



Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday November 18, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

Emily Soontornsaratoool, DGS
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS
Jim Beauchamp, MDH
Joseph Consoli, DBM
Cheryl Cooper, MMCC
Hilal Efe, DGS
Dinesh Gandhi, MDE
Tom Hickey, USM
Carroll Hicks, MDTA
Mary Huffman, DNR
Rod Johnson, DGS
Joanna Kille, Treasurer's Office
Thomas Lane, DPSCS
Melissa Leaman, DoIT
Eddie Lukemire, MDOT

Khari Malik, Morgan State University
Ryan McAlpine, MDOT
Heather Mohnney, MDH
Falena Robinson, DHS
Glenn Roscoe, Morgan State University
Lance Schine, DoIT
Korin Sharp, DGS
David St. Jean, DGS
Dionne Washington, MDH
Peter Banwell, EPA
Shawn Campbell, Seaboard Asphalt
Debbie Groat, Baltimore County
Emmy Feldman, EPA
Richard Keller, Baltimore County
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM
Paola Massoli, EPA

Minutes:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - Emily Soontornsaratoool welcomed Committee members and attendees and reviewed virtual meeting logistics.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Tom Hickey motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the August 12, 2021 GPC Quarterly meeting. Mary Huffman seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- III. Opening Thoughts
 - David St. Jean announced that the State of Maryland has joined the U.S. DOE "Better Climate Challenge." As a member, the State has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 50% within 10 years. Emily added that the GPC is focused primarily on Scope 3 emissions (carbon in the supply

chain), but the use of efficient IT products that the GPC requires will impact scope 2 emissions.

- Emily thanked the Treasurer, Nancy Kopp, for her contributions to the Green Purchasing Committee and her leadership in sustainability. She wished the Treasurer well for her retirement. Other Committee members this sentiment and thanked the Treasurer for her leadership and guidance.

IV. Presentation: ENERGY STAR EV Charging Stations – Emmy Feldman, EPA

- Emmy Feldman introduced ENERGY STAR’s standard for electric vehicle charging stations. ENERGY STAR rated charging stations are commercially available and are widely required by states and local entities throughout the country. Emmy recommends the GPC adopt ENERGY STAR requirements for the GPC’s new specification on the purchasing of environmentally preferable EV charging stations.
- Joanna Kille questioned whether ENERGY STAR is a federal requirement or a voluntary program. Peter Banwell answered that it is a voluntary program that is widely used. Joanna added that the use of the ENERGY STAR requirement for EV charging stations is a great idea.

V. FY 2021 Year in Review – Update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- Emily displayed featured content from the GPC Annual Report and thanked State Agencies, reporting designees, and vendors for their contributions.
- Joanna Kille suggested that the GPC provide regular updates to the Board of Public Works. Jim Beauchamp and Emily agree – the GPC will hold an internal designee meeting to discuss further.
- Emily shared the FY 2022 goals for the GPC – which are as follows:
 - Establish a robust library of specifications
 - Regular ongoing training for procurement staff
 - Recognize agencies for their green purchasing successes
 - Promote green contracts to State agencies, and counties/municipalities
 - Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) to measure the success of our program
 - Engage Vendors to increase awareness and compliance
 - Explore how to partner with MBE / SBE programs to collaborate and cross-promote opportunities (multiphase goal)
 - Demonstrate the benefit of green purchasing through increased promotion and communications of benefits
- FY 2022 Quarterly Activity Update
 - In October, the GPC received an Environmental Leadership Award in the Public Sector category from Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) for high level achievements in environmental sustainability.



- Emily and Kshirajaa Ramesh presented at the 6th Annual Business Opportunity Summit. The presentation was directed towards vendors and focused on the fundamentals of green purchasing in the State. The session was recorded and available [here](#).

VI. Communications Update - provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh

- The GPC website went through the following changes:
 - A new web page, [Resources for Vendors](#), was created.
 - The [Leadership and Recognition](#) page was updated.
- The following updates are planned for the website:
 - A new and updated Best Practices Manual.
 - Expanded resources and content for vendors.
- The third issue of the GPC newsletter was released in October. This issue was sent to 255 recipients with 455 total opens and 146 unique opens.

