### Minutes of DOE Bi-Monthly Teleconference

### SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION WORKGROUP

### November 29, 2018, 11 am - Noon Eastern Time

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| How do we find biobased products that meet the requirements?  **Check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture BioPreferred Catalog**  https://www.biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/catalog/Catalog.xhtml |

**TOPICS**

* Update on Implementation of Executive Order 13834
* Durable In-Cafeteria and Biobased Takeout Dishware
* Biobased Lubricant for Metal Cutting
* Updates to Sustainable Acquisition Website
* Opportunity to Advertise Sustainable Acquisition Successes

**MINUTES**

**Welcome** – Shab Fardanesh (DOE-HQ Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship)

Shab has returned from a 6-month detail with the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) which she found to be very informative and is glad to be back.

**Implementation of Executive Order 13834** – Soudeh Motamedi and Jackie Prazenica (Sustainability Performance Office)

Instructions for Executive Order (EO) 13834 are forthcoming as the draft is still being finalized. Draft implementation instructions were received several weeks ago for review and many DOE offices submitted comments to CEQ on October 30.

In terms of Sustainable Acquisitions, few changes will be made because many of the drivers pertaining to Sustainable Acquisition are acts of Congress and will remain in effect. Anything in legislation is a requirement whether it is biobased, recycled content, etc.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to identify which of the recommended non-federal standards (https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/recommendations-specifications-standards-and-ecolabels-federal-purchasing) also meet the statutory requirements.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will score agencies on compliance based on what is reported in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS). What does this mean for DOE M&O Contractors since they do not report in FPDS? OMB was asked to include language in the EO13834 implementation instructions that says if an agency can find an alternative methodology to report the data but still captures what they need in a similar fashion to the FPDS report, it will be accepted. We await the implementation instructions to see if this alternative is in them.

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| **Bottom Line:** The implementation instructions for EO13834 are being finalized. Most Sustainable Acquisition requirements will not change because they are based on acts of Congress (statutory requirements). Link to the Executive Order: https://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/eo13834/ |

**Transitioning to Biobased Products**

Two DOE sites received U.S. Department of Agriculture BioPreferred Awards: the Lawrence Livermore National Lab for converting to biobased and compostable dishware and the Los Alamos National Lab for transitioning from oil-based to biobased lubricant.

**Durable In-Cafeteria and Biobased Takeout Dishware** – Heather Ottaway (Lawrence Livermore National Lab)

**Link to Eco Products** https://www.ecoproducts.com/

LLNL has around 6,600 employees and two onsite cafeterias that process approximately 30,000 transactions per month. In 2011 in compliance with AB341 and an associated Alameda County ordinance, LLNL implemented a recycling and composting program in both cafeterias and 13 of their buildings. However, people were disposing of items in the incorrect bins so to simplify things, they transitioned all their takeout dishware to biobased, compostable products.

Durable In-Cafeteria Dishware

For people eating in the cafeterias, LLNL continues to provide and encourage the use of durable (washable and reusable) dishware--plates, glasses, bowls, and silverware. They have had issues with silverware disappearing (sometimes they are thrown away or taken back to offices), so they are constantly replenishing silverware and have been working on improvements.

Biobased Takeout Dishware

Staff from LLNL’s Sustainability Team, the Food Services Vendor, and Procurement worked together to identify takeout dishware that is biobased and compostable. They checked the BioPreferred catalog to find which products are compliant with the requirements. In the BioPreferred catalog, they were able to identify products their Office Supply Vendor sold that met the requirements, so they leveraged the existing relationship and received discounts up to approximately 20%. However, on average the new products are almost double the cost of standard takeout dishware.

Because the ability to compost the takeout dishware could reduce LLNL’s disposal costs and assist in meeting sustainability goals, LLNL took over purchasing the new takeout dishware at the increased price. To assist with calculating waste diversion from the new program, LLNL purchased a weight device that will affix to their garbage truck to give an accurate measurement. They are also working with their vendor to measure the volume of LLNL’s compostable and recyclable materials. Until the measurement system is up and running, they have been estimating diversion by counting the number of composting bags that leave the cafeterias each day. Based on their estimates site wide, LLNL has been diverting around 65 metric tons of compost per year from the landfill.

