

Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

May 14th, 2026, 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	Lynna Atkins, DPSCS	Present
Sam Linton, DGS (Staff)	Present	Cissy Blasi, Treasurer's Office	Present
Larntina Teaseley, DBM	Present	Eddie Lukemire, MDOT	Present
Rachel Cruse, Commerce		Tom Hickey, USM	Present
Jeremy Wilson, MSDE	Present	Dionne Washington, MDH	Present
Acacia Lang, MDE	Present	Chris Hautala, DoIT	
Theresa Bees, DNR	Present		

Other Participants

Aaron Peterson, MDOA	Elizabeth Richardson, MDOT	Paul Dickman, DHCD
Adam VanGorder, DGS	Erica Stuckey, DJS	Richard Keller, Baltimore County
Alex Webb, MDOT	Franck Adoube, MDOT	Rudi Rheams, DPSCS
Amanda Sadler, DHCD	Josey Schwartz, MDE	Ryan Jeffries, Baltimore City
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM	Juanita Gray, MDOT	Sabrina Fields, MDH
Carlesia Byrd-Evans, DGS	Katie Teague, MDOT	Scott Versteegh, UMB
Cherrell Keys, DOA	Kimberly Johnson, DVMF	Shanae Creek, TU
Christian Gourdin, MDOT	Maria Cazabon, DHS	Shannon McDonald, MDE
Christopher Platt, SDAT	Marsha Rowe, MD Judiciary	Sherida Studwood, MDH
Danielle Adams, SDAT	Nakia Howell, MDH	Steven Riley, MDOT
David Clurman, UMBC	Pam Malech, MD Judiciary	Tammie Wells, MDH
Dyvor Gibson, Commerce	Patricia Watson, TU	Tara Smith, DPSCS

Minutes:

I. Welcome

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

II. Presentation: *The Gift of Mobility*, Cherrell Keys, DME Program Manager.

- Cherrell gave a presentation introducing the Maryland Durable Medical Equipment program. The program's goal is to provide necessary medical equipment for individuals around the state. The types of medical equipment they provide ranges widely based on the individual's needs and the amount of time they will need the equipment.
- The medical equipment gets inspected and washed before and after it reaches the person. They reuse this durable equipment several times before it must be recycled or disposed.
- The DME program began in 2020 and has rapidly grown in size and in inventory. The durable medical equipment program to date has helped many individuals in the state, along with its significant environmental impact.



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

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - The GPC meeting minutes for February were motioned to approve by Thomas Hickey. Dionne Washington seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were approved.
- March GPS (Green Purchasing Specialization).
 - The GPC completed another cohort of the GPS course in March. 18 new procurement officers earned the certification, totalling over 100 GPS graduates who have the certification in the State of Maryland.
- Electronics Recycler Tour (Electronics Value Recovery)
 - On March 24th, several state employees toured the EVR location in Baltimore to learn about electronics and battery recovery. The group was able to see the warehouse and operations

- performed to keep the facility safe and productive.
 - The warehouse contained several types of electronics, some of which were manufactured several decades ago. The EVR team plans accordingly for every electronic device and battery size with the aim to recover scrap metals for reuse.
- Earth Month Webinar Series
 - During the month of April, the GPC organized a series of webinars that covered a variety of sustainability topics.
 - First session (4/8/26) - LEED basics and v5 <https://youtu.be/J6WxQtRBBx4>
 - Second session (4/10/26) - EV Apps and Resources https://youtu.be/hddr_XWR7rI
 - Third Session (4/14) - Maryland Green Building Programs <https://youtu.be/DxJohQEV6kM>
 - Fourth Session (4/16) - Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Grant Program <https://youtu.be/RaUwdhNeS-0>
 - Fifth Session (4/21) - Electronic & Mattress Recycling <https://youtu.be/ROSszYk0TaA>
- DME Tour
 - The GPC toured the Durable Medical Equipment facility and learned about the program they are running to assist individuals in the State of Maryland. DME provides many types of durable equipment that is specialized to the person's needs. The equipment is washed, maintained, and reused for the next person. The program has grown rapidly in size since 2020.
- CMPO/GPS Graduation
 - The graduation for GPS and CMPO in April celebrated all of the procurement officers who earned their certifications. The GPC has now successfully trained and certified over 100 state employees to empower them to make sustainable procurement decisions.
- Earth Day Recap
 - DGS hosted an Earth Day event for state employees. The event featured an EV ride and Drive, and several vendors and state agencies staffing tables to educate state employees on sustainable initiatives happening in Maryland. This Earth Day event was successful and the GPC intends to host an Earth Day event in the following years.
- Veterans Compost Tour
 - A group of state employees visited Veterans Compost Facility to learn how they create compost on site and where they acquire the material that can be used for composting. The operations are efficiently done to produce compost and provide it to landscaping companies and other entities that utilize compost.
- Legislative Update
 - [BPW Advisory 2026-1](#)
 - The purpose of this advisory is to provide guidance to procurement agencies on information required to be included in Board of Public Works agenda action items

related to climate and sustainability.

- *Details of this bill can be found in the [hyperlinks](#).*

IV. Specifications - provided by Vicki Nellis

- [Flooring and Adhesives](#) (update)
 - Tom Hickey motioned to approve the specification, Acacia Laing seconded the motion, and the specification was approved
- [Paints and Coatings](#) (update)
 - Tom Hickey motioned to approve the specification, Acacia Laing seconded the motion, and the specification was approved
- Breakroom Supplies (new)
 - This specification is in draft phase. The GPC is requesting feedback for any additional items or revisions to this draft specification, and would like to establish a working group prior to voting for approval.

V. Reporting Update - provided by Sam Linton

- Quarter 3 data reports for vendors have been requested and were due on May 1st.
 - 12 of the 20 vendors had already submitted quarter 3 as of May 14th.
- Quarter 3 data reports for state agencies have been requested and were due on May 15th
 - There are currently 29 responsive agencies for the fiscal year of 2026. The GPC is 16 agencies away from reaching their goal of 45 responsive agencies.

VI. Upcoming Trainings and Events

- Green Purchasing Specialization - The next cohort will start tentatively in September 2026. There is a waitlist, so procurement officers should sign up immediately if they are interested.
 - Sign up [here](#)
- Paints and Coating Specification Training: June 16th, 2pm - 3:30pm
 - Virtual workshop to go over the requirements in the newly approved Paints and Coatings Specification.
 - Sign up [here](#)
- Agency Green Reporting Training: July 28, 2026, 10:30am - 11:30am
 - Virtual training session that goes over how to complete the Green Purchasing Reporting template, and what information to include. This is ideal for agency reporting designees, or those that may assist with reporting efforts.
 - Sign up [here](#)
- Poplar Island Tour: September 30, 2026: 9am - 12pm
 - Join the Green Purchasing Committee to tour Poplar Island and learn about how dredged materials are used to rebuild the island, and see all of the landscaping methods used to bring

the island to life! *This tour requires a minimum of 12 people and can include a maximum of 24 people*

- Sign up [here](#)

VI. Member Announcements & Agency Updates

- EPR and procurement:
 - MDE is finalizing the regulations related to the Paper and Packaging extended producer responsibility program. As part of these efforts, we would like to gather a group of procurement professionals to bring their questions to the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). Meetings likely to be scheduled late summer/early fall. Those interested in participating should email Victoria.Nellis@maryland.gov
 - *Watch recording of member announcements from (1:06:02 - 1:12:59)*
- Upcoming GPC meetings

Date	Time	Meeting Type
July 9, 2026	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
August 13, 2026	10:00am - 12:00am	GPC Quarterly Meeting
October 8, 2026	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
November 12, 2026	10:00am - 12:00am	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