Wes Moore
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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Atif Chaudhry
Secretary

Nelson E. Reichart
Deputy Secretary

OFFICE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, & ENERGY

Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday May 11, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

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

Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS*
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS**
Sam Linton, DGS**
Jim Beauchamp, MDH*
Alex Butler, Comptroller
Melane Boltz, MDH
Jasmine Clemens, Comptroller
Deborah Cook-Slade, DHS
Lillian Deery, MDE
Dyvor Gibson, DPSCS
Monica Hariri, MDH
Merchelle Hasley, DoIT
Thomas Hickey, USM*
Carroll Hicks, MDTA
David Hollens, MDOT
Shenika Jackson, DNR
Joanna Kille, STO*
Tim Kerr, MDE
Hugo Lam, MDOT
Edward Lukemire, MDOT*
Luis Luna, DGS
Shannon McDonald, MDE
Tanya Mekeal, State Treasurer's Office
Wendy Nabb, MDH
Victoria Nellis, Judiciary
Cindy Osorto, MDE
Joana Pei, DPSCS
Kim Pezza, MDE
Tina Qunichette, MDOT
Falena Robinson, DHS
Marsha Rowe, DGS
Xylina Sanders, DPSCS
Korin Sharp, DGS
Matthew Smith, DGS
Carla Thompson, DoIT
Henry ThorStraten, DHS
Allison Tjaden, MDE
Candace Ward, DoIT
Dionne Washington, MDH
Yolanda Waugh, DHS
Carol Wilson, MDH
Chanel Franze, Towson University
Glenn Roscoe, Morgan State University
Martha Shrader, University of Maryland
Patricia Watson, Towson University
Kareem Hammoud, USCA
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM
Stuart Kaplow, Green Building Council
Sean McGlumphy, Fastenal
Stephanie Myles, DC-DOEE

Designee *
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Minutes:

- Welcome and Introductions
    - Emily Soontornsaratool welcomed Committee members and attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
    - Joanna Kille with the State Treasurer's Office motioned to approve the February 9th meeting minutes. Dionne Washington with the Department of Health seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- GPC Business – by Emily Soontornsaratool
    - GPC Membership.
        - Emily gave a brief overview of the statutory members who represent the Green Purchasing Committee. The next steps are to confirm agency designees, and fill vacancies for the following agencies: Department of Natural Resources, Department of Information Technology, and Department of Education.
        - DGS Secretary Chaudhry will be issuing letters to the Agency Head to either confirm or appoint a designee; a response is due on May 31st. These letters define the roles and expectations of GPC designees.
- Presentation – "An Introduction to Buy Clean" – provided by Kareem Hammoud
    - Kareem Hammoud, a senior policy analyst for the US Climate Alliance (USCA), introduced a Buy Clean Policy framework. This presentation focused on industrial decarbonization through procurement of construction materials.
    - Background: Industry is the third largest source of GHG emissions in the US, however industry is expected to be the leading source of GHG emissions by 2030. There are four major types of industry: Manufacturing, construction, mining, and

agriculture. Manufacturing is responsible for 82% of industrial energy consumption.

- A Buy Clean policy uses disclosures, standards, and incentives to leverage the purchasing power of the public agencies, specifically for construction materials. The public sector accounts for 32% of embodied carbon in construction.
- The scope of buy clean policies typically includes the materials used in building and transportation projects. The materials covered are concrete, steel, asphalt, engineered wood, glass, and insulation. Concrete and steel are the most frequently targeted commodities.
- Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) are used to disclose the environmental impact of a specified eligible material provided by manufacturers. This allows for comparison of emissions between two functionally equivalent products.
    - Joanna Kille asked if there has been discussion about combining all the EPD standards into one law. Kareem Hammoud stated yes; however, these standards vary from the federal EPDs. The governing standard is through ISO (International Organization for Standardization). The usage of these standards is the prerogative of each jurisdiction.
- Global Warming Potential (GWP) limits provide the maximum amount of carbon intensity allowed for a certain product. GWPs can be used to create standardized thresholds to limit environmental impacts.
    - Shannon McDonald with Department of Environment asked about the timeframe from the passing of these standards to its implementation in Maryland. Emily responded that the newly passed bill involves a mandatory disclosure of EPDs by December 31, 2024, for eligible projects, including new construction and building renovations. The mandatory disclosure period will last for two years to collect data and then DGS must set GWP limits for the eligible materials by January 1, 2026. Stuart Kaplow with the Green Building Council added they are taking

inventory for the number of eligible products that apply to this legislation. He estimated there are less than ten eligible projects.

- Cindy Osorto with Department of Environment (MDE) asked if there are updates or expectations regarding federal support on the Buy Clean policy. Kareem stated that the EPA has 350 million dollars available in which a portion will be allocated to an EPD assistance program to manufacturers and states, as well as improving the data infrastructure behind EPDs. Secondly, the EPA is developing a carbon labeling program to include third party environmental certifications on the EPDs to assist procurement officers by identifying low-carbon versions of specific materials.

- Legislative Update – provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
  - SB222: Environment Recycling Needs Assessment and Producer Responsibility for Packaging Materials - *Establishes a producer responsibility advisory council to make recommendations for implementing a producer responsibility program in the state for packaging materials.*
    - Emily stated this bill does not require any action from the GPC.
  - HB261: Eligible Products – Procurement of Construction Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act) - *Requires the producers of cement and concrete mixture used in State construction projects to submit Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) by December 31, 2024.*
    - DGS must establish Global Warming Potential (GWP) limits by January 1, 2026, for all eligible products defined in the legislation.
    - The Department of Commerce will establish an EPD Assistance Fund to support the development of certain EPDs.
      - Stuart Kaplow suggested the Secretary determine the roles of procurement and the Green Building Council to avoid duplicating effort. Second, he mentioned although this bill will be regulated by law, there is currently no GWP for concrete products, due to the

variety of concrete mixes and a lack of standardization for calculating and setting limits GWPs. Emily pointed out that the development of GWP limits will derive from the EPDs that producers are mandated to submit to DGS. The agency will have to move forward with that data analysis once they receive EPDs by the specified deadline.

- Joanna Kille asked if the bill specified whether DGS is required to consult with other agencies to provide technical expertise in establishing GWP limit. Emily responded that, per the bill, the Maryland Department of Transportation will be consulted by DGS when establishing GWP thresholds.
- Cindy Osorto mentioned that this bill does not mention MDE and they are not required to be involved in implementation.
- Tom Hickey with University System of Maryland (USM) stated this bill includes USM because their projects are covered under the Green Building Council, and they adhere to their specifications for capital construction.

- HB586: State Procurement – Purchasing – Compost, Mulch, and Soil Amendments and Aggregate - *Requires all units of State government to adopt specifications for certain organic materials.*
  - The GPC is responsible for developing specifications for compost, mulch, soil amendments, and aggregate.
  - These specifications will be published online for use by State agencies.
    - Joanna Kille asked if this bill mentions the Department of Agriculture (DOA). The State Chemist oversees this field and may already have guidance and procedures regarding these products. Emily stated that the GPC has been collaborating with DOA around specifications and will continue to include them, but the bill does not specifically mention DOA.

- GPC Activities Update – provided by Sam Linton
    - FY2023 progress:
        - 5 updated specifications.
        - Annual report capturing more data points.
        - 7 Certified Maryland Procurement Officer (CMPO) trainings completed.
        - Green purchasing guides.
        - 4 vendor coaching sessions completed.
    - Earth Day Event
        - Sam thanked the tabling staff and attendees for their time. He emphasized that these outreach events are great opportunities to engage state employees in green purchasing.
    - Reporting
        - Agency green purchasing reports for quarter 3 are due by Friday, May 19th.
        - Update on reporting progress:
            - 12 agency reports that include green line items.
            - 13 agency reports that do not include green data.
            - 56 agencies have not yet reported.
            - 44% of agencies have sent their reports.
                - Sam mentioned staff turnover for reporting designees has made it challenging to receive green purchasing reports.
        - Submit reports to Sam.Linton@maryland.gov and dgs.BuyGreen@maryland.gov.
    - Vendor Outreach Update
        - The GPC staff has continued to organize vendor outreach meetings:
            - Cintas
                - Offered product categories include uniform rentals, medical supplies, janitorial services, first aid supplies, and more.
                - The GPC requested a list of green products to hopefully develop a green purchasing guide. This process is still ongoing.

- Fastenal
    - Recommendations to their online catalog include:
        - The addition of a Maryland "green logo" for GPC approved products.
        - Blocking of products that are banned by the state, or do not comply with Maryland procurement laws.
        - Developing a green purchasing guide for the following product categories: Janitorial and office supplies, construction and maintenance, lighting, and appliances.
- Rudolph's Office Supply
    - New updates to their online catalog include:
        - Favorites list was added in their drop-down menu. It can be customized to have Rudolph's green products listed for multiple product categories.
        - Once their website is fully updated in response to the recommendations, the GPC would like to invite a Rudolph representative to present their new catalog at the next GPC meeting.

- Specifications & Resources – provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
    - Environmentally Preferrable Product (EPP) Specifications Index
        - Updated from a PDF file to an Excel spreadsheet. The access to filters allows users to search for products or specifications as they please.
        - This spreadsheet covers 174 different product categories and 18 specifications.
        - eMMA commodity codes have been added to the spreadsheet to help procurement officers better integrate GPC specifications into solicitations.
    - Landscaping Supplies Specification – Vote to Approve

- The specification included the following updates based off the feedback from the GPC working meeting:
    - Compost must be sourced locally or possess an environmental certification.
    - Added reference to FIFRA requirement for pesticides.
    - Added noxious weed regulation reference.
    - Added PFAS and PVC prohibitions for certain categories.
    - Added limitations on hazardous substances and heavy metals.
    - Moved pesticide, herbicide, and insecticide requirements for OMRI listed products to additional environmentally desirable attributes section.
    - Added WaterSense requirements for irrigation equipment.
- Tom Hickey motioned to approve the specification. Joanna Kille seconded the motion, and the specification was approved.

- Landscaping Services Specification – Vote to Approve
    - Minor updates following feedback from the GPC working meeting:
        - Maintain consistency with the updates and statutory language in the landscaping supplies specification.
        - Added MDA pesticide certification and license requirements for applicators.
    - Tom Hickey motioned to approve the specification. Joanna Kille seconded the motion, and the specification was approved.
- Upcoming Specifications:
    - The GPC will update Food Service Ware specifications to HB 275 PFAS prohibitions and requirements.

- The GPC will update Landscaping Supplies specification to comply with HB586 compost, mulch, and soil amendment requirements.
- The GPC will create a new Safer Sealants specification that is aligned with HB 133 high-PAH sealant prohibitions.
- The GPC will create a new Integrated Pest Management specification.
    - Joanna mentioned that the Department of Education (MSDE) has a Pest Management Law for schools that can be adopted into this new specification. Kshirajaa answered that the GPC staff has a draft of the specification, and it will be shared with the Department of Agriculture when the draft is ready to be presented. She asked Joanna to provide a contact that deals directly with pest management, and they can be a resource in completing this specification.