Challenges

Their biggest challenge was finding products, their availability, testing them, and determining cost. LLNL noted it is very important to research before purchasing products as they started using cutlery that they thought met requirements but later realized the product was biobased but not compostable and others had performance issues (such as, not withstanding hot food).

Next Steps

* Work with the Food Services Vendor to create an incentives program to encourage the use of durable dishware.
* Find a better in-cafeteria salad bowl for the salad bar since they currently only have a small durable plate and a takeout container that holds twice as much.
* Revive their refillables and reusables program—containers and cups that when returned for refills would give the customer a discount.
* Gather more accurate waste diversion data.

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| **Bottom Line:** LLNL’s serving food on durable dishes in their cafeterias and transitioning to biobased and compostable takeout dishware meets the Sustainable Acquisition requirement as well as reduces waste going to the landfill. |

**Biobased Lubricant for Metal Cutting** – Rose Montalvo (Los Alamos National Lab)

**Link to UNIST** https://unist.com/solutions/machining-cutting.html

**Success Story** https://www.fedcenter.gov/\_kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item\_id=33159&destination=ShowItem

During FY2017, LANL’s Maintenance and Site Services (MSS) Craft were looking for ways to eliminate overspray from oil-based lubricants used during metal cutting operations. The oil-based lubricant resulted in overspray to workers, equipment, and the general area which created the potential for significant injury from a slippery floor. MSS Craft identified and tested a biobased lubricant (Unist Coolube) that reduced the amount of product needed, avoided overspray, and improved tool life.

The new system resulted in significant cost savings. In FY2018, MSS Craft went from using two 55-gallon drums of oil-based lubricant to two gallons of biobased lubricant. One gallon of biobased lubricant is $80. One drum of oil-based lubricant is $1800, a savings of $3440. In addition, LANL spent $170,000 to manage, store, and dispose of the spent oil-based lubricant ($4000 - $5000 per year just for storage) and only spent $1600 to set up the Unist system (a one-time fee). After switching to the biobased lubricant, the requirement to manage and store spent oil as a waste was eliminated.

The effort also reduced the laboratories environmental footprint dramatically because they were able to recycle the now dry metal shavings (48,000 pounds per dumpster).

Another benefit of the new product is that it extended the life of the cutting blade and therefore reduced the number of blades purchased as well as the staff time to replace the blades. And because the floors and the general work area were much cleaner, the potential for staff slipping on the oily floor has been eliminated.

The Machine Shop Supervisor from a different tech area at LANL read about the process improvements and gave the product a try with the same positive results. Sandia National Labs in New Mexico is also very interested in the new process and recently toured the shop. They spoke with fabrication staff and were introduced to the local supplier.

The laboratory actively works to communicate improvements within the lab and across the complex to raise awareness and increase impact. So far, LANL shared the results on the DOE Lessons Learned database, LANL Operating Experience Summary, LANL *Mirror*, and a success story written up by DOE. The product was a key feature in several awards for Los Alamos including the USDA BioPreferred Procurement Award.

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| **Bottom Line:** LANL switched their oil-based lubricant to a biobased lubricant that is safer for workers, prolongs the life of their equipment, and is more cost effective. |

**Sustainable Acquisition Updates** – Shab Fardanesh, Sandra Cannon, and Erin Grace (Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship)

Website Updates

Sustainable Acquisition has updated the website to be more user friendly by ensuring items in the Find It Fast window are also alphabetically listed in the left navigation window.

Opportunity to Advertise Your Sustainable Acquisition Successes

DOE sites work hard to transition to healthier, more sustainable products but do not usually have time to advertise your successes. The Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship will write up those success stories for you. A success story is any activity that promotes reduction of purchases or the transition to a more sustainable product.

To submit a success, DOE sites fill out the submission form that is posted on the DOE Sustainable Acquisition website (https://www.fedcenter.gov/members/workgroups/sustainableacquisition/successstories). Once you have completed the form, send it to Shab Fardanesh (her contact information is listed on the form). We will write your story, send it to you for approval, after the receipt of which we will post it on the Sustainable Acquisition Homepage, and share your success as broadly as possible.

Rose Montalvo from LANL shared her experience with the process. She noted that these kinds of stories help dispel rumors about sustainable products pertaining to cost, performance, and availability.

GreenBuy Award Program

Closes on December 31. We’re now recognizing multiple gold winners and will be awarding them with a special plaque.

DOE Site Sustainable Products Database

Shab would like to encourage others to populate this with products they have been successful with.

ListServ

If you have any questions about products other DOE sites are using, ask them via the DOE Sustainable Acquisition ListServ.

Online Training

For those new to Sustainable Acquisition or needing a refresher, it is helpful to take the online training. The training offers continuing education credits.

**Adjourn**

**Next teleconferences**

* Dates for 2019 – Jan 24, Mar 28, May 23, Jul 25, Sep 26, Dec 5
* Potential topics for the next teleconference. Please share your ideas with Shab Fardanesh (shabnam.fardanesh@hq.doe.gov) and Sandra Cannon (cannon@ecopurchasing.com)

**Contact Information for November 29, 2018 Teleconference**

Office of Sustainable Environmental Stewardship

Moderator: Shab Fardanesh – Shabnam.Fardanesh@hq.doe.gov, 202-586-7011

Technical Support: Sandra Cannon – [cannon@ecopurchasing.com](mailto:cannon@ecopurchasing.com), 509-529-1535

Sustainability Performance Office

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Durable and Biobased Dishware

LLNL: Heather Ottaway – ottaway1@llnl.gov, 925-422-5459

Biobased Lubricant / Metal Cutting

LANL: Rose Montalvo – mmontalvo@lanl.gov, 505-667-4988

LANL: Stanley Trujillo – stantrujillo@lanl.gov, 505-667-4988

Success Story

PEC: Erin Grace – egrace@projectenhancement.com, 301-556-5530

FedCenter Website

DOE: Sandra Cannon – [cannon@ecopurchasing.com](mailto:cannon@ecopurchasing.com), 509-529-1535

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION RESOURCES**

**DESIGNATED PRODUCTS BY STATUTE**

**Green Purchasing Compilation**

Web: <https://sftool.gov/greenprocurement>

The Green Purchasing Compilation denotes by product category which products require preference. Preference means the only exceptions to purchasing with the specified attribute (alternative fuels and vehicles, biobased, energy efficient, non-ozone depleting, and recycled) are the CAP: cost, availability, performance. Below are website locations for each of the designated categories;

* Alternative Fuels/Vehicles

Web: https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/federal-fleet-management

Statute: https://www4.eere.energy.gov/femp/requirements/requirements\_filtering/fleet\_management

* Biobased products

Web: https://biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/pages/AboutBioPreferred.xhtml

Statute: https://biopreferred.gov/BioPreferred/faces/pages/PoliciesAndLaws.xhtml

FAR: https://www.acquisition.gov/?q=browse/far/23&searchTerms=FAR%20part%2023

* Energy efficient equipment

Web: https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=fed\_agencies.fed\_ag\_efficient

Statutes:

* Energy Independence and Security Act 2007 - https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ140/html/PLAW-110publ140.htm
* Energy Policy Act of 2005 - https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-109hr6enr/pdf/BILLS-109hr6enr.pdf
* Energy Policy Act of 1992 - https://www.congress.gov/bill/102nd-congress/house-bill/776/text

FAR 23.203: https://www.acquisition.gov/?q=browse/far/23&searchTerms=FAR%20part%2023

* Non-Ozone depleting

Web: https://www.epa.gov/snap

Statute: https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-text

FAR: https://www.acquisition.gov/?q=browse/far/23&searchTerms=FAR%20part%2023

* Recycled products

Web: https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program#products

Statute: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-90/pdf/STATUTE-90-Pg2795.pdf

FAR: https://www.acquisition.gov/?q=browse/far/23&searchTerms=FAR%20part%2023

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PROGRAMS**

In addition to the required designated products, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has guidance programs for Federal purchasers to use in selecting products.

