

U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
**MEETING GREEN**

**Destinations  
Showcase**

**February 7, 2008**





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**THE BUSINESS OF GREEN:  
YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK**

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**The Government**

**The Industry**

**The Environment**



# Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- Sustainable Practices in Agency Acquisition
- Current Efforts
  - ***Green Blanket Purchase Agreement for Office Supplies***
  - ***Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition Government-wide Contract***
  - ***Green Meetings and Conferences – mandatory purchase procedures***

# **EPA Green Meetings and Conferences Rule, Effective May 1, 2007**

**New Requirement: Environmental  
Performance considered in every  
purchase  
(along with price and prior  
performance)**

# **EPA Green Meetings and Conferences Rule, Effective May 1, 2007**

**BUT,**

**No definition yet of satisfactory  
performance levels**

**[Up to the buyer...]**



# **THE EPA 14 QUESTIONS**

# Selecting a Meeting Venue: Environmental Performance Factors

- A recycling program
- A linen/towel reuse option that is communicated to guests
- Easy access to public transportation or shuttle services
- A policy to turn off lighting and air conditioning when rooms are not in use
- Bulk dispensers or reusable containers for beverages, food and condiments
- Reusable serving utensils, napkins and tablecloths when food and beverages are served
- An energy efficiency program
- A water-conservation program
- Paperless check-in & check-out for guests
- Use of recycled or recyclable products
- Sourcing of food
- Use of biobased or biodegradable products
- Employee training on these green activities
- Other “green” environmental initiatives such as receiving environment-related certifications, participating in voluntary partnerships, supporting a green suppliers network, etc.

# What does this mean for Other Agencies?

## GOVERNMENT-WIDE APPLICATION?

- General Services Administration (GSA)?
- Congress?

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# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BEING SUSTAINABLE:

## *BEST PRACTICES AND HOW THEY CAN PAY OFF*

e.g., **Energy Efficiency**  
[lightbulbs]

# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BEING SUSTAINABLE:

## *BEST PRACTICES AND HOW THEY CAN PAY OFF*

e.g., **Corrugated Cardboard**

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# RECYCLING

*Recycling represents a great opportunity for facility cost savings, as well as reductions on solid waste burdens on municipal landfills. Hotels and restaurants pay for waste pickup and disposal services. One hotel recently reported to EPA first year cost savings of recycling just their corrugated cardboard to be over ten thousand dollars in solid waste disposal fees.*

# REUSABLE SERVING UTENSILS, NAPKINS AND TABLECLOTHS

- *Reduces the volume of waste ending up in dumpsters and, ultimately, local landfills.*
- *Cost savings: Fees for solid waste disposal. And the savings to society are found in the reduced energy expended in solid waste transportation and disposal – both contributors to greenhouse gas production in the combustion of fuel for machinery -- as well as the production of greenhouse landfill methane escaping to the atmosphere.*

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

*A critical element of environmental performance for any facility, Energy Efficiency saves costs, BUT ALSO ...*

*Represents major – and measurable -- reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the fossil fuel generation of electric power*

# WATER CONSERVATION

- Lessens burden on available resource (particularly arid climes)
- Reduction of greenhouse gas from reduced energy demand at supply and treatment plants

# USE OF RECYLED OR RECYLABLE PRODUCTS

- *The other half of the equation in a recycling program*
- *The revolving system: What comes in, goes out, and then comes back in again to be reused*

# SOURCING FOOD FROM LOCAL GROWERS

*Besides supporting local economies, patronizing local farms greatly reduces the energy expended on transportation – and the carbon and other greenhouse gasses associated with it.*

# THE USE OF BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS

- *Biodegradable products degrade in the environment rather than persist indefinitely in municipal landfills. In addition, their component materials are not made from synthetic chemicals or substances.*
- *Without too much effort, facilities may find affordable products that fit this category, and use them as environment-friendly alternatives to otherwise non-renewable, and non-sustainable, products.*

# ASKING FOR GREEN

- **RFPs & Contract Clauses [*Focus on a Standard, or list your preferred environmental attributes*]**
- **Competing Vendors**
- **Premium Costs and Your Clients**

# **NEED FOR A UNIFORM STANDARD**

- **Existing Standards, Best Practices and Guidance Documents**
- **The Government and the National Technical Transfer and Advancement Act**
- **Voluntary Consensus Process**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

- February 14 Conference Call
- February 18 Planning Meeting
- RSVP:

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# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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- **Tell us about your business, and where going Green could fit in.**
- **Are your clients asking for Green?**
- **What would help you be Green?**