



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
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# SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

# Background

- COG Cooperative Purchasing Program (since 1971)
  - Chief Purchasing Officers Committee (CPOC)
- COG Board created CEEPC - Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (since 2009)
  - 2010-2012 Regional Climate and Energy Workplan (1/10)
    - Calls for local governments to adopt green purchasing policies
- Green Purchasing Workshops (12/10, 9/12)

# Obstacles

- Most procurement specialists are not environmental specialists
- Most jurisdictions in the region have decentralized procurement
- Getting started (prioritization and products)
- Tracking existing green procurement
- Can take a long time for jurisdictions to issue a new RFP
- Economic downturn

# Opportunities

- Green procurement champions
- Regional RPN membership
- COG Rider Clause in local green contracts
- State contracts
- US EPA Green Power Partnership collaborative effort to procure solar PV
- National cooperative procurement contracts such as US Communities Go Green Program and Western States Contracting Alliance
- With existing resources, there is no need to reinvent the wheel

# Resources

- GSA Resources such as the Buy Green Products, Services and Vehicles Portal
- EPA EPP Program
- Fairfax County Green Contracts Catalog
- National Association of Counties Green Purchasing Toolkit
- Stopwaste.org Model Green Purchasing Policy and Implementation Guidance
- RPN Ten Steps to Starting a Sustainable Purchasing Program
- RPN Eco Label Resources and Purchasing Guides
- Office Depot Greener Office

# Next Steps?

- Green purchasing webinar or workshops
  - Existing resources (GSA, EPA, US Communities, WSCA, EPEAT)
  - Case studies from across the country (Portland, OR; King County, WA)
- Green purchasing survey to COG Cooperative Procurement Program participants
  - Develop fact sheets on contracts participants can take advantage of
- Communicate MD and VA state contract opportunities

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