

## Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

Virtually Held

**Purpose:** Quarterly Meeting of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC)

**Attendees:**

<u>GPC Membership</u>			
Victoria Nellis, DGS (Chair)	Present	Tracy Bees, <b>DNR</b>	
Sam Linton, DGS (Staff)	Present	Joseph Sedtal, <b>DPSCS</b>	
Joseph Consoli, <b>DBM</b>		Cissy Blasi, <b>Treasurer's Office</b>	Present
Rachel Cruse, <b>Commerce</b>	Present	Eddie Lukemire, <b>MDOT</b>	Present
Jeremy Wilson, <b>MSDE</b>	Present	Tom Hickey, <b>USM</b>	Present
Dinesh Gandhi, <b>MDE</b>		Dionne Washington, <b>MDH</b>	
June Dwyer, <b>MDE</b>		Carla Thompson, <b>DoIT</b>	Present

**Other Participants**

Danielle Adams, SDAT  
 Cathe Anderson, MDTA  
 Johanna Anderson, EPA  
 Theresa Bees, DNR  
 Troy Davis, MDTA  
 Dominic Edet, TU  
 Hilal Efe, DGS  
 Sabrina Fields, MDH  
 Chanel Franze, TU  
 Jaunita Gray, MDOT  
 David Hollens, MDOT-TSO  
 Nakia Howell, MDH  
 Richard Keller, Balt Co.  
 Calvin Johnson, MDH

Meghan Johnson-Bey, TU  
 Tim Kerr, MDE  
 Hugo Lam, MDOT  
 Jenna Larkin, EPA  
 Arhea Lazzelle, BISM  
 Elizabeth Main, UMB  
 Tanya Mekeal, MDOT  
 Pam Malech, Judiciary  
 Julissa Marcano, DGS  
 Kimberly McAllister, DGS  
 Samuel Murril, MDOT  
 Wendy Nabb, MDH  
 Kathy Nicholson, MDOT  
 Shania Peacock, MDOT

Aaron Peterson, DOA  
 Kim Pezza, Comptroller  
 Rudi Rheams, DPSCS  
 Steven Riley, MDTA  
 Glenn Roscoe, MSU  
 Marsha Rowe, Judiciary  
 Emmanuel Smith, DGS  
 Tara Smith, DPSCS  
 Sharida Studwood, MDH  
 David St. Jean, DGS  
 Melanie Vrabel-Adams, EPA  
 April Weimer, MDOT  
 Akia Wheeler, MDTA

## **Minutes:**

### I. Welcome

- Vicki Nellis thanked all the attendees to the quarterly Green Purchasing Committee meeting and reviewed the agenda. She informed attendees that this meeting will be recorded.

### II. Presentation: Sustainable Products & Procurement in the Federal Government, Jenna Larkin, Melanie Adams, and Johanna Anderson, EPA

- Jenna Larkin is with the EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program. She gave an overview of their sustainable purchasing directives, recommendations of specifications, standards, and ecolabels, as well as recent updates to their program.
  - *Watch Jenna's presentation [here](#) (4:29 - 19:15).*
- Melanie Vrabel-Adams is with the EPA's Safer Choice Program. She introduced the Safer Choice and Design for Environment (DfE) ecolabel. This certification covers a variety of cleaning products for household, outdoor, industrial, and commercial uses. Melanie explained the different criteria that meet the environmental standards of this ecolabel.
  - *Watch Melanie's presentation [here](#) (19:15 - 36:12).*
- Johanna Anderson is with the EPA working with the Low Embodied Carbon Construction Materials Programs. She provided updates about their team and the initiatives that will take place in the future. This team was formed as a result of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, directing the EPA to determine low embodied carbon construction material standards, create a label that identifies low carbon construction materials, and provide the funding and technical assistance necessary to increase the amount of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for those materials.
  - *Watch Johanna's presentation [here](#) (36:17 - 56:03).*
- *Questions after the presentation ([56:04 - 1:06:00](#))*

### III. GPC Business & Activities Update - provided by Vicki Nellis.

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - The GPC meeting minutes for August were motioned to approve by Thomas Hickey with the University System of Maryland. Jeremy Wilson with the Department of Education seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were approved.
- Green Purchasing Specialist Graduation
  - Over 20 procurement officers received the GPS certification after completing the class. This course takes a deeper dive into green purchasing and greening contracts.
  - Graduation will be held January 14, 2024 at 9am, combined with the CMPO graduation.
- New Logo
  - The GPC has updated their logo for their website.

### IV. Updated Green Purchasing Checklist & Processes - provided by Vicki Nellis.

- The GPC has updated their Green Purchasing Checklist. There are now two checklists: 1. Commodities, Services, and IT and 2. Construction and Architectural/ Engineering services.
  - The completion of this checklist will be a requirement for all procurements.
  - *Access the document [here](#).*
- Green Pre-Bid & Pre-Proposal Guidance
  - This guidance document provides key talking points for procurement officers to discuss

during pre-bid/proposal meetings that include green requirements.

- *Access the document [here](#).*
- Green Sumbittal Review Requirements
  - This document covers the different requirements that procurement officers may need to verify when reviewing Bidders/Offerors environmental claims. It includes the resources available for checking the environmental criteria that claims to be in the product/service.
  - *Access the document [here](#).*

#### V. Reporting Update - provided by Sam Linton

- The GPC is in the process of writing the annual report for FY2024. All 20 statewide vendors that the GPC receives data from have submitted their reports. There are 16 agencies that have submitted reports.
- GPC report
  - The green spend total are currently as shown
    - Agency Green Spend: \$27,633,913
      - Increase in ~ \$6,000,000 from FY2023
    - Statewide Vendor Green Spend: \$27,444,553
      - Increase in ~7,000,000 from FY2023
    - Total Green Spend: \$55,078,466
    - Current Green Spend: 4.6%
      - This is the percentage of verified environmentally preferable products to the products with no environmental attributes.

#### VI. Upcoming Training & Events - provided by Vicki Nellis

- Annual Business Summit November 19th.
  - Session on Green Purchasing and EV programs.
- PG County Compost Facility tour(date coming soon).
  - Vicki asked attendees to email the GPC if you have interest in attending.
- Landscaping Services Specification workshop November 26th.
  - View recording on Youtube [here](#).
- Agency Reporting Training January 28th, 11am-12pm.
  - Link to register [here](#).

#### VI. Member Announcements & Upcoming GPC Meetings

- Discussion occurred from [1:21:30 - 1:25:30](#) of recording.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
January 9, 2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
February 13, 2024	10:00am - 12:00pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting
April 10, 2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
May 8, 2025	10:00am - 12:00pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting

## IX. Conclusion

- Victoria Nellis, GPC staff, thanked all the attendees and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Linton,  
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee