

Sustainable Procurement Support for Military Installations (Task N.0791)

Statement of Need

Federal procurement policies and regulations direct Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense (DoD) to give procurement preference to sustainable products when they are available and meet performance requirements. All Services within the DoD are required to improve their sustainable procurement performance in order to comply with federal regulations, Executive Orders (EO) and directives; reduce dependency on foreign oil; and lessen DoD's environmental impact. Improving sustainable procurement practices at DoD facilities enhances mission readiness while protecting human health and the environment and further incentivizing the sustainable economy.

Technical Approach

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (ODUSD) Installations and Environment (I&E) compiles the environmental scorecards from the Military Departments to track progress on environmental activities. In addition ODUSD I&E monitors the Military Service's performance to DoD Green Procurement Program (GPP) requirements, assesses efforts to meet the DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) goals and identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses.

In support of the ODUSD(I&E), this task assessed current DoD installation sustainable procurement practices. This involved interviewing both civilian and military personnel who manage and purchase these products for the Military Services, including higher headquarters, regional, and installation level organizations responsible for affirmative procurement of sustainable products.

Sustainable product awareness was enhanced by conducting two sustainable product pilots to identify and demonstrate potential sustainable alternatives that could be broadly utilized across the DoD. The installation assessment results were captured in individual site visit reports and a final report which documented all activities including results, lessons learned, and recommendations to assist the DoD with improving its performance on environmental scorecards.

The first sustainable product pilot demonstrated biobased firearm Cleaner, Lubricant and Preservative (CLP). Firearm CLP is used in cleaning, lubricating and short-term preservation of small and large caliber military weapons. Typical petroleum based firearm CLP contains petroleum distillates and other chemicals that may cause eye, skin and respiratory irritation. Biobased CLPs are non-toxic and do not have the Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) concerns associated with petroleum based products. Eight biobased firearm CLP products were demonstrated at the

U.S. Army, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (SWTG), Fort Bragg, NC. SWTG feedback indicated that the biobased CLP products performed as well or better than the currently used CLP and passed all performance requirements.

Government POC

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Status

Complete

The second sustainable product pilot demonstrated a product label to display a standardized list of product environmental attributes. The purpose of this multi-environmental attribute label is to provide verified sustainable product information to assist installations in making informed purchases of green and sustainable products. The label includes information on the product's sustainable attributes related to DoD SSPP sustainable procurement categories and Federal/DoD Preferred Procurement directives. The multi-environmental attribute label was demonstrated in base supply stores at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. In addition, the label was provided to Government stakeholders for review including ODUSD(I&E), the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the Military Services, the General Services Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the DoD Sustainability Workgroup. Label feedback indicated that the label was informative and beneficial in comparing product environmental attributes.

Outreach activities and education were performed throughout the duration of the task as a tool to inform the installations of Office of the Secretary of Defense's sustainable procurement efforts and increase communication / information-sharing among the Services.

Results and Benefits

This task identified needs and opportunities within each of the Services to further assess, demonstrate and implement sustainable product alternatives. A goal of this project was to increase Tri-Service procurement of green alternatives, raise awareness of DoD's GPP and the SSPP.

Technology Transfer and Outreach

Pilot demonstrations identified green product alternatives and verified their performance in DoD applications. This effort expanded the awareness, availability, and use of green products throughout the DoD and other Government agencies. The NDCEE will continue working with ODUSD(I&E), the DLA and other Government agencies to promote the implementation of green products that meet Government requirements.

