



# Green Purchasing State Profile

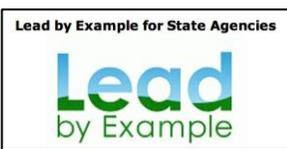
## State of Connecticut



The State of Connecticut has been practicing environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) for over two decades. Supported by the adoption of several state laws, Connecticut has added environmental specifications to bid solicitations for several product categories that are explicitly covered by the state’s green purchasing policies (such as green cleaners and energy-efficient appliances) as well as other product categories that are not specifically mentioned in its green purchasing policies (such as low-toxicity paints and compostable food service ware). In addition, the State actively publicizes the availability newly greened contracts to state agencies, municipalities, and other contract users using its website, *BuyLines* newsletter and other methods.

### Green Purchasing Accomplishments

The CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has partnered with other state agencies to help reduce energy consumption in state facilities through **Connecticut’s Lead by Example Program for State Agencies**. DAS is helping to facilitate the procurement of energy-efficiency upgrades under this program by pre-qualifying companies that can offer energy-savings performance contracting services, which was specifically authorized by state [law](#). This has enabled state agencies to undertake cost-savings upgrades to their lighting or HVAC systems or add solar-powered systems to their facilities without paying any upfront costs.



Connecticut’s Food Distribution Program, which provides food to eligible schools, has made a concerted effort to purchase more **Connecticut-grown fresh fruits and vegetables**. According to a 2012 DAS progress [report](#), during the 2011-12 school year, this state program purchased locally grown produce valued at \$153,000, which is 200% more than the prior school year.

Connecticut has effectively used its *BuyLines* publication, to widely publicize the availability of environmentally preferable products offered on its statewide contracts. For example, soon after it awarded contracts for low-toxicity painting supplies, it published an article promoting the environmental benefits of these products. By doing so, state agencies, local governments and other users of CT’s statewide contract are more likely to be aware of and consider choosing green products offered on the state’s contracts.



### Green Contracts

In 2012, the State of Connecticut, with technical support from the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) under a technical assistance contract with NASPO, added a substantial number of “green” products to two contracts for painting supplies and food service ware. (Details about these contracts are provided below.) Other contracts that have been “greened” by CT include, but are not limited to:

- several custodial service agreements that require contractors to use cleaning supplies that have a “Green Seal” and janitorial paper products with 100% post-consumer recycled content;
- a statewide contract for “Major Household Appliances” that requires many products to be ENERGY STAR-rated or comply with federal energy efficiency standards; and
- statewide office supplies contracts that offer a variety of recycled-content products as well as “take-back” system for recycling spent toner cartridges.

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## Green Purchasing Policies

Connecticut has adopted a series of green purchasing laws that amend the state's code (Chapter 58: Purchasing and Printing). These include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Sec. 4a-67h: Procedures Promoting the Procurement and Use of Recycled Products and Environmentally Preferable Products and Services by State Agencies** charges the CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS) with establishing “procedures that promote, to the greatest extent feasible, the procurement and use of recycled products and environmentally preferable products, services, and practices by state agencies.” It specifically directs DAS to:
  1. Designate environmentally preferable products, taking into consideration the raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance or disposal aspects of such products, and establish minimum standards and specifications for their procurement and use;
  2. When feasible, include the use of environmentally preferable products and services as a criteria in a multiple criteria bid or an evaluation factor in requests for proposals;
  3. Consider the use of environmentally preferable business practices when reviewing the overall performance of a bidder or proposer's business operation; and

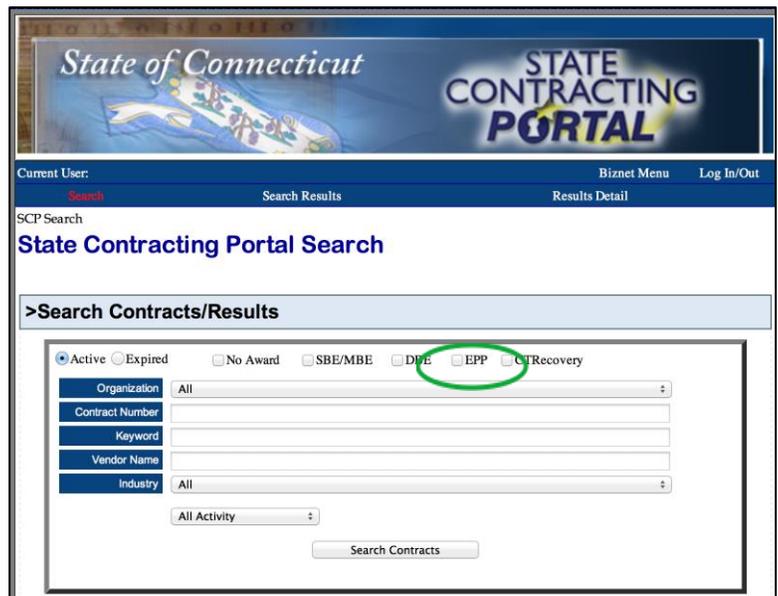
This law also instructs the Department to develop and maintain information about environmentally preferable products, services and practices; provide implementation assistance for use in bid solicitations and evaluation processes; and monitor EPP procurement and use.

- **Sec. 4a-67c: Equipment and appliances for state use...** directs state agencies to procure ***equipment and appliances*** that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR or other federal or state energy conservation standards. It also requires bids for appliances and other energy-using products to be evaluated using life-cycle cost analysis that factors in projected energy costs. 
- **Sec. 4a-67e: Standards for purchase of recycled paper** mandates that all copy paper purchased for state agency use must meet federal recycled-content guidelines (i.e., contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content). The same standard applies to state lottery tickets and tax return forms, except those made of newsprint, which must contain at least 20% post-consumer recycled content.
- **Sec. 4a-67b: Elimination of use of disposable and single-use products in state government** directs the DAS Commissioner to develop and implement a plan to eliminate the use of disposable and single-use products in state facilities. It also states that DAS “shall not procure any product for state use if the original manufacturer of the product prohibits the remanufacture or recycling of such product...” with an exception for products that have contracted take-back arrangements. In March 2010, DAS **banned the purchase of bottled water** for state agencies except when no other potable water options exist.
- **Sec. 4b-15a: Cleaning Products in State Buildings** prohibits the use of cleaning products in state-owned buildings that do not meet standards set by an environmental certification program approved by DAS, which currently includes Green Seal and EcoLogo. This law excludes disinfectants and cleaning products for which there are no “green” certifications. 
- **Sec. 4a-67d: Purchase of cars and light duty trucks...** requires the state fleet to have an average fuel efficiency rating of at least 40 miles per gallon, and “obtain the best achievable mileage per pound of CO2 emissions in its class.” By January 2012, 100% of the fleet must be comprised of alternative-fuel, hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles, unless an exception is approved. An annual report details the composition of the fleet and any emissions standards exceptions granted.

## Green Purchasing Website

The DAS Procurement Division has developed a one-stop [Environmentally Preferred Purchasing website](#), which makes it easy for contract users and vendors to find relevant state policies, an EPP training video, and other important information on this topic. It features a link to state contracts that offer “green” products and services.

In addition, the State’s main procurement website includes search feature that allows “EPP” contracts to be easily located with a single checkbox click. This integrated green contracts search portal, which can be accessed [here](#), also enables the list of EPP contracts to be continually updated.



## Model Green Contract Language

In 2012, Connecticut negotiated a comprehensive statewide contract for [Food Service Supplies](#) that offers a robust supply of environmentally preferable products. Past contracts were set up to primarily offer discounted conventional products such as polystyrene plates and cups. In contrast, the new bid specifications encouraged vendors to also bid compostable, recycled-content, and reusable alternatives alongside each conventional product listed. The bid required third-party compostability certification for products made of biobased plastics, but also allowed 100% paper products (which are inherently compostable) to meet the specification as well. This contract innovation enabled a wider array of compostable products to be included on the contract, thereby increasing competition and lowering costs. This contract was facilitated by clear bid solicitation language (see pages 23-24 of the RFP): “All items highlighted in green are environmentally preferable. These products are: (A) Certified Commercially Compostable, (B) EcoLogo- or Green Seal-Certified (paper towels and napkins), (C) Made with Minimum Recycled Content, and/or (D) Reusable/durable.”

Connecticut’s statewide contract for [Painting Supplies](#) offers a full pallet of environmentally preferable products such as:

- Recycled and low-VOC paints and coatings, which must be certified by Green Seal, EcoLogo or the Master Painter’s Institute to meet both environmental and performance criteria; and
- Specialty cleaning products, which must meet at least one environmental standard (e.g., USDA Biobased Certified), EPA Design for the Environment (DfE) Recognition, ENERGY STAR-rated (for reflective roof coatings), water-based, or compliant with stringent limits on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with can contribute to indoor air pollution or smog.

This contract was awarded to multiple vendors of low-toxicity virgin paints and two recycled paint vendors.

A [Food and Catering Services](#) contract for the CT Fire Academy includes several requirements designed to meet the State’s goals of health promotion, environmental preferability, energy efficiency, wage standards compliance, and local food sourcing, emphasizing that the State encourages a “green” approach to the provision of services. For example, each entrée must include at least one vegetable and food products may not contain trans fat. Also, appliances must meet or exceed ENERGY STAR or other federal energy-efficiency standards.

Similarly, a [statewide contract for distribution of food to public schools](#) requires the Contractor to “provide documented efforts, when requested, demonstrating production and/or successful acquisition of CT Grown products and how this contract will enhance future local purchases from Connecticut farmers.”



This profile was developed by the Responsible Purchasing Network on behalf of NASPO. Visit us at [www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org](http://www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org).