VII. Electric Vehicles Update – provided by Joe Consoli and Emily Soontornsaratool

- Vehicles Purchases – Joe Consoli
 - FY 2021
 - Purchase orders for 40 electric vehicles (38 Chevy Bolts and 2 Mustang Mach-Es) were completed in June
 - Vehicles to be deployed to 8 agencies and across 9 sites
 - Mach-Es have been delivered. Arrival of Chevy Bolts delayed due to recall
 - FY 2022– Planned Purchases
 - ~80 EVs will be procured within the next month
 - Vehicles on the DA-8 list for FY22 (budgeted for an ICE replacement) will receive SEIF funds for the differential.
 - Vehicles that are not on the DA-8 list but selected by DBM for an EV will receive full funding of that vehicle through SEIF.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Emily Soontornsaratool
 - DGS administers an EV Charging Infrastructure Program to support EVs coming onto the State’s fleet. The program’s scope of work includes the development and management of:
 - State agency policies/guidelines
 - Legal agreements
 - Procurement
 - Data tracking
 - EV Charging Projects - construction project management
 - EV Charging Projects - funding



- DGS's Office on Energy and Sustainability welcomed two new staff dedicated to the EV Charging Infrastructure Program. Korin Sharp is the new EV Charging Program Coordinator and Mehmet Sahbaz is the new EV Charging Project Manager.
- There are 25 Charging Projects in this round, of which:
 - 6 are fully complete
 - 6 are in construction
 - 7 are in design
 - 6 are planned / potential
- Agencies are reminded to reach out:
 - With funding interest
 - Include DGS into all potential EV charging projects, so we can track and support as necessary
 - Share data on your projects, using our data submission form

If agencies are interested in attending the monthly EV meetings, they should reach out to Emily (Emily.Soonternsaratool@maryland.gov) to be added to the invite list.

VIII. Legislative Update - provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh

- HB164 / SB116: Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development
 - The GPC will be adding or increasing required recycled content percentages in its specifications in support of the activities required by this law.
- HB 264 / SB483: Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals Ramesh
 - This law will require cafeterias “operated by State Government and generates at least 2 tons of food each week after Jan 1, 2023” to reduce their food waste through food management and divert it from the landfill through organics recycling (aka composting).
- HB92: Procurement - Invasive Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds – update provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
 - This law prohibits the use of State funds to purchase invasive plants. This requirement is included in the GPC's Landscaping Plants Specification.

IX. Specifications Update – provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh

- Landscaping Plants Specification – sets prohibition on invasive plants purchased by the State and encourages the use of native plants in landscaping. The finalized specification was presented to the Committee and subsequently approved. The approved specification will be published to the GPC webpage later this month.
- EV Supply Equipment Specification – includes ENERGY STAR requirements for charging stations as well as construction, installation, and warranty requirements. The finalized specification was presented to the Committee and subsequently approved. The approved specification will be published to the GPC webpage later this month.



- Office Supplies Specification – Kshirajaa is working with the SPLC’s working group on environmentally preferable office supplies to set a national green standard for these products. This process will continue through Spring and Summer 2022.
 - Janitorial Supplies Specification – This specification is being developed by Massachusetts for an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing contract and once finalized, it will be adapted for use by the Green Purchasing Committee.
- X. Buying Green Products on Maryland’s Contract with BISM – Arhea Lazelle, BISM
- The presentation provided an overview of BISM’s efforts to promote their green products on contract and introduced BISM’s new [green purchasing guide](#).
 - Richard Keller asked whether the green purchasing guide is available to local agencies, and Arhea replied that it is available to them as well.
 - Rod Johnson questioned how people purchase from BISM. Arhea answered that purchases are made in several ways, from the online portal, phone calls, paper catalogs, etc., and usually made through either purchase orders or credit cards.
- XI. Upcoming Activities
- Vendor One-on-Ones – update provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
 - The GPC will invite select statewide vendors to participate in Vendor One-on-Ones to discuss the following topics:
 - Reporting
 - Green Purchasing Guides
 - Compliance with Laws/Statutes/Regulations
 - Green Purchasing Program Development for Vendors
 - Upcoming Meetings and Events – update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
 - MDE will be hosting a Food Recovery Summit on December 1, 2021.
 - The next GPC Working Meeting will be held on January 18, 10:00 – 12:00
 - The next GPC Quarterly Meeting will be held on February 10, 10:00 – 12:00
- XII. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee

