

# The GreenBuy Awards

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## DOE Sustainable Acquisition Recognition Program

Recently the Department of Energy (DOE) recognized twenty-two facilities for exemplary performance in sustainable acquisition through its newly formed GreenBuy Awards program. Under the GreenBuy Program, DOE sites can obtain recognition for purchasing programs that effectively obtain products save energy, conserve water, and reduce health and environmental impacts.

The Office of Health, Safety, and Security's (HSS) Office of Sustainability Support, in coordination with the Office of Procurement and Assistance Management (MA), launched the GreenBuy program to recognize sites for "green purchasing" beyond traditional compliance requirements.

## Federal Sustainable Acquisition and Priority Products

Federal policy requires the Department 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. Federal Agencies are required to [preferentially purchase products](#) that are energy and water efficient, recyclable, less toxic, and made from renewable resources.

To comply with these requirements, and to reduce the environmental impacts associated with its operations, DOE has established requirements for the preferential purchase of products that are:

- Energy efficient
- Water efficient
- Made from recycled-content (designated by EPA)
- Made from bio-based content (designated by USDA)
- Non-toxic or less-toxic than conventional alternatives
- Registered to the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool

To help navigate this large, overlapping set of requirements, DOE developed a list of "Priority Products" that go beyond compliance to embody leadership-level sustainability attributes. The Priority Products list, which includes 40 products in 7 categories, was developed by DOE's Sustainable Acquisition Working Group after extensive research and review of dozens of green products. Products on the list support sustainable purchasing, possess advanced environmental impacts, and substantially exceed current compliance requirements.

The Priority Products list provides DOE sites with optional stretch goals they can use to help focus their sustainable acquisition efforts. Sites can tailor this list to meet their specific circumstances, allowing them to select categories and products of most value at the local level. Facilities may report additional green products and are encouraged to nominate new candidates for the list. This list also assists sites in engaging with the vendor community and informing

contract language and related reviews. [The full list of priority products is available at [http://www.hss.doe.gov/sesa/sustainability/epp/.](http://www.hss.doe.gov/sesa/sustainability/epp/)]

## **GreenBuy Awards Program**

The Priority Products list forms the backbone of DOE's new GreenBuy recognition program. GreenBuy incentivizes DOE sites to establish and report on effective programs that purchase Priority Products. To be considered for the GreenBuy Award sites voluntarily report and document their achievements using the Pollution Prevention Tracking and Reporting System (PPTRS). Sites can qualify for GreenBuy Awards at three levels —Gold, Silver, or Bronze—based on purchases of key products and categories:

- **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**

The 2012 GreenBuy Program exceeded all expectations in its first year. Nearly three-quarters of all DOE sites voluntarily reported purchasing performance. HSS reviewed and analyzed the data submissions in PPTRS and found that twenty-two sites achieved recognition, with three Gold, eight Silver, and eleven Bronze Award winners. This outcome reveals the dedication and enthusiasm of DOE staff to demonstrate leadership in sustainable environmental stewardship.

The 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; Silver Award recipients need to achieve Gold level. Site may report up to three of the same products from the previous year but must demonstrate a transition to other products from the Priority Products list. Participant facilities must extensively document each product in PPTRS to qualify, including quantities purchased, history of usage, and validation methodologies.

## **Green Buy Sustainable Acquisition Working Group and Contact Information**

The DOE Sustainable Acquisition Working Group has more than four hundred DOE Federal and contractor staff members as well as participation by program and headquarters offices. The Office of Sustainability Support founded the Working Group more than a decade ago and sponsors bimonthly conference calls, special trainings, technical support, and site-specific assistance while chairing the Working Group.

For more information regarding the GreenBuy Award program, please contact DOE Sustainable Acquisition Coordinators Jeff Eagan at [jeff.eagan@hq.doe.gov](mailto:jeff.eagan@hq.doe.gov) and 202-586-4598 or Shab Fardanesh at [shabnam.fardanesh@hq.doe.gov](mailto:shabnam.fardanesh@hq.doe.gov) and 202-586-7011. For inquiries about particular Priority Products and their qualifications, please contact DOE Sustainable Acquisition Consultant Sandra Cannon at [cannon@ecopurchasing.com](mailto:cannon@ecopurchasing.com) and 509-529-1535.