

Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

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

Other Participants

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tishana Adams, DHS | Shannon Graves, DHS | Wendy Nabb, MDH |
| Tierra Ali-Said, DGS | Jaunita Gray, MDOT | Shania Peacock, MDOT |
| Lynna Atkins, DPSCS | Corteze Grimes, SHA | Tina Quinichette, MDOT |
| Enoch Augustusel, TU | Nakia Howell, MDH | Rachel Pace, Grainger |
| Melane Boltz, MDH | Rod Johnson, DGS | Kim Pezza, Comptroller |
| Carlesia Byrd-Evans, DGS | Tiffani Johnson, DGS | Keon Pompey, DJS |
| Maria Cazaban, DHS | Richard Keller, Balt Co | Rudi Rheams, DPSCS |
| Atif Chaudhry, DGS | Jessica Knott, DGS | Steven Riley, MDTA |
| Troy Davis, MDTA | Toni Latimore, DHS | Glenn Roscoe, Towson |
| Samuel Durai-Pandian, MHEC | Arhea Lazzelle, BISM | Marsha Rowe, Judiciary |
| Dominic Edet, TU | Shirlita Lee, MHEC | Yolanda Waugh, DHS |
| Sabrina Fields, MDH | Elizabeth Main, UMB | Ansonia Saunders, DGS |
| Chanel Franze, TU | Pam Malech, Judiciary | Gennadiy Shoykedbrod, DGS |
| Dyvor Gibson, Commerce | Ulises Mariona | Emmanuel Smith, DGS |
| | Kimberly McAllister, DGS | Matther Smith, DGS |
| | Yasin Mohammed, DGS | Tara Smith, DPSCS |

Sharida Studwood, MDH
Sally Smart, Grainger
Henry ThorStraten, DHS

Scott Versteegh, UMD
Patricia Watson, TU
Christine Walker, Grainger

Alex Webb, Towson
Amanda Sadler, DHCD
Lance Wolf, MDH

Minutes:

I. Welcome, DGS Secretary Atif Chaudhry

- 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.
- Atif Chaudhry, DGS Secretary gave opening remarks of the first GPC meeting of 2025. He thanked the attendees for their participation and engagement in sustainable purchasing. The Secretary highlighted the success of the committee and mentioned that this is a critical goal of the State to reduce their overall environmental impact.
 - *Watch opening remarks from the Secretary [here](#) (1:11- 8:25)*

II. Presentation: Grainger's Sustainability Capabilities, Rachel Pace & Sally Smart, Grainger

- Rachel Pace, State Contract Manager at Grainger welcomed the attendees and introduced Sally Smart, Manager of Customer Strategy and Sustainability.
- Sally gave a presentation on Grainger's Environmental, Social, and Governance Program (ESG). She showed the steps that Grainger takes through their everyday operations to include sustainable practices through looking at emissions, waste reduction, water consumption, and more aspects.
 - *Watch Sally's presentation [here](#) (10:07- 46:58).*
- Rachel went through Grainger's online e-commerce platform that shows compliant products with built-in features that highlight its sustainability. She also went over ways to easily update those complaint products existing contracts.
 - *Watch Rachel's walkthrough of Grainger's e-commerce platform [here](#) (47:59 - 55:30).*

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

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - The GPC meeting minutes for November were motioned to approve by Dionne Washington with the Department of Health. Carla Thompson with the Department of Information Technology seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were approved.
- Green Purchasing Annual Report FY2024
 - The Green Purchasing Committee mentioned that the State achieved \$100,811,525 in green spend that increased from the previous fiscal year. \$100,811,525 was the recorded green spend.
 - Statewide Contracts \$50,959,117
 - Agency Green Spend \$27,609,079
 - Renewable Energy \$19,323,160
 - Electric Vehicles \$920, 169
 - EV Charging Infrastructure \$2,000,000
- Legislative Session 2025 - provided by Vicki Nellis
 - [HB69](#): Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program
 - Prohibiting certain producers of certain plastic products from selling, offering for sale, or distributing the products to any person in the State unless certain conditions are met;
 - Requiring certain producers of certain plastic products to, individually or as part of a

- representative organization, register yearly, beginning March 1, 2026, and pay a registration fee annually beginning May 15, 2026, to the Department of the Environment;
- Establishing minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage requirements for certain products; etc.
- [HB338](#): State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste
 - Prohibiting a person from disposing of yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a single-use plastic container;
 - Requiring a person to collect yard waste on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a container that will not be discarded with the yard waste or is a compostable paper bag;
 - Requiring all yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway to be disposed of in a certain manner under certain circumstances.
 - [HB386](#): Pesticides - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions
 - Requiring, by January 1, 2026, the Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a list of certain registered pesticides that list PFAS chemicals as an active ingredient on the labeling accompanying the pesticide;
 - Prohibiting, beginning June 1, 2026, a person from using, for certain purposes, PFAS pesticides listed by the Department;
 - Prohibiting, beginning June 1, 2028, a person from using PFAS pesticides in the State; etc.
 - [HB1342](#): Pesticide and Pest Control - State-Owned Property - Pesticide Use Restrictions and Pollinator Habitat
 - Authorizing a person to apply a pesticide on State-owned property only if the person is applying a listed pesticide or a registered pesticide for specified purposes;
 - Requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a model pesticide and pollinator habitat management plan to be implemented on State-owned and managed property;
 - Requiring a unit of State government that manages tracts of State-owned property to work with the Department to adapt the model plan.
 - [HB701](#): Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions (Clean Air Quiet Communities Act)
 - Prohibiting the State from purchasing gasoline-powered leaf blowers beginning July 1, 2025;
 - Establishing a certain process to phase out on or before a certain date the use by the State of gasoline-powered leaf blowers;
 - Requiring a person that sells or offers for sale a gasoline-powered leaf blower in the State to provide certain notice to the purchaser or potential purchaser;
 - Prohibiting the sale of gasoline-powered leaf blowers beginning on January 1, 2027; etc.
 - [HB973](#): Maryland Building Performance Standards - Fossil Fuel Use, Energy Conservation, and Electric- and Solar-Ready Standards (Better Buildings Act of 2025)
 - Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt, by October 1, 2025, and as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, energy conservation requirements, an electric- and solar-ready standard for certain buildings, and a requirement that new buildings and significant improvements meet all laundry, water,

and space heating demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels.

V. Specifications - provided by Sam Linton

- The GPC is in the process of drafting six specifications. Three are updated specifications and the other three are new standalone specifications.
 - Appliances
 - Additional requirement that air purifiers, dishwashers, steam cookers, and water coolers must be compliant with the Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards and listed in the [State Appliance Standards Database \(SASD\)](#).
 - Landscaping Supplies
 - Additional requirement that spray sprinkler bodies must be compliant with the Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards and listed in the [State Appliance Standards Database \(SASD\)](#).
 - Plumbing & Water Fixtures
 - Additional requirement that spray sprinkler bodies must be compliant with the Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards and listed in the [State Appliance Standards Database \(SASD\)](#).
 - Batteries
 - Categories include rechargeable batteries, single-use batteries, battery chargers, disposal.
 - Requirements for batteries include battery chemistry, mAh minimums, and battery charger and disposal.
 - Toner
 - Categories cover general toners, remanufactured toners, and take-back services
 - Requirements include high yield or remanufactured toners as priority, standard testing methods for remanufactured, and requiring the vendor offer a take back program
 - Paper
 - Categories cover general paper, writing use, newsprint, paperboard & packaging, janitorial use, miscellaneous, and verification
 - Requirements include the minimum recycled content numbers broken down by paper types
- These draft specifications will be reviewed by members of the committee and subject matter experts for feedback. The deadline to provide feedback is March 14th.

VI. Upcoming Training & Events - provided by Sam Linton

- Purchaser Training Page
 - The Maryland Green Purchasing Committee's website has a Purchaser Training Page containing all of the past training given by the GPC, to allow users to access them easily.
 - *View purchaser training page [here](#)*
- Green Purchasing Specialization: Next cohort tentatively scheduled to start September 2025
 - *Interest form for signup [here](#).*

- PG County Compost Facility tour April 1st, 10:00-11:30am
 - *Link to register [here](#).*
- Vendor Reporting Workshop March 11th, 12:00-1:00pm
 - Virtual workshop designed to walk vendors through the Green Purchasing template
 - *Link to register [here](#)*
- Earth Day Event April 30th, 11:00-1:00pm
 - Vendors, electric vehicle display, activities, and more! Agencies interested in having a table should reach out to the GPC.
 - *Interest form [here](#)*

VI. Member Announcements & Upcoming GPC Meetings

- *Watch member announcements [here](#) (1:23:40 - 1:28:39)*

Date	Time	Meeting Type
April 10, 2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
May 8, 2025	10:00am - 12:00pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting
July 10, 2025	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
August 14, 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