- Guidance on Promotional Products and Materials
    - This is not a specification, but it includes general language for choosing event giveaways with low environmental impact to reduce landfill waste and carbon emissions.
    - The goal of this document is to ensure that the standards within Maryland for purchasing are reflected at State-organized events.
    - Gives preference to giveaways that are reusable or made with recycled content; and advises against virgin material or single use products.
        - Kshirajaa mentioned the GPC intends to have a specification for event giveaways in the future.
- BPW Agenda Items
    - The GPC is in the process of drafting sustainable purchasing guidance for BPW to include in their agenda items.
    - Potential items include:

        - Inclusion of green purchasing specifications
        - Environmental certifications
        - EPDs
        - Supplier sustainability plan or climate action plan that outlines company operations
        - Alignment with Climate Solutions Now Act SB 528
- Training Update – provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh
    - CMPO (Certified Maryland Procurement Officer) Training: Ongoing
        - The GPC recently completed a 3-hour training session Intro to Green Purchasing for 12 students.
        - Topics: Basics of green purchasing, identifying green products, related laws and regulations, how to green a contract, tools and resources.
        - This class gives procurement officers the knowledge and resources to integrate green purchasing into their future contracts or solicitations.
    - CMPO + GPS (Green Purchasing Specialization)
        - This is the second offering of this specialization certificate program
        - Total of 10 hours of training for 28 students.
        - The course schedule is listed below:
            - Module 1 (Pre-recorded)
            - June 6th - Module 2: Legislation & Specifications.
            - June 13th - Module 3: Greenwashing & Environmental Claims.
            - June 20th - Module 4: Greening a Contract (part 1).
            - June 27th – Module 5: Putting it All Together – Greening a Contract (part 2).
    - GPC Interactive Forum

- DGS will implement the use of Microsoft Teams as an interactive platform for State procurement staff to discuss green purchasing.
- The GPS students will be the pilot group to test this new platform – beginning in June 2023. This will eventually be open to GPC members and other CMPOs that have questions about greening a contract, specifications, or reporting.

- Member Announcements – provided by Emily Soontornsaratool
  - Upcoming events.
    - GPC meetings

Date	Time	Meeting Type
July 13, 2023	1:00 - 3:00	Working Meeting
August 10, 2023	10:00 - 12:00	Quarterly Meeting*
October 12, 2023	1:00 - 3:00	Working Meeting
November 9, 2023	10:00 - 12:00	Quarterly Meeting*

    - Electric Vehicle (EV) Lunch and Learn: May 18th 12:00 -1:30.
      - Location: Treasury Building, Annapolis.
      - Open to all state employees interested in learning about electric vehicles.
      - Presentations given by EV Ambassadors will include the following topics: The incentives of EVs, how to purchase and EV, how to navigate charging, and more.
    - DGS Lunch and Learn: June 1st.
      - The DGS Office of Energy & Sustainability is presenting to the Design, Construction, and Engineering division and project managers. Topics include: An overview of green purchasing,

specifications or requirements for: HVAC, lighting, flooring, and plumbing; and an example of past projects that included green purchasing specifications.

- Agency Updates
  - MDE updates – provided by Shannon McDonald.
    - EPA SWIFR State data analysis will begin in October 2023.
      - MDE is currently identifying where there are reuse markets and recycled content in a regional approach.
    - Pollution prevention grant opportunities:
      - EPA EJ P2 Through Safer and More Sustainable Products.
      - EPA EJ P2 Communities.
      - USDA CFWR - local programs can work with outside agencies.
  - USM updates – provided by Tom Hickey.
    - USM has created a Climate Solutions Work Group that is comprised of representatives from the 12 college institutions.
    - There is a proposed regulation for the Maryland Building Energy Performance Standards that will be published on Monday, May 15th. They are accepting comments until June.
- Open Discussion
  - Stephanie Myles asked if the GPC is planning on applying for the Sustainable Products grant. Emily stated the grant pertains to direct impact of justice communities, and the GPC has an indirect impact that would be difficult to measure. Shannon added that MDE is applying for the main purpose of supporting other organizations that will be performing the work in this grant. The application will start in July.

- Conclusion
    - Emily thanked all the attendees, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Linton,
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee