California’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program

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Background

- In 2003, Assembly Bill 498 known as the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Act codified in Public Contract Code (PCC) 12400-12404 which requires The Department of General Services to:
  - Promote EPP
  - Develop and implement a strategy to increase EPP
  - Coordinate with other state and federal agencies
  - Create training programs to instill the importance of EPP
  - Develop an EPP best practices manual
What counts as EPP?

In order to designate a purchase as EPP, the purchase must fulfill one or more of the following criteria:

- Acquired through a leveraged procurement agreement identified as an EPP commodity or contract
- Meet a DGS purchasing standard
- State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC) compliant
- Meet a third-party environmental certification
- Incorporate a take-back program
- Meet the requirements of an EPP purchase identified in an executive order, state administrative management memos, or IT policy letters
EPP Contracts

- DGS creates Statewide commodity contracts that are typically mandatory for State Agencies and available to California counties, cities and other government agencies.
- During the procurement process DGS EPP engineers research the marketplace and recommend EPP language for the contracts.
- Contracts that contain EPP language are identified for the end users to help guide their purchasing decisions.
- DGS publishes The State Contracts Index Listing on our web site that includes an indicator that the contract is EPP.
Purchasing Standards

- Some commodities are not purchased often enough or the total spend is not high enough to warrant a contract, so DGS creates Purchasing Standards.

- Purchasing Standards are documents that can be used by State agencies for purchasing under their delegation and meet the requirements to call the purchase EPP.

- DGS publishes Purchasing Standards on our web site: [DGS Buying Green Guide](#).
State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC)

SABRC was started in 1989 and has 11 reportable product categories:

- Paper Products
- Printing and Writing Paper
- Compost, Co-Compost, and Mulch
- Glass Products
- Lubricating Oil Products
- Plastic Products
- Paint
- Antifreeze
- Tires
- Tire-Derived Products
- Metal Products

The annual report detailing state agencies' annual recycled-content products is due to CalRecycle by October 31 of each year.
Environmental Certifications

- It can be difficult to find products that are truly EPP by reading sales brochures or marketing literature, so DGS identified third party environmental certifications and listed them in a matrix by commodity type.

- The matrix contains these commodities: Furniture, Lamps, Paint, Cleaners, Disposable Food Supplies, Data Storage/Servers, Computers/Monitors, Printers, TVs, and Paper Products.

- DGS publishes Third-Party Environmental Certification Matrix on our web site.
EPP Training

- The State of California has launched online, self-paced EPP training to increase the knowledge and skill of the buyers across the State.

- Training modules will focus on different organizational functions, giving DGS the ability to better tailor the information to Buyers, Supervisors and Executives.

- The Buyer course is currently available and the other two modules will be launched by the end of the year.

- DGS has training available on our web site: EPP Training
Links/Resources

- Start here:  www.dgs.ca.gov
- DGS Buying Green Guide
- California Public Contract Code (PCC) 12400-12404
- The State Contracts Index Listing
- CalRecycle
- State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC)
- Green Buyer
- EPP Training