



National Park Service Commercial Services Program Environmental Purchasing



Environmental Purchasing

- Environmental purchasing is the purchase of environmentally preferable or “green” products and services, which exhibit characteristics or properties that have fewer negative impacts on human health and the environment when compared to similar products or services.
- National Park Service (NPS) contracts may require concessioner to implement best management practices (BMPs) when feasible, such as minimum recycled content products and alternatives to the sale of plastic bottles. BMPs typically include local purchasing, sustainable products purchasing, and bulk purchasing to reduce packaging, among others.

Green Products

Green products are made with recycled materials, can be reused or recycled, are biodegradable, made with renewable materials, have less or reusable packaging, or use less energy or natural resources over their useful life. Examples include paper products, cleaning products, and linens.



Electronic Equipment:

- It is a BMP to give procurement preference to ENERGY STAR and FEMP designated electronic equipment when purchasing new devices.
- If not already a contract requirement, concessioners should implement policies to enable power management, duplex printing, and other energy or environmentally sustainable features on electronic products.

Comprehensive-Procurement Guideline (CPG) Program

- The CPG Program is part of Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Sustainable Materials Management initiative that promotes a systemic approach to reducing materials use.
- EPA designates products that are or can be made with recovered materials.
- Select criteria have been used to determine which products to add to the CPG designated products list.

Concessioner CPG Program Requirements

- It is a BMP to have an Environmental Purchasing (EP) Program in place and reviewed annually.
- Concessioners should document instances when CPG products are not purchased and why.

CPG Program Resource Guides

Resource guides for different CPG topics can be found on the EPA Sustainable Materials Management web site at www.epa.gov/smm/product-resource-guides-comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program.

- Construction Products
- Office Products
- Landscaping Products
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation



Bio-based Product Preference Program

- Bio-based products are commercial or industrial products (other than food or feed) that are composed, in part, of biological products including renewable domestic agricultural materials, renewable chemicals, and forestry materials.
- Bio-based purchases are a BMP and each product category has a specific bio-based content.

Renewable Resources BMPs:

- Purchase renewable electricity to meet set renewable goals.
- Reduce potable, industrial, landscaping, and agricultural water consumption.
- Collect water use data for buildings and facilities using water meters.

Please note, this fact sheet does not cover all requirements and situations related environmental purchasing. In addition to checking federal regulations, be sure to check your state and local regulations. For any operational questions or emergency situations, please contact your park concession specialist. For more information pertaining to compliance with emergency planning and reporting requirements, please email cs_envaudits@nps.gov or contact the applicable regulatory authority.