

Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday May 9, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

GPC Membership			
Emily Soontornsaratoon, DGS (Chair)	Present	Carla Thompson, DOIT	Present
Victoria Nellis, DGS (Staff)	Present	Samantha Buchanon, DNR	
Sam Linton, DGS (Staff)	Present	Joseph Sedtal, DPSCS	
Joseph Consoli, DBM		Cissy Blasi, Treasurer's Office	
Rachel Cruse, Commerce	Present	Eddie Lukemire, MDOT	
Jeremy Wilson, MSDE	Present	Tom Hickey, USM	Present
Amanda Hutchison, MDE		Dionne Washington, MDH	Present

Other Participants

Cole Beauchat, DPSCS
Michael Bloom, GSA
MaryAnn
Dogo-Isonagie, DPSCS
Hilal Efe, DGS
Ben Eglash
Dyvor Gibson, DPSCS
Corteze Haley-Grimes,
MDOT-SHA
Matt Hink

David Hollens,
MDOT-TSO
Nakia Howell, MDH
Rod Johnson, DGS
Tim Kerr, MDE
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM
Luis Luna, DGS
Elizabeth Main, DGS
Kimberly McAllister, DGS
Lisa Nissley, DGS
Wendy Nabb, MDH

Brandford Quartey, DGS
Paul Shahriari, Ecomedes
Delores Sharp-McRae, MDH
Emmanuel Smith, DGS
Tara Smith, DPSCS
Henry ThorStraten, DHS
Patricia Watson, Towson
University
Akia Wheeler, MDH

Minutes:

I. Welcome

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

II. Legislative Update, Lisa Nissley, DGS.

Three bills passed in the 2024 Legislative Session that were relevant to green purchasing.

- [HB0001](#) - Maryland Paint Stewardship
 - Creates a paint recycling program implemented by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE).
 - The plan must be submitted by July 1, 2025.
 - Tim Kerr with MDE mentioned their committee is currently conducting a recycling needs assessment for packaging material. This plan expects to include the paint stewardship program to their recycling needs assessment.
 - Emily mentioned that this topic can be revisited at the next GPC working meeting to review the next steps for implementing this bill. The GPC currently has a paint specification that requires an update. The updated specification will include language related to paint recycling requirements.
- [HB0437](#) - Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Membership
 - Addition of DGS to the council.
- [HB1147](#) - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions
 - Prohibiting on or after October 1, 2024 the sale and use of playground surfacing materials that contain a certain level of lead or PFAS chemicals.

III. Presentation: *SFTool for Public Sector Buyers*, Michael Bloom, GSA, & Paul Shahriari, Ecomedes.

Michael Bloom gave an introduction to the SFTool.

- SFTool is GSA's flagship website that provides tools and best practices to teams that implement high-performance buildings and sustainable procurement. This is free to use for the general public.
- There are 3 parts to this website:
 - [SFTool.gov](#) - Access to training, strategies, and resources to explore.

- Various sections include Learn,
- [GPC \(Green Procurement Compilation\)](#) - Access to the sustainability requirements sorted by the product or service category.
 - 27 product categories and 9 service categories
- [SFTool Product Search](#) - Access to a catalog that has all of the products that comply with the GPC requirements.
 - 21+ product categories
 - 100+ product subcategories
 - 5,000+ brands
 - 25+ specifications, standards, and ecolabels

Paul Shahriari gave a presentation on the [Ecomedes](#) sustainable product catalog.

- The Ecomedes database contains a wide variety of products that align with sustainability requirements. *Access [here](#).*
- All of the products listed in the database are compliant with federal regulations. This simplifies the process of finding green products and verifies the environmental attributes of a certain product or service.
- Users can apply filters to find products by category, brand, ecolabel/ or environmental standard, and federal program
- Ecomedes includes the availability of each green product by the quantity and the zip code location.
- Each environmental criteria that applies to the searched product contains links to documentation. This allows users to evaluate all of the information given about the product's environmental attributes.
- Users can create their own procurement project for free on Ecomedes to better organize their procurements. This project can include several different products by category, and all of the documentation of the environmental attributes to ensure compliance with green requirements.
- This database has the ability to track procurements through agency-wide reporting. Users can send their completed procurements to another user that can analyze the report.
 - *Question:* Is it easy for suppliers, distributors, and retailers to get their information added to the database? *Answer:* Suppliers can create an account and make a shopping basket at their retail or distribution level. Once that is updated, they can have their information available. Nonetheless, they have to be certified under registries in order to show up on Ecomedes.
 - SFTool gives free training every week on their LinkedIn page.

IV. GPC Business & Activities Update - provided by Sam Linton.

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - The GPC meeting minutes for February were motioned to approve by Dionne Washington with the Department of Health. Thomas Hickey with the University System of Maryland seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were approved.
- EPEAT Purchaser Award
 - The State of Maryland will be awarded the EPEAT Purchaser Award in three categories of electronics and IT products: Computers & Displays, Imaging Equipment, and Servers. The award will be announced on July 25th at their awards ceremony. The green spend for electronics and IT products increased from FY 2022 - FY2023.
- Earth Day Recap
 - DGS hosted an event to celebrate Earth Day on April 24th. Thanks to all who participated in tabling the event and to those who attended. The GPC plans to continue hosting these sustainability outreach events in the future.
- EV Lunch and Learn

- The Maryland EV ambassadors gave a presentation on driving and purchasing an electric vehicle. The panelists were EV ambassadors and EV owners who shared their knowledge and experience with EVs to give the audience a basic understanding of how EVs work and what the State’s next steps are for installing new charging infrastructure.
- Green Purchasing Annual Report
 - GPC staff is requesting green purchasing reports from Vendors and Agencies.
 - Vendor data was due on May 3rd. A follow up email will be sent to those who have not yet submitted.
 - Agency data is due May 10th. Agencies with questions are advised to reach out to the GPC.

V. Specifications - provided by Vicki Nellis.

- Two specifications were presented for the Committees consideration.
 - Electronics & IT Products (updated).
 - Dionne Washington motioned to approve the specification. Carla Thompson seconded the motion, and the specification was approved.
Access the document [here](#).
 - Laundry Services (new)
 - Tom Hickey motioned to approve the specification. Branford Quartey seconded the motion, and the specification was approved.
Access the document [here](#).

VI. Upcoming Training & Events

- Green Purchasing Specialization Training
 - The next cohort is scheduled to start for September 2024. The interest form for sign up can be accessed [here](#).
- Landscaping Specification Training Recording
 - The training can be accessed [here](#).
- Cintas Facility Tour
 - June 12, 9:00am - 12:00pm
 - The GPC is touring Cintas facility to learn more about their sustainability efforts and green purchasing impacts.
 - Limited spots are available. Email the GPC to be added to the guest list.
- Integrated Pest Management Workshop
 - The GPC is giving a virtual workshop on August 13, 2024 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm
 - Register [here](#).
- FY2025 Planning
 - The July 11th working meeting will go over goals and planning for FY2025. Attendees are encouraged to reach out prior with suggestions.

VII. Upcoming GPC Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting Type
July 11, 2024	1:00 - 3:00 pm	GPC Working Meeting
August 8, 2024	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting

October 10, 2024	1:00pm - 3:00pm	GPC Working Meeting
November 7, 2024	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