



Green Purchasing State Profile

State of Vermont



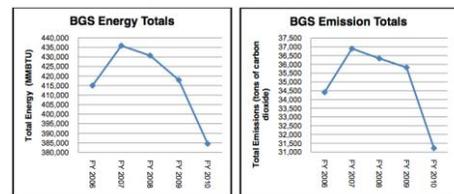
Vermont has actively purchased environmentally preferable products for over a decade. This practice supports the goals of several state laws and executive orders. The state has added environmental specifications to a wide array of contracts for products that are relatively energy efficient, made with recycled content, or certified as low-toxicity compared to equivalent conventional products. Vermont’s Office of Purchasing and Contracting has developed a website that highlights the state’s contracts that offer environmentally preferable products and services. “Greened” contracts are easily identified for visitors with eco-logos and other environmental icons.

Major Accomplishments To Date

As of 2010, nearly half of all state fleet vehicles were alternative-fueled under the Fleet Management Program of the Department of Buildings and General Services. Of these, 24% were partial zero emission vehicles (PZEV) or low emission vehicles (LEV), and 19% were hybrid cars or trucks.

Vermont’s Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) as well as other state agencies and facilities have helped the State meet its ambitious energy use reduction goals by using renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, biomass and geothermal) for heating and cooling their facilities, converting to light-emitting diode (LED) lighting systems, upgrading windows, adding controls to large appliances such as vending machines, installing sensors to automatically shut off lighting in unoccupied rooms, and following LEED processes during the design, construction and renovation of new state facilities.

Five-Year Trends from Building Projects Completed



Green Contracts



Vermont’s strong environmental values have led it to develop a broad range of contracts that offer environmentally preferable products and services. The state has made these contracts easy to identify on its [procurement website](#) with an ENERGY STAR logo, a recycled “chasing arrows” symbol, or a green leaf icon next to the contract name.

The State of Vermont has long been including environmental requirements in its requests for proposal (RFPs), and undertook a project in early 2013 to update the boilerplate language for RFPs to reflect new sustainable purchasing goals. Some examples include the following:

- **Copier Paper:** The State of Vermont requires processed chlorine-free (PCF) paper, which contains a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled material; any virgin material must be totally chlorine-free (TCF).
- **Recycled Content:** The Commissioner may spend up to 10% more for comparable products that are made of recycled material.
- **Sustainable Products:** Vendors are encouraged to provide alternate quotations on wood or paper products that are derived from sustainably managed forests and bear a third-party certification.
- **Life-Cycle Cost Analysis** shall extend beyond the cost of purchasing, to include installation, operation, maintenance, durability, and disposal of a particular piece of equipment or product.
- **Energy Efficiency:** The State will purchase only energy-consuming devices that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR or comparable federal standards.
- **Alternative Fuels:** Evaluations for vehicles and other fuel-consuming equipment shall consider not only fuel efficiency, but also the type of fuel to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants.

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Vermont's Department of Buildings and General Services website highlights contracts offering EPPs such as:

- Copy paper, janitorial paper products, envelopes, and other office supplies made with recycled content, sustainably managed non-recycled wood fiber, and chlorine-free bleaching methods.
- Personal computers, notebooks, servers and printers that are ENERGY STAR-rated, EcoLogo-certified, and on the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) registry. Latex paints and primers with a low- or no-volatile organic compound (VOC) content.
- Cleaning products, hand soaps, and other building maintenance products that are certified by Green Seal, EcoLogo, or other independent third-party organizations.
- Chlorine-free office and janitorial paper products with 100% recycled content, including up to 90% post-consumer recycled content.

Key Green Purchasing Policies

Over the past decade, Vermont adopted several policies designed to drive green purchasing by the state. Two early executive orders are no longer in effect; but they laid important groundwork for environmentally preferable purchasing by supporting goals of energy efficiency and avoidance of products containing mercury.

More recently, [Policy 0032](#), *Use of Cleaning Products in State Facilities and Leased Properties (2010)*, directs state employees to use only environmentally preferable cleaning products unless a waiver is secured.

Awards Received

- Vermont was ranked in the top 12% for energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy during 2007-2009, using its State Energy Efficiency Scorecard.
- Vermont received a 2005 Council of State Governments Innovations Award in Energy and Environment for its Comprehensive Environmental Resource Management Program (CERMP), which is tasked with advancing environmental sustainability of State government operations.

Green Purchasing Website

[Vermont's EPP website](#) explains why green purchasing is important, and conveniently links to the state's contracts that offer environmentally preferable goods and services, and links to other EPP resources. It states: *Our purpose is to help reduce the negative effects of purchases by promoting EP products through our purchasing and contracting efforts.* (Note: This website is currently being updated to reflect the state's most recent green purchasing policies and practices.)

Model Green Contract Language

Vermont's contract for PCs, notebook computers and servers is noteworthy for its clear language on accepted certifications as well as expectations about electronics recycling and reporting requirements. It reads:

Take back and other environmental programs: the contractor agrees to maintain for the term of this agreement and all renewal/extensions thereof, programs as described in the following paragraphs:

- A. Takeback/recycling of CPUs, servers, monitors, flat panel displays, notebook computers and printers. Costs are listed on the website.*
- B. Environment: Compliance with the following standards: Blue Angel, EcoLogo, Energy Star, EPEAT (by level), Green Guard, Nordic Swan and TCO.*
- C. Product labeling of compliance with items B & C above as well as an identification of such information on the website.*



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