

Closing the Circle News

News on federal acquisition, recycling, and waste prevention from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

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Precedent Setting Strategic Plan to “Greening” the Government

“The Plan touches on many important issues, most of which involve the acquisition of recycled and recyclable products, so we were encouraged to see an emphasis on research and development of recycling.” - Mary Lou Higgs, Deputy Director, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation

It's a first - - the Federal government now has a Strategic Plan for waste prevention, recycling, and Federal acquisition. On March 12, 1999, the Federal Environmental Executive and Chair of the White House Task Force on Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention and Recycling (Task Force) unveiled the official government-wide Strategic Plan to implement Executive Order (E.O.) 13101. The Plan will be the cornerstone for greening the government's daily activities. It presents a vision and a road map for future initiatives, describes specific strategies and actions, and identifies stakeholders and performance measures. There is one major goal that defines the Plan: to improve waste prevention, recycling, and the purchase and use of recycled and environmentally preferable products and services.

E.O. 13101 directed the development of a government-wide Strategic Plan that would include direction for the acquisition of recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services, development of Affirmative Procurement Programs, review/revision of standards and product specifications, assessment of compliance, reporting requirements, outreach programs, and new technology initiatives.

“We found the Plan to be a useful tool in identifying strategies and actions to achieve requirements under the E.O.” - Stephen R. Colgate, Assistant Attorney General for Administration, U.S. Department of Justice

The White House Task Force, in collaboration with an interagency work group consisting of

representatives from various Federal agencies and in consultation with the Agency Environmental Executives of the 26 major procuring agencies, developed the Strategic Plan that encompasses the requirements of the E.O. and launches Green Government into the 21st Century.

One of the unique aspects of the Plan is the establishment of a new national goal for the Federal government of 35 percent waste diversion by 2005. All Federal agencies are expected to advance the attainment of this national goal with their respective waste diversion rates. The Plan also requires Federal agencies to demonstrate significant increases in the procurement of recycled content products from each preceding year through 2005.

Though implementation of the Strategic Plan, Federal agencies will:

- Prevent and reduce the generation of non-hazardous waste;
- Create and strengthen markets for recovered materials and recycled content and environmentally preferable products and services;
- Spur competition and market development;
- Strengthen the economy at the local, state, regional, and national level;
- Improve and enhance the environment;
- Transfer successful affirmative procurement and environmentally preferable purchasing techniques between the Federal, state, and local governments and industry; and
- Set an example to other governments, individuals, and the private sector.

“A well laid-out document that is very informative and extremely comprehensive.” - Gary J. Krump, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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Take on the Challenge...

The National Recycling Challenge is a national initiative to broaden and deepen recycling across all sectors of the American economy. As part of this effort, Vice President Al Gore has challenged American industry, government, communities, and institutions to make commitments in six action areas aimed at increasing the national recycling rate from 27 percent to 35 percent:

- Improve Efficiency In Recycling: (Reduce the cost of recycling for an organization or community);
- Bolster Community and Economic Development Through Recycling: (Start or expand recycling-related jobs programs, re-use programs, and innovative recycling financing programs);
- Bring Forward Innovations in Recycling Through New Technologies, Products, Policies or Building Practices: (Increase sales or production of a recycled content product, increase recycling rates for a community/organization, use recycled content for the new products for a building, or recycle construction and demolition project materials);
- Promote Designs for Recycling: (Design a product or process which increases recycling or product recyclability);
- Close the Recycling Loop: (Buy recycled content products, manufacture recycled content products, or

become a steward of a product); and

- Champion Outreach and Education for Recycling: (Conduct training on recycling and/or buying recycled to increase green purchasing).

The White House Task Force on Recycling prepared two publications for the National Recycling Challenge. The first, "Recycling...For the Future: Consider the Benefits," outlines the economic, environmental and social advantages to recycling and is available on our web site at www.ofee.gov. The second Challenge publication, "Recycling...For the Future: It's Everybody's Business," is currently being published. This 40 page document highlights success stories in each of the six action areas from the private, public, and independent sectors.

Any Agency or organization can take the National Recycling Challenge by making a significant commitment under any of the six action areas. To participate, submit two paragraphs to the White House Task Force on Recycling at: mcpoland.fran@ofee.gov. The first paragraph should include 2-3 sentences highlighting the accomplishments of the current program, and the second paragraph should outline the new commitment to the National Recycling Challenge. (Please be sure to include, along with the organization's name, a contact name, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.) Commitments will be posted on the OFEE web site Challenge page.

STRATEGIC PLAN from previous page

E.O. 13101 requires the Agency Environmental Executive of each procuring agency to translate the Government-wide Strategic plan into specific agency and service plans. Agencies will be afforded the challenging opportunity to identify and describe their goals and strategies in the areas of waste prevention, recycling, and Federal acquisition.

To further enhance distribution and communications to the Federal, state and local governments, industry, and the American taxpayer, the Plan can be accessed through the World Wide Web by visiting the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive web site at <http://www.ofee.gov>.

"This document will help further direct the activities of the Department of Energy to do its part in implementing this E.O. . . . The Government-wide Plan will serve as a good model to guide Federal agencies in implementing the requirements of E.O. 13101." - Dan W. Reicher, U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Executive

100% recycled containers

You are probably unaware of the availability of heavy duty 100 percent recycled recycling containers from Riverbend Recycling Inc., a small company located in Sterling, IL. It currently manufactures 4-cubic yard front-end load, 2-cubic yard rear end load, and 1 1/2 cubic yard in-building recycle carts. Riverbend containers are rust proof, fully tested to 3,5000 cycles with water tight seams and standard plastic lids. For product information please call 815-625-8215 or E-mail: rbrecycling@hotmail.com.



Vision Quest

This article is the first of a series that will appear in Closing the Circle News. The articles will focus on the environmental efforts of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. JWOD is a unique Federal procurement program that is helping the Government realize its vision of a sustainable "green" future by providing Federal customers with a variety of environmentally friendly products and related services.

Native cultures around the world have traditionally embraced the Earth's energy recognizing that "Mother" Earth gives and sustains life to all its inhabitants. To have reverence for all of life energy -- the energy of plants, animals, natural elements, and forces was a lesson early learned. In many traditions, young members of the tribe were severed from their familiar surroundings, families, and friends in order to embody this lesson. The youths embarked on a sacred solo journey called a Vision Quest.

Going for the Green. The Federal Government has a vision -- a vision of providing national security, economic prosperity, and opportunity for its citizens, while at the same time protecting, conserving, and reclaiming our natural resources. Most people realize that no natural resource, including our forests, lakes, and rivers, as well as gas, oil, and mineral deposits will last forever, especially while continuing the "consume and dispose" practices of the past. Landfills are overflowing and today we, as a society, are challenged to find ways to stop the continuous solid waste flow.

Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition," is a road map for this journey. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program shares this vision, and, as a mandatory source of goods and services, can provide environmentally friendly products and services to Federal customers.

The JWOD Team -- working together, working for you. The JWOD Program is administered by a small independent Federal Agency, The Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (Committee). The Committee oversees the provisions of the JWOD Act, a Federal law that dates back to 1938. The law

requires the Government to purchase products and services provided by nonprofit agencies that employ individuals who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. Two nonprofit agencies, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (serving people with a range of disabilities) are designated by the Committee to provide technical assistance to community based nonprofit organizations throughout the nation. Examples of nonprofit organizations associated with NIB and NISH, include Lighthouses for the Blind, local affiliates of Goodwill Industries, and United Cerebral Palsy Association, as well as, various organizations that work with individuals who have mental developmental disabilities.

NIB and NISH provide technical and marketing assistance, product development expertise, educational training, marketing, and other assistance to the community-based groups. The local nonprofit organizations provide rehabilitation and job-training services, as well as employment opportunities to over 30,000 individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

JWOD is making it "Easy to do the Right Thing." Just take a quick inventory of your office desk. Chances are you have many products produced under the JWOD Program. But since this is a publication devoted to "environmental issues" let's highlight the JWOD "Green" line. A nonprofit organization in the Northwest manufactures a tape dispenser that is made from 100 percent recycled plastic from industrial waste. Blind

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An employee from Morningside, a community rehabilitation program, removes precious metals components of a disassembled computer at Fort Lewis Army Base in Tacoma, Washington. The operation to recover metals is a JWOD contract.

VISION QUEST
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Industries and Services of Maryland makes letter and legal-size lined notepads out of 100 percent recycled paper, including the cardboard back. An ARC (formerly Association of Retarded Citizens) chapter in Jefferson County, NY makes loose-leaf binders out of 100 percent recycled materials. The Easter Seal Society in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania makes calendar pads, desk pads, and pocket planners using 50 percent recycled materials, including 20 percent postconsumer material. Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind produces exquisite professional business cards on recycled paper, printed using soy-based ink. Two nonprofit agencies, Industries for the Blind in Milwaukee, WI and Industries of the Blind in Greensboro, NC make retractable pens using recycled, postconsumer plastic. The Milwaukee organization, along with Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Utica, NY manufacture natural woodgrain biodegradable pencils that contain no paint or lacquer. Then there are the numerous recycling and reclamation services JWOD Program participants provide to the government. The JWOD Program is committed to making it “easy to do the right thing.”

Government at its Best. The JWOD Program is a “win-win times two” partnership:

- The Federal Government receives high-quality, reasonably priced products and services in a timely manner;
- Taxpayers win when individuals with disabilities become employed, pay taxes, and receive reduced benefits;
- The Earth wins through increased demand and procurement of “environmentally friendly” products and recycling services;
- Individuals with disabilities win when given the opportunity to prove their abilities and join the American work experience.

The Quest Continues. As we journey along this path toward a sustainable “green” future, the JWOD Program will continue to strive to meet the needs of Federal customers. Look for more about the “Green” JWOD in future editions of Closing the Circle.

About the Author: *Joan Smith is a Program Analyst with the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled. She follows environmental issues for the JWOD Program.*

It's Time to “Change Your Batteries”

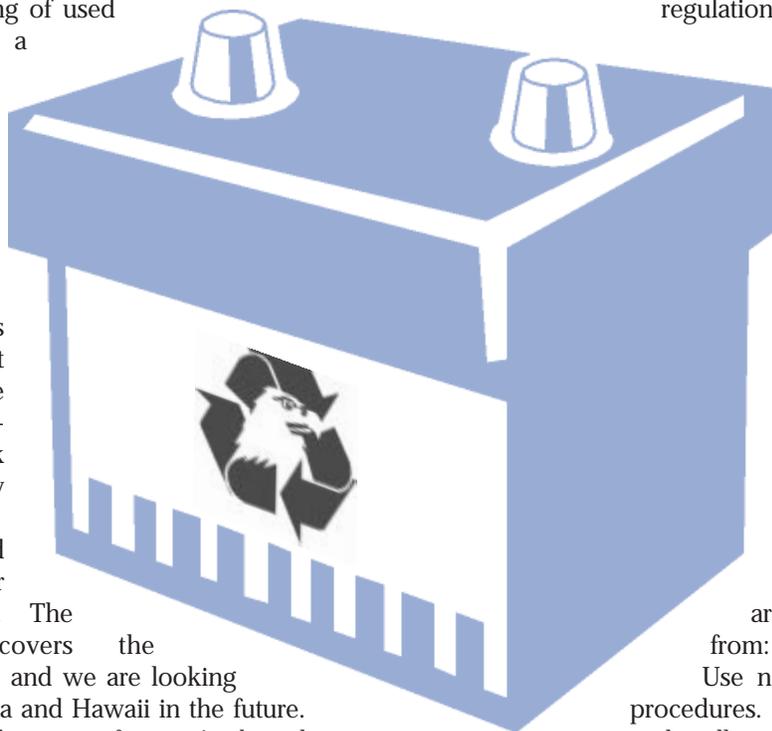
If you are using commercial lead-acid batteries in your vehicles and equipment and spend money and time disposing of used batteries, then we have a program for you!

Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center Richmond developed an innovative closed-loop program for ordering and recycling commercially available batteries whose configuration meet the guidelines listed in the current Battery Replacement Data Book published by Battery Council International.

The program is called the Commercial Vehicular Battery Program (CVBP). The contract currently covers the continental United States, and we are looking for ways to include Alaska and Hawaii in the future.

Customers choose the manufacturer's brand name product they prefer. The delivered battery price includes the pick-up and recycling of used batteries on a one-for-one

basis. And all components of the used batteries are recycled and handled in accordance with EPA and DOT regulations.



