

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
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Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
Secretary

Nelson E. Reichart
Deputy Secretary

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Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday August 13, 2020, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

Ellington Churchill, DGS
Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS
Christy Bujnovszky, MDE
Nicole Copeland, MCE
Dinesh Gandhi, MDE
Calvin Gladden, DGS
Tom Hickey, USM
Shareda Holifield, MDE
Mary Huffman, DNR
Joanna Kille, State Treasurer

Brenda Lee, Commerce
Heather Mohney, MDH
Jane Noble, MDE
Carissa Rablovsky
Ellen Robertson, DGS
Matthew Smith, DGS
David St. Jean, DGS
Jamie Tomaszewski, DGS
Alicia Culver, RPN

Minutes:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - Emily Soontornsaratool welcomed the Committee members and briefly went over virtual meeting logistics.
 - All attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - The Committee approved the May 14, 2020 meeting minutes.
- III. Presentation on Renewable Energy – conducted by David St. Jean, Office of Energy & Sustainability



- The presentation included an overview of Maryland’s renewable energy procurement including covering the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).
- To comply with the RPS, Maryland must ensure that 50% of its purchased electricity comes from renewable energy sources by 2030. The State of Maryland aspires to use 100% of electricity sourced from renewable energy by 2040. In order to have the greatest impact on climate, all energy-using products should be electrified.
- The State of Maryland has several power purchase agreements in place for the purchase of renewable energy. Renewable energy is purchased from:
 - 2 utility-scale wind farms
 - 1 utility-scale solar facility
 - 4 rooftop PV installations; these installations do not provide RECs.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Communications & Outreach: update provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh (Chair)

- Phase 2 of the GPC website update is in planning.
- Phase 2 will include the following components:
 - Resources for Procurement Officers
 - Resources for State Agencies (e.g. Purchasing Guides)
- Kshirajaa will be in contact with this Subcommittee shortly for suggestions and input.

B. Fleet/ Electric Vehicles: update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool (Chair)

- DGS is taking the lead on developing a Statewide EV Infrastructure Strategy with support from MDOT, DBM, MEA, and MDE. The strategy will guide the state as it deploys EV charging infrastructure to support a growing EV fleet; this effort is aligned with the State’s climate change goals.
- DGS is also supporting MDH and DPSCS in their installation of EV chargers for their 5 new fully electric vehicles.
- Joanna Kille expressed concern that more agencies are not integrating EVs in their fleets. She added that the Treasurer would like to see the GPC increase their communications with state agencies to support EV expansion.



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- Carissa Rablovsky stated that \$2.25 million of MEA's budget has been allocated through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) for the purchase of EVs for the state fleet.

C. Food Service Ware/Expanded Polystyrene Ban: update provided by Matthew Smith

- The Expanded Polystyrene ban will go into effect on October 1, 2020; it was extended from July 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IFB for food service ware is currently being drafted.
- The current agreement with FPC has been extended to allow time for the IFB's finalization and contract award. This extension also allows the Office of State Procurement to accept and test product samples.

V. Office of State Procurement

A. Upcoming Opportunities: update provided by Matthew Smith

- The solicitation for deicers includes green requirements and has been posted.
- Specifications are being drafted for the antifreeze IFB. Kshirajaa will work with the Office of State Procurement to include green requirements.
- The statewide office supply contract is nearly finalized and includes green requirements.
- Statewide trash/recycling services contracts was presented at the BPW meeting on August 12, 2020. Kshirajaa worked with the lead procurement officer to ensure recycling requirements are up-to-date.

B. MD Procurement Academy: update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- The GPC held its pilot course for green purchasing on July 31, 2020. The course was led by Emily Soontornsaratool, Kshirajaa Ramesh, and Alicia Culver (RPN) and was attended by 15 procurement officers from DGS's Office of State Procurement.
- The course covered the following topics:
 - What is green purchasing? Why does it matter?
 - How to verify that green products are actually green





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- Maryland's Green Purchasing Program
 - Laws and Regulations
 - Green Purchasing Tools and Specs
 - Step-by-Step Green Purchasing
 - The pilot course received positive feedback with 100% of attendees saying they learned something new. Attendees requested additional resources to aid them in green purchasing.
 - Matthew Smith stated that the course was very well received, and the Procurement Officers were excited to incorporate green language in their contracts.
 - Jamie Tomaszewski added that Emily Soontornsaratool will update SPAG on an annual or biannual basis as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the ties between the GPC and State Procurement. She agreed with Matthew that the course was very well received.
- VI. Presentation on Green Cleaners and Safer Disinfectants for Use Against the COVID-19 Virus – conducted by Alicia Culver, Responsible Purchasing Network
- The presentation provided an overview on green cleaners and safer disinfectants and how to verify their efficacy against the COVID-19 virus.
- VII. FY21 Action Plan: update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
- The GPC held two working group meetings for FY21 action planning this summer. The FY21 Action Plan was completed and shared with the GPC.
 - The GPC identified three priorities for the upcoming fiscal year:
 - 1) Promoting Public Health
 - 2) Supporting Climate Goals
 - 3) Saving Money
 - In addition to working towards these three priorities, the GPC's goals include ensuring:
 - Published resources are up-to-date and accurate
 - Relevant parties are aware of these resources and how best to use them
 - Specifications are being used to them maximum extent practicable
 - All statutory members are active on the Committee, and filling the DoIT vacancy.
 - Projected timelines for new and upcoming projects were shared.





VIII. Specifications Updates: provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh

- Finalized Specifications were presented to the GPC. Members voted to approve the specifications for publication or to delay for additional revisions. The results of the vote are as follows:
 - Snow & Ice Control
 - 1. Approved for Publication by the GPC.
 - Janitorial Services
 - 1. Delayed for additional review and stakeholder input.
 - Electronics and Other IT Equipment
 - 1. Approved for Publication by the GPC.
- The HVAC specification is currently in progress.
- The Janitorial Supplies specification will be updated next.

IX. FY20 Annual Report: update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

A. Agency Reporting

- State agencies are required by statute to report on their green purchasing to DGS.
- State agencies will be required to complete Part I of the Green Purchasing Reporting Template by September 1, 2020.

B. Timeline

- July 30, 2020: Green Spend Data from Vendors Submitted to GPC
- September 1, 2020: State Agency Reports due to DGS
- September 9, 2020: GPC Annual Report Working Group Meeting
- September 18, 2020: Finalized Annual Report Draft presented to Internal Reviewers
- September 30, 2020: Report submitted to Maryland General Assembly

X. Announcements

- The State of Maryland was presented with an EPEAT Purchaser Award on July 29, 2020.



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- DGS became a NERC APR Government Recycling Demand Champion in July 2020. DGS will work to promote the purchase of products that include post-consumer recycled content.
- MCE published a new catalog featuring a section devoted solely to environmentally preferred products.

XI. Open Discussion and New Business

○ Bottled Water

1. Calvin Gladden stated that the purchase of bottle water presents a huge cost – both monetarily and environmentally- to the State. The GPC should look into the installation of central, filtered water stations.
2. There is significant interest from the Committee Members on this topic.
3. Tom Hickey added that the previous iteration of the GPC had looked into the issue of bottled water.
4. Ellen Robertson noted that the renovated Annapolis Post Office building has installed central, filtered water stations.
5. Alicia Culver suggested that moving away from bottled water during the COVID-19 pandemic might be a challenging push. However, it should be an important conversation for the post COVID-19 era.

XII. The next meeting will be held virtually on November 12, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee

