Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday May 12, 2022, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

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

Attendees:

Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS*
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS (Staff)
Nina Baxter, USM UB
Cheryl Cooper, MMCC
Hilal Efe, DGS
Sandy Hertz, MDOT
Tom Hickey, USM*
Carroll Hicks, MDTA
Rod Johnson, DGS
Joanna Kille, Treasurer's Office*
Jessica Knott, DGS
Tyler Lane, MDOT
Eddie Lukemire, MDOT*
Ryan McAlpine, MDOT
Mike Myers, DGS
Devin Neil, DGS
Falena Robinson, DHS
Glenn Roscoe, Morgan State University
Lance Schine, DoIT*
Martha Shrader, University of Maryland
Matthew Smith, DGS
Patricia Watson, Towson University
Jenna Larkin, EPA
Nicole Copeland, MCE
Shawn Campbell, Seaboard Asphalt
Vanessa Balta, Broward County Sustainability

** Indicates Agency Designee*

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 February 10, 2022 GPC Quarterly meeting. Glenn Roscoe seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

III. Legislative Update – provided by Devin Neil

- The DGS Legislative Office tracked over 235 bills; DGS completed more than 145 fiscal impact statements.

- The GPC tracked and reviewed 20 bills of which 6 passed. The GPC submitted one letter of information for HB 135 – Single Use Plastic Restrictions. This bill received an unfavorable report by Economic Matters, but will likely be reintroduced in the next session.
    - Bills that passed which will affect the GPC:
        - HB 723/ SB 461: Procedures and Pricing and Selection Committee for Preferred Providers – *extends the GPC reporting deadline from October 1 to December 31; goes into effect of July 1, 2022. As a result of this bill, agency green purchasing reports are due to DGS one month later than previous reports.*
            1) Tom Hickey mentioned that PIC is looking to reduce and consolidate the number of reports agencies are required to submit. Emily agrees that this is a good idea that will reduce reporting burden on staff.
        - SB 528: Climate Solutions Act Now of 2022 – *GPC will need to create new/update existing specifications (e.g. Building Systems and Related Equipment, Electric Vehicles and Related Equipment, Low Carbon Concrete). This bill also institutes EV requirements: 100% of the passenger vehicle fleet must be zero-emission by 2031 and 100% of light duty fleet vehicles must be zero emission by 2036. DGS will be responsible for EV Charging Infrastructure.*
            1) Joanna Kille asked whether the Climate Solutions bill includes specific infrastructure requirements. Emily answered that there is no prescriptive language on the number or type of charging stations to be installed.
            2) Tom Hickey noted that some organizations are embracing a battery swap program for EVs that can reduce the burden of owning and recycling the battery by the State.
            3) Sandy Hertz asked whether the usable life of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles at the State can be shortened from 100,000 miles or 10 years. This will allow the State to sell ICE vehicles earlier in their life and for greater value. Emily commented that this is something that is being discussed at DBM.
        - HB 15/ SB 07: Invasive and Native Plants – Classification, Listing, and Use – *the GPC specification for invasive plant prohibitions may need to be updated.*
        - HB 772/ SB 494: Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Alterations – *the GPC may need to*

update specifications for HVAC Systems and Plumbing and Water Fixtures.

- HB 133/ SB 372: Safer Sealants – *prohibits the sale and use of high-PAH sealant products; the GPC may create a specification for this product category.*
    1) Shawn Campbell mentioned that this is a bill that he worked on and is happy to support the GPC on any implementation efforts.
- HB 275/ SB 273: PFAS Chemical Prohibitions and Requirements – *GPC will update existing specifications (e.g. Food Service Ware); flooring and adhesives specification includes PFAS prohibitions.*

IV. FY 2022 – Activities and Progress

- Maryland's Progress towards FY 2022 Goals - update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool.
    - The Green Purchasing Committee has made progress on all FY 2022 goals, and has successfully addressed most of them.
- Leadership in Green Purchasing - update provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh.
    - Maryland, through the Green Purchasing Committee, won 2 awards (State Electronics Challenge – Silver Level Recognition and EPEAT Purchaser Award – 3 Stars) for its purchase and responsible recycling of Green IT. This is the third year in a row that the State has received these awards.

      Related FY 2022 goal: Demonstrate the benefit of green purchasing through increased promotion and communications of benefits.
        - Patty asked whether manufacturers have any EPR policy for electronic waste. Alicia Culver of the Responsible Purchasing Network said that EPEAT requires manufacturers of certain product categories to offer a takeback program but is unsure if this offer has been used by other organizations.
- Communications Update - provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
    - Green Purchasing Staff has 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, Cartridge Plus, Grainger, and Seaboard Asphalt.
        - Main topics of discussion for these meetings are compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, the promotion of green products, and green purchasing reports. Non-compliant products -

expanded polystyrene food service ware, 0% recycled copy paper, and non-EPEAT Silver and Gold products - were removed from the catalog or blocked from being added to the cart.

- *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 "Tracking Progress and Measuring Success," "Agency Recognition," "FAQs," and "Office Supplies Purchaser Training" were added.
  - A "Specification Index" was created as a tool for procurement officers. This document includes 118 individual product categories covered by 17 specifications.
  - The following web updates will soon take effect:
    1) Updated Leadership and Recognition page to reflect recent awards and press releases.
- The fifth issue of the GPC newsletter was released in January. This issue was sent to 438 recipients with 343 total opens and 218 unique opens. A special edition newsletter for Earth Day was sent to 438 recipients with 462 total opens and 231 unique opens.
- A Green Purchasing Guide for Lighting was developed for Maryland by the Responsible Purchasing Network. This guide details how to specify high performance LED lighting, how to identify/buy high performance LED lighting on statewide contracts, and provides an overview of health and economic benefits.

- EVs and EV Infrastructure Update – provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
  - DGS EV Infrastructure Program (EVIP) oversees planning, project management, project funding, and data and reporting for electric charger projects for the State of Maryland.
    - 11 charging stations are open, 6 are in design, 7 are in construction, and 4 are in procurement.
    - The DGS EV website has launched. The following resources are included on the website:
      1) EV Charging Station Usage Policy
      2) Map of all EV charging stations at State facilities
      3) EVs and EVSE available on statewide contract
      4) EV Strategy and Guidance document

        - The new EV Ambassadors program brings together E-mobility users, champions, and enthusiasts across all levels and agencies in the State of Maryland. The purpose of this group is to enable knowledge sharing, improve the charging experience, and promote the benefits of transportation electrification. Those interested can join here.

- Upcoming Activities – update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
    - The GPC is growing its staff and is hiring for a Green Purchasing Data Coordinator.
    - The Committee will hold an in-person "Learn and Plan" session on Tuesday, June 7 from 9:00 – 12:00.
    - The GPC is developing a CMPO specialization on green purchasing. This will be an 8 contact hour certification (four 2-hour live training sessions, weekly assignments, and a final assessment). This course is open to procurement staff who are already CMPOs. The course will begin in July and has 25 open seats.
        - *Related FY 2022 goal: Regular ongoing training for procurement staff.*
    - The GPC will partner with RMI through a grant-funded opportunity to explore policy and implementation possibilities for low carbon concrete. RMI will provide technical expertise and provide recommendations for the State to develop a specification for concrete based on national best practices and local markets research.

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

- Janitorial Supplies Specification –currently being reviewed by BISM. Tom Hickey motioned to approve, and Rod Johnson seconded the motion. The approved specification will be published to the GPC webpage later this month.
- Flooring and Adhesives– Tom Hickey motioned to approve, and Matthew Smith seconded the motion. 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.
- Low Carbon Concrete – The GPC and RMI will work together to develop purchasing requirements for low carbon concrete.

VI. Upcoming Meetings - provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- Learn and Plan Session – June 7 from 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. This event is open to GPC members and state agencies.
- The next GPC Working Meeting will be held on July 12, 10:00 – 12:00. This event is open to GPC members and state agencies.
- The next GPC Quarterly Meeting will be held on August 11, 10:00 – 12:00. This event is open to the public.

VII. Presentation: "Overview of EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program and Tools" – Jenna Larkin, EPA

- Jenna leads the federal government's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. The presentation provided an overview of federal sustainable purchasing, overview of recent sustainable purchasing directives, and a summary of EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for federal purchasing. Jenna also noted that the program is identifying opportunities to limit the purchase of products containing PFAS.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee