

## **BUY BIOBASED PRODUCTS**

### **Is it true that I must buy biobased products?**

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-17), better known as the 2002 Farm Bill, was signed by President Bush on May 13, 2002. Section 9002 directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to create a Designated Biobased Products List (DBPL) and to provide purchasing recommendations to Federal agencies. The law requires Federal agencies to give procurement preference to USDA-designated biobased products. It is now mandatory to purchase these products, and Federal agencies are required to develop affirmative procurement programs for purchasing them. This is very analogous to the buy-recycled program established by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

In addition, the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is required to prepare a Report to Congress every two years on the actions taken by Federal agencies to implement the preferred biobased procurement program. In order to provide information to OFPP for this report, agencies will need to establish tracking and reporting systems for purchases of biobased products.

### **Why are biobased products important?**

- Creates new markets for farmers
- Promotes redevelopment in many rural counties
- Enhances energy security
- Protects the environment
- Stimulates technologies
- Helps to perform missions cost-effectively
- Makes good business sense
- Promotes sustainable environmental stewardship
- Enhances partnership with industry

### **What is a biobased product?**

A biobased product is defined in the 2002 Farm Bill as “a product determined by the Secretary (of Agriculture) to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials.” Examples include: citrus based cleaners and straw board walls.

## **What are the proposed categories of biobased products?**

- Adhesives
- Construction Materials and Composites
- Fibers, Paper and Packaging
- Fuels Additives
- Vegetable Oil Inks
- Landscaping Materials and Compost
- Lubricants and Functional Fluids
- Paints and Coatings
- Plastics
- Solvents and Cleaners
- Sorbents

## **How do I obtain additional training and information?**

Presently, there is an interagency work group, “Buy Bio,” headed by the Departments of Agriculture and Energy and consisting of representatives from OMB/OFPP, White House Task Force on Recycling, DoD, DOI, EPA, GSA, and other agencies. This work group is developing education and training materials specifically for procurement officials and credit card holders on purchasing of biobased products.

The below web sites contain current information on the purchasing of biobased products:

<http://www.usda-biobasedproducts.net/public>

<http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov>

<http://www.ofee.gov>

## **Who do I contact for additional information?**

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**Document prepared by “Buy Bio”**