Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday February 10, 2022, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS
Akrem Awad, DGS
Nina Baxter, USM UB
Jim Beauchamp, MDH
Christy Bujnovszky, MDE
Nick Cavey, DGS
Cheryl Cooper, MMCC
Hilal Efe, DGS
Robert Fritsche, Towson University
Dinesh Gandhi, MDE
Sandy Hertz, MDOT
Thomas Hickey, USM
Carroll Hicks, MDTA
Susan Howells, DOIT
Rod Johnson, DGS
Tyler Lane, MDOT
Courtney League, DGS
Eddie Lukemire, MDOT
Heather Mohney, MDH
Falena Robinson, DHS
Glenn Roscoe, Morgan State University
Mehmet Sahbaz, DGS
Lance Schine, DOIT
Joseph Sedtal, DPSCS
Ashraf Shaker, DGS
Korin Sharp, DGS
Matthew Smith, DGS
David St. Jean, DGS
Dionne Washington, MDH
Patricia Watson, Towson University
Marie Weber, Towson University
Johanna Anderson, SPLC
Paul Bruce, M.Luis Products
Shawn Campbell, Seaboard Asphalt
Nicole Copeland, MCE
Debbie Groat, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM
Kevin Wengernuk, KW Landscaping

Minutes:

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Emily Soontornsaratool 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 November 18, 2022, GPC Quarterly meeting. Joseph Sedtal seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

III. Member Announcements

- Nicole Copeland from MCE announced that they are working to update and audit their catalog. MCE is developing an interactive purchasing catalog which will take purchasers directly from the catalog and the selected item to the buying portal. MCE's catalog will once again include a section devoted to Environmentally Preferable Products.
- Eddie Lukemire announced that MDOT's Secretary's Office recently created an Executive Level Office - "Office of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation." This director of this office is Sandy Hertz.

IV. Presentation: "Chemical Free Landscape Practices on State Grounds" – Kevin Wengernuk, KW Landscaping

- Kevin Wengernuk is the President and Founder of KW Landscaping. KW Landscaping holds the contract for the maintenance of Annapolis State House Grounds. Kevin provided an overview of what is considered organic land care and the background of the State House project. Established in 2011, this project was one of the first in the country to use organic landscape and lawn maintenance practices.
- David St. Jean asked whether the use of electric powered lawn equipment will become common. Kevin said he anticipates it will take another 5 years for electric powered equipment to become commonplace.
- Rod Johnson asked whether there has been any pushback from chemical companies regarding the switch to organic land care; he also asked if these companies are starting to offer organic products. Kevin has not experienced any pushback from chemical companies. He also added in his experience, these companies are not switching their offerings and continue to provide synthetic, chemical-based products.
- Sandy Hertz had a question on upscaling and the application of organic land care practices at SHA. Kevin recommends the use of Zoysia grass for the middle of roads or to turn more green spaces into meadows that only have to be mowed once a season. Kevin suggests this would be the best organic approach for these areas and the most cost-effective. Sandy added that there used to be a meadow establishment program at MDOT, but pushback from the community that these areas seemed "unkempt" created challenges. Sandy and Kevin agreed that better communication on the benefits of such practices – to environmental and public health – are critical to ensuring the success of organic land care practices.
- Eddie Lukemire added that MDOT SHA is required to use a certain percentage of compost in their landscaping and maintenance projects.

V. FY 2022 – Activities and Progress

- Maryland's Leadership in Green Purchasing - update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool.
    - Maryland's Green Purchasing Program serves a model for other states to follow. Maryland's program is frequently referenced as an example in NASPO's Sustainable/Green Purchasing Guide.
    - Maryland's Saving Money by Buying Green webinar and factsheet (issued in February 2021) served as the basis for Massachusetts's webinar and factsheet (issued in January 2022) on the same topic.
    - Maryland's Green Purchasing Committee was the recipient of the 2021 SPLC Leadership Award in the category of Best Business Case. This award recognizes an organization that best demonstrates the business value generated by green purchasing.
        - *Related FY 2022 goal: Demonstrate the benefit of green purchasing through increased promotion and communications of benefits.*
- Training and Outreach – update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
    - Emily, Kshirajaa Ramesh, and Arhea Lazzelle (BISM) held a training for State purchasers on how to identify and buy green office supplies. This was a virtual event with over 120 attendees.
        - *Related FY 2022 goal: Promote green contracts to State agencies, and counties/municipalities.*
    - Agency Info Session on Green Purchasing Reporting was held in January 2022. Kshirajaa reminded Agencies to submit their Q1 and Q2 green purchasing reports by the end of February.
- Communications Update - provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
    - DGS's Green Purchasing Staff are holding regular quarterly meetings with BISM. Topics of discussion include increasing recycled content in products, promoting BISM's green offerings, and improving purchaser resources. Rod Johnson added that BISM has agreed to discuss how they can increase recycled content in their copy paper – from 50% recycled content to 100%.
        - *Related FY 2022 goal: Engage Vendors to increase awareness and compliance.*
    - Green Purchasing Staff have also been holding one-on-one sessions with vendors. The first phase of this outreach campaign focused mainly on engaging the State's office supply vendors. Individual sessions have been completed with: MCE, AJs, Rudolph's, RGH, and Seaboard Asphalt. A session with Cartridge Plus will be scheduled shortly. Main topics of discussion for these meetings are compliance with statutory and regulatory

requirements, the promotion of green products, and green purchasing reports.

        - *Related FY 2022 goal: Engage Vendors to increase awareness and compliance.*

    - The GPC website is the main resource for State staff and vendors and as such is constantly undergoing improvements.
        - New webpages for "Landscaping Supplies' and "Electric Vehicles and Related Equipment" were added.
        - The following web updates will soon take effect:
            1) The addition of a dedicated section for purchaser trainings.
            2) Updated Leadership and Recognition page to reflect recent awards and press releases.
            3) Updated Newsletters page to include the latest issues of the Buy Green Newsletter.
        - The following updates/additions are planned for the website:
            1) A new and updated Best Practices Manual.
            2) Expanded resources and content for vendors.
    - The fourth issue of the GPC newsletter was released in January. This issue was sent to 273 recipients with 324 total opens and 148 unique opens.
    - Green Purchasing Staff have participated in the following meetings/events:
        - MDE's Food Recovery Summit which focused on the diversion of organic waste from landfills.
        - "Maryland is Open for Recycling" Stakeholder and Partner Meetings.

- Green Purchasing and Procurement Update – provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
    - Relevant contracts have been tagged as "green" and can now be found on the DGS Procurement website for open bids and contract awards: https://dgs.maryland.gov/Pages/Procurement/BidsAwards.aspx
        1) *Related FY 2022 goal: Promote green contracts to State agencies, and counties/municipalities.*
    - References to GPC specifications as well as statutory and regulatory requirements will be integrated into DGS's IFB templates to ensure vendor compliance.

- Upcoming Activities – update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- The GPC is developing a CMPO specialization on green purchasing. 60% of those polled at SPAG expressed an interest in this course. A pilot is planned for summer 2022.
    - *Related FY 2022 goal: Regular ongoing training for procurement staff.*
- On behalf of the GPC, the Responsible Purchasing Network is developing a green purchasing guide for lighting products. This guide focuses on how to specify green lighting in contracts and how to identify/buy green lighting off statewide contracts.

VI. Legislative Update - provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- The GPC has tracked and reviewed 20 bills this session.
- The GPC held a legislative working meeting on 1/21/2022. The next GPC Legislative working meeting will be held on 2/16/2022.
- The following table provides a list of proposed legislation that would impact the GPC.

Bill #	Title	Sponsor	Description
HB135	Environment-Single-use Plastics-Restrictions	Kramer Fraser-Hidalgo	Food services businesses (including cafeterias operated by or on behalf of the State) may not provide identified single-use food or beverage products to customers ordering carryout or delivery unless the customer requests certain items, waivers may be granted up to 3 months if undue hardship exists
SB461	SF&P-Procedures & Pricing & Selection Committee for Preferred Providers	Griffith	***Includes proposed revision to Green Purchasing Reporting Deadlines:*** On or before [September] **OCTOBER 1** of each year, each unit shall report to 18 the Department of General Services on the unit's procurement of environmentally 19 preferable products and services as a percentage of the unit's gross purchases during the 20 preceding fiscal year, including the types and quantities of products and services procured On or before [October 1] **DECEMBER 31** of each year, the Committee shall 31 report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government 32 Article, on the Committee's activities and the progress made as a result of the 33 implementation of this section.

HB723	SF&P-Procedures & Pricing & Selection Committee for Preferred Providers	Charles	*House version of above bill*
SB528	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022	Pinsky	Requires new buildings to: • meet all water and space heating demand without the use of fossil fuels. • be "solar ready". • ready for the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. • ready for building-grid interaction. Requires **at least 75% of its electricity from low-carbon renewable energy sources by 2030** (25% above current RPS) DGS install charging infrastructure to support the transition of the State's fleet to EVs **50% reduction in net GHG emissions in state-owned buildings over 25,000 GSF on or before 1/1/2030, and net zero GHG emissions in buildings before 1/1/2035.** The Bill also requires the owners of covered buildings to measure and report direct emissions beginning in 2025. Additional requirements for green building code compliance with the High Performance Green Building Program. **STATUS: In the Senate - Hearing 2/15 at 1:00 p.m. (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)**
HB 708	Comprehensive Climate Solutions	Barve Stein	House version of above bill -- similar but some differences to Senate bill
SB528	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022	Pinsky	Requires new buildings to: • meet all water and space heating demand without the use of fossil fuels. • be "solar ready". • ready for the installation of electric vehicle charging equipment. • ready for building-grid interaction.

			Requires **at least 75% of its electricity from low-carbon renewable energy sources by 2030** (25% above current RPS) DGS install charging infrastructure to support the transition of the State's fleet to EVs **50% reduction in net GHG emissions in state-owned buildings over 25,000 GSF on or before 1/1/2030, and net zero GHG emissions in buildings before 1/1/2035.** The Bill also requires the owners of covered buildings to measure and report direct emissions beginning in 2025. Additional requirements for green building code compliance with the High Performance Green Building Program.
HB 708	Comprehensive Climate Solutions	Barve Stein	House version of above bill -- similar but some differences to Senate bill
HB806	Building Standards and Emissions Reductions – High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects	Stein Barve	Altering the definition of "high performance building" to include certain schools and public safety buildings and require that the building meet certain building standards; requiring the Department of General Services to **establish a maximum acceptable global warming potential for certain categories of eligible materials** used in certain eligible projects; requiring a unit of State government to specify the eligible materials that will be used in an eligible project in the solicitation for an eligible project; etc. "ELIGIBLE MATERIAL" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CAPITAL PROJECT: • CEMENT AND CONCRETE MIXTURES • GLASS • POST TENSION STEEL • REINFORCING STEEL • STRUCTURAL STEEL • WOOD STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS
SB490	MD Recycling Act-Recyclable Materials & Solid Waste Stream	Ready/McCray	Altering the definitions of "recyclable materials" and "solid waste stream" under the Maryland Recycling Act to include construction and demolition debris.