* SaferChoice

https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice

* SmartWay

https://www.epa.gov/smartway

* WaterSense

https://www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial-buildings

**PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDS RECOMMENDED BY EPA**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Web: https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/recommendations-specifications-standards-and-ecolabels-federal-purchasing

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established a standard (*Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing*) by which to evaluate and recommend private sector standards.

**OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**U.S. Department of Energy’s “Sustainable Acquisition Program” website for access to template language for contracts, teleconference agendas and minutes, and other sources of helpful information**

Web: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/sustainableacquisition>

**DOE GreenBuy Award Program with goals that can be used as specifications**

Web: https://www.fedcenter.gov/members/workgroups/sustainableacquisition/priorityproducts/

**DOE Priority Products List with hotlinks to resources**

Web: <https://sftool.gov/greenprocurement/doe>

**Sustainable Acquisition for Federal Agencies Online Training**

Web: <https://www.wbdg.org/education/femp44.php>

**DOE ListServ for Queries to Other DOE Sites**

Web: [sustainable-acquisition@fedcenter.gov](mailto:sustainable-acquisition@fedcenter.gov)

**Share Product Information with Other DOE Sites via Database**

Web: <https://www.fedcenter.gov/members/workgroups/sustainableacquisition/productsdatabase/>

**Benefits Calculators**

**Construction**

* Calculate sustainability benefits in construction materials: https://ws680.nist.gov/bees/(A(ZS0cJp1J1AEkAAAAY2VlZDY3NTktNzIyZS00NjgzLTgzODUtYzk3YTY0OTc4OTJi-YGnTS-6221ClOz7CMhdX7Ss4mc1))/AnalysisParametersBuildingProds.aspx

**Electronic Equipment**

* Calculate reductions from EPEAT registered electronic equipment:

<https://greenelectronicscouncil.org/epeat-benefits-calculator/>

**Energy Efficiency**

* Calculate energy reductions:

https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/energy-and-cost-savings-calculators-energy-efficient-products

* Calculate lighting energy reductions:

https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting\_fans (scroll down for calculator)

* Calculate refrigerator energy reductions:

https://www.energystar.gov/products/appliances (scroll down for calculator)

**Non-Ozone Depleting**

* Calculate ozone-depleting refrigerant reductions:

<http://web.unep.org/ozonaction/resources/gwp-odp-calculator>

**Recycled Content**

* Calculate energy and greenhouse gas reductions from purchase of recycled products : <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/www3/epawaste/conserve/tools/warm/ReCon_Online.html>

**Water Efficiency**

* Calculate water reductions:

https://www.epa.gov/watersense/tools-ci-facilities

* Calculate water reductions from cooling applications:

http://gemi.org/EDFGEMIwaterMAPP/

**Catalogs of Sustainable Products**

* SFTool Product Search

Web: <https://sftool.ecomedes.com/>

* Underwriters Laboratories SPOT

Web: https://spot.ul.com/

**Construction Materials**

* Whole Building Design Guide -- Technical Guidance for Implementing the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding

Web: <http://www.wbdg.org/>

* Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers with more than 60 model green construction spec sections

Web: <http://fedgreenspecs.wbdg.org>

* National Institute of Standards and Technology Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES)

Web: https://www.nist.gov/services-resources/software/bees

* Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED version 4)

https://www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/LEED%20v4%20BDC\_04.6.18\_current.pdf

**Contracts – Best in Class Federal (former Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative)**

* Acquisition

Web: https://www.gsa.gov/acquisition/purchasing-programs/federal-strategic-sourcing-initiative-fssi

* GSA Advantage (see “FSSI” or “Best in Class”)

Web: https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advantage/search/specialCategory.do?cat=ADV.ENV