Strategic Plan, and later into DOE Orders and acquisition regulations
- **2002** – Led Buy Bio Interagency Work Group
- **2004** – Launched DOE Buys Bio Program
- **2005** – Incorporated biobased purchases into annual environmental reporting process
- **2006** – Integrated the Buy Bio Program into the DOE Preferred Procurement Program
- **2008** - Launched High Performance Sustainable Buildings Assessment Tool with Biobased Product component
- **2009** – Developed Excel biobased product tracking tool and focused quarterly teleconferences on biobased products



DOE Results—FY 2008



30 DOE sites purchasing 18 types of biobased products

Absorbent	Film (Plastic Bags)
Adhesive	Hydraulic Fluid
Adhesive Remover	Ink
Bedding/Linen/Towel	Insulation
Cleaner/Solvent	Cellulose
Detergent	Foam
Floor	Landscaping Material
General Purpose	Lubricant - Penetrating
Wheel	Lubricant – Cutting & Transformer
Window	Paint/Sealer
Construction Material	Pesticide
De-Icer	Sealant - Roof
Diesel Fuel Additive	



DOE Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) Programs



- EPP assistance network promoting:
 - Recycled Content
 - Biobased Content
 - Energy Star
 - FEMP designated
 - WaterSense labeled

- Chemical Safety and Lifecycle Management

- High Performance and Sustainable Buildings

- Real-time Tracking and Annual Reporting



The Secrets of Federal Biobased Purchasing



- When procuring, you really care about appropriate and clearly articulated
- Biobased products when they meet
- With many products ends upon effective products





Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Sustainability**

A product containing one environmental attribute (biobased content) is not inherently more environmentally preferable than its alternatives

- **Potential Paths Forward**

- Have a third-party certifier conduct a life cycle analysis of the product to determine its sustainability characteristics
- Post the test results on the manufacturer's website



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Greenhouse Gas Management**

Lack of information on effect product has on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

- **Potential Paths Forward**

- Have neutral third-party certifier evaluate GHG emissions
- Post GHG emission test results on manufacturer's website



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Performance**

Concern products will not perform at the same level as the current products being used

- **Potential Paths Forward**

- Have neutral third-party certifier test performance of product
- Post third-party test results and testimonials by clients on manufacturer's website
- Proactively work with Federal agencies to conduct pilot tests of product and post those results on the web



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Warranties**

Concern product will void warranty of expensive equipment

- **Potential Path Forward**

Work with manufacturers of equipment to ensure warranty will not be void



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Conformance to Standards**

Lack of information on whether products meet traditional national standards (ASTM, ANSI, etc. depending on product type)

- **Potential Path Forward**

Post ASTM, ANSI, etc. compliance information on manufacturer's website



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Health and Safety**

 - Concern about effect product might have on staff health

- **Potential Path Forward**

 - Post Material Safety Data Sheets on manufacturer's website and any third-party evaluations that indicate safety of content of the product



Challenges to Purchasing Biobased



- **Challenge: Awareness**

 - Lack of awareness the product exists

- **Potential Paths Forward**

 - Work with USDA to send announcements of new biobased products that meet specifications
 - Introduce product at DOE quarterly teleconference
 - Advertise product through traditional national advertising sources for the particular product type



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