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HB 700	Environment - Products and Packaging - Labeling, Marketing and Advertising for Recycling	Love et al	Altering certain plastic resin labeling requirements for rigid plastic containers and plastic bottles; prohibiting the display of a certain symbol on rigid plastic containers and plastic bottles if the containers and bottles do not meet certain requirements; **prohibiting a person from making certain environmental marketing claims**; prohibiting a person from offering for sale, selling, distributing, or importing into the State any product or packaging labeled with or depicting certain environmental marketing claims; etc.
HB0307 SB0292	Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility	Lierman	Shifts responsibility for end of life of packaging materials to the vendor
HB570	Pesticides-Mosquito Control Products & PFAS Chemicals	Stein	Prohibits the State, a local government, or a certified applicator or a person working under the supervision of a certified applicator from using a mosquito control product that contains PFAS chemicals
HB 275 SB273	PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements "George Walter Taylor Act"	Love	Prohibits the manufacture, purchase, sell or use of intentionally added PFAS in the following products: • Fire-fighting foam, • PPE for Firefighters • Rugs or carpets (commercial or residential broadloom, and related pads and underlayments) • Food/beverage containers, and food package and packaging - with certain exceptions.
HB 15 SB 7	Invasive & Native Plants-Classifications, Listing, Use & Sales & Use Tax	Luedtke & D. Jones Elfreth	Dept. of Agriculture must e**xpand classification of invasive plants** -- classify Tier 1 and Tier 2 identified in National Park Service & US Fish and Wildlife lists
HB 94	State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-Duty Vehicles	Fraser-Hidalgo	**Convert State passenger vehicle & light duty fleet to zero emission vehicles**; approximately 4,000 eligible vehicles to be replaced with EVs over next decade
SB 308	Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program	Lam	Requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and administer a **statewide green business certification program** to recognize businesses operating in a manner that reduces their environmental footprint and provide consumers with information on how to identify those businesses

HB806	Building Standards and Emissions Reductions – High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects	Stein Barve	Altering the definition of "high performance building" to include certain schools and public safety buildings and require that the building meet certain building standards; requiring the Department of General Services to **establish a maximum acceptable global warming potential for certain categories of eligible materials** used in certain eligible projects; requiring a unit of State government to specify the eligible materials that will be used in an eligible project in the solicitation for an eligible project; etc.

VII. Specifications Update – provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
Related FY 2022 goal: Establish a robust library of specifications.

- Antifreeze – includes requirements based on the EPA CPG. The finalized specification was presented to the Committee. Tom Hickey motioned to approve, and Joe Sedtal seconded the motion. The approved specification will be published to the GPC webpage later this month.
- Office Waste and Recycling Containers – includes requirements based on the EPA CPG. The finalized specification was presented to the Committee. Tom Hickey motioned to approve and Joe Sedtal seconded the motion. The approved specification will be published to the GPC webpage later this month.
- Traffic Control Products - includes requirements based on the EPA CPG. Additional research is being conducted on availability and pricing of products.
- Janitorial Supplies Specification –currently being reviewed by BISM.
- Flooring and Related Products – comments from GPC designees are being integrated.
- Integrated Pest Management - comments from subject matter experts are being integrated.
- 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.

VIII. Presentation: "Sustainable Procurement: Addressing Environmental, Social, and Economic Impacts" – Johanna Anderson, SPLC

- Johanna is the Director of Learning and Engagement at SPLC. The presentation focused on the importance of social and economic considerations of sustainable purchasing. The tenets of sustainable purchasing focus on a "healthy community, economy, and environment for everyone, forever." These tenets are also the focus of sustainable purchasing programs in the State of Minnesota, City of Portland, and Fairfax County. Joanna also provided an overview of how the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be used as a framework for sustainable purchasing.

IX. Green Purchasing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) –provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- The DGS Secretary requested that the GPC establish metrics to track the progress of the State's Green Purchasing Program. GPC Staff and DGS Office of Energy and Sustainability proposed the establishment of KPIs related to the UN SDGs. Tom Hickey motioned to approve, and Joe Sedtal seconded the motion. The KPIs will be used to benchmark the Green Purchasing Committee's progress.
    - *Related FY22 Goals: Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to measure the success of our program.*

X. Upcoming Meetings - provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- GPC Legislation Discussion (GPC members only) will be held on February 16, 2:00 – 3:00
- Green Purchasing/BPW Discussion (by invite only) will be held on February 18, 11:00 – 12:00.
- The next GPC Working Meeting will be held on April 12, 10:00 – 12:00.
- The next GPC Quarterly Meeting will be held on May 12, 10:00 – 12:00.

XI. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee