Green Purchasing Policies
The State of Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) include a selection of environmentally preferable purchasing requirements, appearing under Title 23, governing Heath and Safety, and Title 37, Public Property and Works. These include:

RIGL 37-2-76, State purchase of recycled products. Promotes the purchase of recycled products and mandates annual reporting by the Department of Administration on utilization of recycled products. 50% of office paper expenditure must be made on “recycled paper.”

RIGL 23-24.9-15, State procurement preferences for low or nonmercury-added products. Grants preference and priority to the purchase of equipment, supplies, etc. that do not contain mercury-added components. These provisions are a part of the Mercury Reduction and Education Act (Chapter 23-24.9), which also requires labeling specifically for mercury-added lamps, and establishes a Mercury advisory working group.

RIGL 23-24.10-13, the state procurement section of the Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling Act lays out ambitious goals for electronic product purchasing specifications. By 2009, at least 95% of relevant products are expected to be registered to the Electronic Product Assessment Tool (EPEAT). Vendor take-back programs are required, and products designed for environmental preservation are granted a purchasing preference.

State Senate Resolution 06276, passed in May 2006, urged the adoption of S2627, a proposed bill to address the use of cleaning products. The resolution urged the Department of Administration to use “environmentally-safe and health-friendly cleaning products” in state workplaces and facilities.

Key Green Contracts
Negotiated in 2004 and renewed through most of 2013, Electric Supplies, Lamps and Tubes fulfills the requirements of Rhode Island’s mercury reduction act through clear contract language. Thermometers, thermostats, manometers, pilot lights, and other products are required to contain no mercury unless a mercury-free product that meets users’ needs is unavailable. Contractors are expected to provide relevant information for disposal and/or recycling of any items containing mercury, and agree to work with the state on further mercury reduction.

A statewide contract for Alternate Fuel Vehicles includes cars and trucks in both “flexible fuel” and hybrid varieties.

Rhode Island’s contract for Paint and Paint Supplies, featured on their Master Price Agreement list, uses Master Painter’s Institute standards for “green” painting supplies. Vendors bidding on the contract must demonstrate the ability to supply a “full line of ‘green’ certified paints” for state users requesting them.