



## Using Your Purchase Card to Buy “Green” Products

*Various laws and Presidential Executive Orders require you to purchase “green” products. The President has directed you to buy products that (a) are made with recycled content; (b) are designated as having biobased content; (c) are energy efficient; and (d) incorporate environmentally preferable attributes. When you use a purchase card to buy ‘green’ products, you and your agency are helping to perform the mission in a cost-effective manner, enhancing energy security, creating markets and jobs, and promoting environmental stewardship.*

*No matter what types of products you are buying, whether they are office, information technology, automotive, landscaping, construction, or janitorial products check first to see if they fit in the following categories and then buy green:*

### **A. You must buy recycled content products.**

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires the purchase of recycled content products designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA maintains a list of designated recycled-content products and recommends recycled-content levels that you should use when buying these products. To date, 54 recycled content products in 8 categories have been designated ranging from construction products to office products. Examples of recycled content products are recycled content copier paper and rerefined lubricating oil. Refer to [www.epa.gov/cpg](http://www.epa.gov/cpg) for the list of products, EPA’s recommendations, and additional information.

### **B. You must buy biobased products.**

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act established a Federal biobased products purchasing program. The Department of Agriculture will designate biobased products and provide guidance to you for purchasing these products. Biobased products range from citrus-based cleaners and bowls made from potato starch to construction panels made from straw. Go to [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov) and click on Green Purchasing for additional information.

### **C. You must buy energy efficient products**

“Energy efficient” includes energy efficient products in the top 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of efficiency and standby power devices. The Energy Policy Act requires that agencies select products that are in the upper 25 percent of energy efficiency as designated by the Department of Energy’s Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP). FEMP has developed Product Efficiency Recommendations that are fact sheets with energy recommendations on products such as refrigerators, monitors, and air conditioners. Presidential Executive Order 13221, “Energy-Efficient Standby Power Devices” requires you to buy products that use minimal standby power. FEMP has established a StandBy Power Device Product Listing with information on such products as computers, fax machines and printers. Refer to [www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement](http://www.eren.doe.gov/femp/procurement) for efficiency recommendations, cost-effectiveness examples, buyer tips, product sources, and for additional information.

### **D. It is important to buy environmentally preferable products.**

Presidential Executive Order 13101, “Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition” emphasizes the significance of purchasing environmentally preferable (EPP) products. These products can be viable alternatives to products that contain hazardous materials or toxic chemicals. To date, agencies have conducted more than 30 EPP projects that range from renovation of the Pentagon parking lot and building construction to acquisition of janitorial products or services. Refer to [www.epa.gov/oppt/epp](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp) for summaries of the pilot projects, sample contract language, standards information, product sources, and additional information.

It’s easy to use your purchase card to buy “green”. “Green” products are readily available to you. They can be purchased from the Defense Logistics Agency, General Services Administration, Javits Wagner O’Day sources, Federal Prison Industries, electronic catalogs, Federal supply schedules, and commercial open market sources.

The President has asked all Federal agencies to be good neighbors and good stewards of our precious resources. You can do your part by making a commitment to use your purchase card to buy "green."



*Source:  
Buy Bio Program*