



Green Purchasing State Profile State of Oregon



The State of Oregon has been practicing “sustainable acquisition” for over a decade, due to legislative actions, executive orders and other policies promoting sustainability in the state’s government operations. Moreover, a new executive order (12-05, ORS 279A.140(1)), *Fostering Environmentally-Friendly Purchasing and Product Design*, is quickly driving the state to develop bid specifications aimed at reducing the amount of products state agencies procure that contain highly toxic chemicals or otherwise harm people or the environment.

Green Purchasing Policies & Statutes

[Executive Order No. 12-05: Fostering Environmentally-Friendly Purchasing and Product Design](#), signed on June 1, 2012, established the *Green Chemistry Innovation Initiative* to catalyze development of innovative products in the state through “green chemistry”. This EO specifically directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to:

- Provide information on best practices and training materials on environmentally preferable purchasing to state agencies that procure goods or services;
- Consult with the OR Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other experts in the field to revise the state’s purchasing practices “to effectively reduce the amount of toxic chemicals of concern in products used by state agencies and service providers to state agencies”. The guidelines will establish clear preferences for products that are designed and manufactured using green chemistry principles. [DEQ’s Toxics Focus List](#) and other toxics priority lists will be used initially to identify toxic chemicals of concern.
- Work with other state agencies, by December 31, 2012, to begin implementing revised procurement guidelines for cleaning products on a pilot basis using, to the extent practicable, third-party product certification programs established to reduce toxic chemicals in products. (See description below of “green” cleaning supplies contracts that were awarded in 2013 and are now available for use.)
- Complete a plan, in conjunction with DEQ, for revising purchasing guidelines (including modifications to the current Life-Cycle Costing Methodology) to reduce toxic chemicals of concern in other product categories including electronics, furniture and building materials. (See summary below of *DRAFT Green Chemistry Procurement Guidelines* that were circulated for public comment in September 2013.)

[Statewide Policy No. 107-011-140: Sustainable Procurement and Internal Operations](#), effective April 1, 2009, promotes consistent sustainable practices in the procurement and internal operations of state agencies. This DAS policy outlines sustainability requirements for the acquisition, use, and disposal of goods by state facilities. It applies to office supplies, computers and other electronic devices, furniture, building maintenance products, food, food-service supplies, and automobiles and related supplies.

[Oregon Public Contracting Code \(OR PCC\) Section 279B.025: Procurement Practices Regarding Recyclable and Reusable Goods](#). This 2003 law states, “All contracting agencies shall establish procurement practices that ensure, to the maximum extent economically feasible, the procurement of goods that may be recycled or reused when discarded.”

[OR PCC Section 279B.280: Use of Recycled Products When Economically Feasible](#). This 2003 law states, “The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall review and work with state agencies to develop procurement specifications that encourage the use of recycled products whenever economically feasible, if the quality of a recycled product is functionally equal to the same product manufactured with virgin resource.” It further states, “Except for specifications that have been established to preserve the public health and safety, all specifications shall be established in a manner that encourages the procurement of recycled products.”

Green Contracts

In 2013, DAS Procurement Services, in conjunction with Washington State, developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for environmentally preferable *Janitorial Supplies, Industrial Papers, Equipment and Incidental Services*. Oregon awarded four cooperative Price Agreements (3400-3403) that offer thousands of low-toxicity, recycled-content, and other “green” products in seven categories: (1) cleaning and building maintenance chemicals, (2) hand soaps/sanitizers, (3) waste can liners, (4) janitorial paper products, (5) cleaning supplies and related custodial equipment, (6) powered janitorial equipment, and (7) compostable food service ware. A press release on this contract can be found [here](#). Solicitation requirements and price agreements can be accessed via the [Oregon Procurement Information Network \(ORPIN\)](#).

OR DAS was supported by the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) under a contract from NASPO to develop rigorous but achievable environmental specifications for each product category. Consistent with EO 12-05, many products on this contract have third-party environmental certifications based on multi-attribute standards, ensuring they offer both environmental and health benefits. This may be the most far-reaching “green” cleaning products contract in the nation and is a model for other states.

Green Purchasing Guidelines

In September 2013, Oregon issued DRAFT *Green Chemistry Procurement Guidelines* as required by EO 12-05. The guidelines recommend several strategies for purchasing “safer products”, including the use of “acceptable third-party certifications” and specifications prohibiting products that toxic contain chemicals of concern.

Green Purchasing Tools & Resources

Oregon’s sustainable procurement practices are also driven by the 2008 [DAS Sustainability Plan](#) the agency developed to help it meet the state’s seven goals for state sustainability, which includes state government sustainable procurement. Specifically, Oregon’s sustainable procurement goal seeks to:

Collaborate and coordinate on regional purchasing strategies to harness purchasing power and maximize environmental and economic value. In addition, develop a program to ensure that all state agencies “green the supply chain” by ensuring that the state uses its purchasing power to stimulate production of more sustainable products and services.

The state’s other sustainability goals include:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;
- Reducing energy consumption by 20 percent compared to 2000 levels by 2015;
- Meeting 100 percent of state government’s total electricity needs from renewable energy sources;
- Increasing the use of biodiesel in state vehicles by 25 percent and ethanol by 10 percent;
- Buying high-efficiency IT systems for state government;
- Joining the Climate Savers Computing Initiative; and
- Forming a network of state agency personnel to exchange ideas and practices, and develop new approaches to sustainability among state agencies.

In 2010, DAS published a [Sustainability Buyer’s Guide for Environmentally Preferable Office Computer Practices and Products](#) that helps state agencies find energy-efficient, low-toxicity computer products on state contracts, many of which are in the [Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool](#) (EPEAT) Registry. DAS also published a [Buyers Guide for Tires](#), highlighting models that are [certified low-resistance](#) by the U.S. EPA’s SmartWay Transport Program, which can reduce fuel and air pollutant emissions by 3 percent or more.

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This profile was developed by the Responsible Purchasing Network for the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO). Visit us at www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org.