



# Green Purchasing State Profile

## State of California



The State of California has been actively purchasing environmentally preferable goods and services for over two decades. Supported by several state laws and Executive Orders (EOs), California operates an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program that continually evaluates contracts for EPP inclusion, targeting those with opportunities for improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preventing other negative impacts on human health and the environment. A major emphasis of California’s EPP Program is to inform state agency procurement representatives about existing EPP policies and contracts, which it accomplishes with its Buying Green website and through training and outreach events.

The State of California Department of General Services (DGS) Procurement Division’s organizational structure supports cross-functional teamwork, which gives EPP a greater reach. Buyers, engineers, subject matter experts, and other agency staff work together to define and construct bid specifications and evaluation criteria. The EPP Program incorporates inter-agency support on key environmentally significant procurements in specification development.

### Green Purchasing Laws and Policies

The State of California’s EPP Program is established, defined and governed by the **Public Contract Code Sections 12400-12404**. The law directs the DGS to implement the EPP program. In consultation with California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and other stakeholders, the EPP program provides the following:

- Policies, guidelines, programs and regulations
- Training, information and assistance
- Best practices manual; The Buying Green Guide

Several EO’s have been issued directing state agencies to purchase and use environmentally preferable goods and services that meet performance standards and are cost-effective. A major EO relevant to EPP is EO B-18-12, which directs state agencies to implement measures in the state’s ***Green Building Action Plan*** for facilities owned, funded, or leased by the state, including:

- Purchase, install and operate USEPA ENERGY STAR-rated equipment and appliances, when cost effective over their life.
- Consider the purchase and use of recycled and low-VOC paints.
- Use quality remanufactured ink and toner cartridges to the extent possible.
- Purchase, install and operate WaterSense-labeled fixtures and irrigation equipment, whenever cost effective.

The state also adopted a **“Buy Recycled” law** (PCC 12153-12156) that directs the DGS to work with all state agencies to “draft, establish and implement policies that ensure the procurement and use of recycled resources.”

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### Green Contracts

EPP is integrated into the statewide procurement process such that all statewide Leveraged Procurement Agreements are evaluated for EPP inclusion. Environmental specifications have been included in many of the State’s contracts including, but not limited to:

- **Fluorescent Lamps:**  
As of 2006, the State of California specified higher energy efficiency and reduced toxicity for lamps



offered on statewide contracts. In 2007, the State of California implemented a limit of 5.0 mg of mercury for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) sold in the state. In 2010, the EPP Program investigated the marketplace and was able to set a lower mercury limit of 3.5 mg for all compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) without compromising competition or performance even though state law provided for a maximum limit of 5.0 mg. The awarded contractor was able to provide CFLs with an even lower mercury content of 2.5 mg. Other EPP specification requirements include Energy Star qualification for all offered CFLs, reduced toxicity for other types of fluorescent lamps, and allowed only electronic ballasts, rather than the less energy-efficient magnetic ballasts.

- **Multi-functional Devices (MFDs):** In 2012, the DGS awarded 18 contracts for printers and multi-function devices, which combine printing and/or copying with other functions such as scanning and/or faxing. The specification for these contracts included multiple environmental criteria, such as:
  - Bidders may not offer equipment for which there are restrictions on the recycling or remanufacture of toner or ink cartridges.
  - Products must comply with current ENERGY STAR imaging equipment criteria.
  - All machines must be delivered pre-set in duplex mode.
  - Bidders must declare that all products comply with the European Union Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive.
  - Equipment may not contain certain highly toxic polybrominated flame retardant chemicals.
  - Bidders must identify the amount of post-consumer recycled content in their products.
  - Packaging must be recyclable and meet or exceed California recycled content guidelines.
  - Bidders must make available take-back (recycling) services for printers and MFDs as well as spent toner and ink cartridges.



- **Office Furniture:** For modular office systems, known as Open Office Panel Systems (OOPS), the EPP Program developed specifications benefiting public health and the environment. Several key elements include:
  - Highly persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic flame retardants called penta- and octa-brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs) are limited to 0.01% in the products offered.
  - Plastic foam may not be manufactured using ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
  - Emissions of total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs), formaldehyde (a carcinogen) and several other individual toxic VOCs are limited.
  - Furniture containing lighting equipment must be lit with lamps and ballasts that are relatively energy efficient; in addition, lamps must meet or exceed specified lamp life ratings and may not contain more than 5 mg of mercury.
  - Manufacturers must provide recycled-content reports.



- **Recycled Paint:** In 2012, the DGS issued a contract for recycled latex paint products that contain a minimum of 50% post-consumer materials. The specification for recycled paint required the volatile organic compound (VOC) level to be no more than 150 g/l, which is much lower than the state's most restrictive regulatory limit of 250 g/l VOCs. The specification excluded recycled paint formulated for indoor use due to potential indoor air quality impacts, which may pose a public health concern.



- **Toner and Ink Cartridges:** In 2010, the DGS awarded two mandatory statewide contracts that offer environmentally preferable ink and toner cartridges as well as free recycling services for empty cartridges. State employees and other public agencies in California can use these contracts to purchase remanufactured and high-yield ink and toner cartridges.

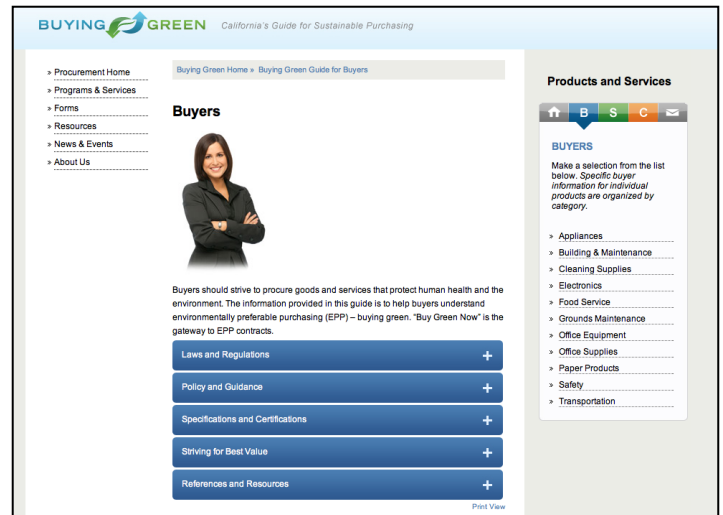


For a complete list of the State of California's contracts offering environmentally preferable good and services, visit the *Buying Green* website at <http://www.dgs.ca.gov/BuyingGreen>

### Buying Green Website

The DGS EPP Program has created a one-stop **Buying Green website** that provides information, tools and tips for buyers as well as insight for suppliers on how the state views “green” products and services. The website features 11 categories that highlight available green contracts, including:

- Appliances
- Ammunition
- Building Maintenance Supplies
- Cars
- Cleaning Supplies
- Computers
- Copy Paper
- Food Service Supplies
- Food Service Ware
- Furniture
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Janitorial Paper
- Lighting Equipment
- Monitors
- Pesticides (for Buildings)
- Pesticides (for Grounds)
- Printers/MFDs
- Printing and Writing Paper



- Recycled Paint
- Safety Vests
- Stationery
- Traffic Control Products
- Traffic Paint
- Trucks
- Vehicle Fuel
- Vehicle Maintenance



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](http://www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org).