

Biobased Addendum to USDA's 2014 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan

USDA is the lead Federal agency under the Biobased Markets Program authorized in Section 9002 of the Farm Bill. The Department has acted aggressively to implement the program, which we call the BioPreferred® program. This addendum highlights USDA accomplishments to date in FY 2014, describes a biobased product purchasing goal USDA has set for itself and a target for the entire Federal government, and discusses future plans to promote biobased products within the Department and the rest of the Federal government.

FY 2014 Accomplishments to Date

- In February, Secretary Vilsack sent an e-mail message to all members of USDA's Acquisition Workforce (numbering almost 5,000 contracting officers and contracting officers' representatives) requiring them to begin including biobased clauses in 100 percent of new janitorial/custodial and operations and maintenance contracts immediately.
- In April, USDA Chief Acquisition Officer Gregory Parham reinforced Secretary Vilsack's e-mail to the Acquisition Workforce by providing details on how staff can incorporate biobased language into statements of work and procurement evaluation factors for award.
- In May, USDA expanded requirement to include biobased requirements in 100 percent of new procurements to the construction, food service, and vehicle maintenance contracts.
- USDA developed a training course, "Biobased Training for the Acquisition Community," which is posted on the Department's on-line training platform, AgLearn. The training must be completed by all members of the Acquisition workforce by August 1, 2014. A modified version of this training is being placed on the BioPreferred web site, <http://www.biopreferred.gov> and made available to all Federal employees.
- USDA initiated a review of all of its upcoming and recently awarded procurements to ensure biobased requirements are placed into appropriate procurements. Contracting officers are being instructed to amend both procurement announcements and existing contracts, which should have biobased requirements but do not.

FY 2014 Biobased Product Purchasing Goals

USDA has established a goal of purchasing at least \$1,000,000 worth of biobased products in FY 2014 as reported by contractors at the end of the fiscal year using the web reporting portal in the System for Award Management. USDA has also established

a target purchase level for the entire Federal government of \$10,000,000, which is twice the level reported last year.¹

Future Actions

- Include a biobased purchasing standard in the FY 2015 performance plan of each acquisition professional.
- Promulgate a final Program guidelines regulation late this summer that will allow USDA to designate biobased intermediate chemicals and feedstocks and complex assembly products.
- Promote the BioPreferred program at the next meeting of the White House Rural Council.
- Publicize the FY 2014 biobased product reporting requirement in the Federal contractor trade press to bolster reporting.
- Assist OMB in monitoring Federal agency inclusion of biobased requirements in procurements via the Sustainability Scorecard process.
- Continue Federal agency outreach efforts.
- Aggressively implement new Biobased Market Program requirements enacted by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill.

¹ Last year's partial government shutdown hampered efforts to publicize reporting requirement and resulted in what USDA believes to be substantial under-reporting of actual contractor purchases of biobased products.