



Green Purchasing State Profile

State of Maine



The State of Maine's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Program was created to reduce the environmental and health impacts associated with procurement, lower costs where possible, and increase operational efficiency.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- All printing bids have recycled content specifications.
- All housekeeping supplies have green specifications.
- Vehicle bids have included hybrid or alternative fuel specifications.

Key Green Purchasing Policy

The State of Maine's **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**, signed on November 4, 2004, affirms the state's dedication to environmentally preferable procurement by purchasing products and contracting for services that have a reduced negative impact on human health and the natural environment in comparison to other products and services that serve similar purposes. The policy states that Maine shall carry on its efforts to seek ways to increase the acquisition of such products and services, to the extent feasible, balancing price, performance, availability, and safety.



Green Purchasing Program Overview

Maine's Environmental Purchasing program achieves the goals of the purchasing policy by engaging in multiple strategies including:

- Establishing an EPP Team with membership from the Departments of Administrative and Financial Services and Environmental Protection. Work will include developing and communicating specific work plans that promote the State EPP Policy, researching new environmentally sustainable products, educating employees about emerging best-practices in EPP, periodically re-evaluating goals, practices, and the EPP Policy and Program, and developing and providing information for State agencies to help them identify, assess, and procure EPP products, when feasible;
- Considering several factors in making best value (as that term is defined at 5 M.R.S.A. 1825-B(7)) determinations, including, but not limited to, fuel efficiency and use of alternative fuels, recycled content percentages, energy- and water-efficiency ratings, materials content, emissions, waste generation, toxicity, and recyclability;

- Seeking recognized certifications in determining the products that best reflect the policy;
- Increasing the selection of EPP products on State contracts and eliminating non-EPP product alternatives, when feasible;
- Working with vendors to learn about and promote EPP;
- Identifying EPP cost-saving opportunities through product life-cycle cost assessments and alternative procurement methods;
- Setting annual targets for increased EPP purchases and communicating those targets to State agencies;
- Continuing to offer municipalities and school districts the opportunity to benefit from various State of Maine contracts, including those involving EPP products;
- Identifying the most significant purchases made on an annual basis and taking steps to ensure that the products contain EPP criteria when feasible; and
- Incorporating EPP specifications into service contracts and grants.

Green Contracts

Maine has numerous contracts that include green specifications or bid evaluation criteria. All of the state's printing bids require vendors to indicate if they are bidding recycled (minimum of 30% post-consumer content), and they receive a 10% price preference over virgin stock. The state has also participated in a national RFP with the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) for Natural Gas Vehicles, and published its own RFQ for Gas/Electric Hybrid Vehicle specifications. In addition, the state's contracts for housekeeping supplies, batteries, linoleum flooring, and carpet tiles all include green specifications.

Green Purchasing Tools & Resources

Maine's [EPP website](#) includes information on the state's purchasing policy, program and lists the state's commodity and service contracts. It also provides information to various cooperative purchasing contracts that state agencies may take advantage of.

Green Purchasing Contact

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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.