There are no procurement or disposal headaches with this program, and no excess lead-acid batteries sitting around the shop waiting to leak. There are also no minimum purchase requirements but there is a \$25,000 per transaction maximum. Deliveries will be made from 3 to 18 days after the contractor receives a requisition. The time depends on the quantity of batteries and distance from the vendor to the customer. Ordering is easy and there are several methods to choose from:

Use normal MILSTRIP / FEDSTRIP procedures. Visit DSCR's web site at: www.dscr.dla.mil to browse the commercial

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New "Green" Partnership

LaserCycle, one of the fastest-growing technology firms in the nation, made a business decision last fall that will determine future growth and profitability for the Linexa, Kansas-based inkjet and laser toner cartridge recharging company. It switched its \$5 million merchandise collection and product distribution business to the U.S. Postal Service.

LaserCycle switched to the Postal Service for a number of reasons, including one by the name of Mark Krska, a rural letter carrier from Lee Summit, MO. His brother, Rick, happens to be the president of LaserCycle. "Mark told me about the competitive advantages offered by the Postal Service, including their environmental record," said Rick Krska. "That really meant something to me."

LaserCycle refills and remanufactures more than 1.1 million inkjet and laser toner cartridges annually, including about 500,000 Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Lexmark cartridges. Unlike some low-tech, "drill-and-fill" firms, LaserCycle has automated the process wherever possible, developed new environmentally benign inks and quality tests every refilled cartridge prior to mailing them to customers. "We subscribe to the 'Nordstrom's theory of customer service,'" Krska said. "We do whatever what it takes to make the customer happy — and we depend on the Postal Service to make good on those critical deliveries."

Remanufacturing is a \$53 billion industry in the United States and growing rapidly. Remanufactured products typically cost about 25 to 50 percent less than new products and carry the same warranties. New resource recovery technology, quality controls, and life cycle cost accounting make remanufactured products environmentally preferable and economically viable. One of the fastest-growing segments of the remanufacturing industry is the \$3 billion recharging industry.

The biggest impediment to further growth for LaserCycle and other remanufacturers is collecting feedstock. Used

inkjet and laser toner cartridges, old batteries and obsolete electronic equipment don't have to be landfilled -- or, in the case of old PCs, end up as "closet-ware." Rather than trashing these items after a single product life, why not capture them for reuse or recycling? The question is simple enough, but collection of these materials in an economically viable, environmentally safe manner has proved elusive in the United States. The answer also is elegantly simple -- the Postal Service.

The numbers tell the story. The Mid-America Performance Cluster is purchasing remanufactured inkjet and laser toner cartridges -- factory-direct from Lasercycle - - at prices that are 30 percent to 50 percent for a new product made from virgin material. And Lasercycle pays the postage both ways.

The average Merchandise Return Service revenue is \$5.50 per item. (Several cartridges are often returned in the same package.) And the average Priority Mail package generates another \$7.00.

Who says protecting the environment through sustainable development isn't good business?

"We can leverage our unique infrastructure to create business advantage," said Dennis Baca, Manager, Environmental Management Policy. "Our vehicles go out full, but come back empty. We can collect these items via Merchandise Return Service, get them where they need to go and then deliver the remanufactured product by Express Mail Service or Priority Mail.

"This is what sustainable development is all about," Baca said. "We're conserving energy and natural resources by supporting remanufacturing, but we're also supporting new job growth in cities and towns throughout the country. And we're doing so in the environmentally preferable method -- by mail.

"We recently learned that the environmental impacts of shopping by mail were a net benefit of \$272 million annually to our nation," said Baca. "Catalog shopping reduces auto emissions by 66,000 tons, avoids more than 3,000 traffic accidents and reduces gasoline consumption by 97 million miles annually.

"More importantly," continued Baca, "Practicing sustainable development is the only way to assure that we have sufficient natural resources for future generations."



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vehicle battery on-line catalog and place MILSTRIP / FEDSTRIP requisitions on-line. Place an order at DOD's EMALL www.emall.dla.mil and use the IMPAC purchase card. Place DESEX phone orders at (804) 279-4865.

DSCR has done all the contracting and arranged for environmentally compliant recycling of the battery components. Using this program will save you time, money, and help you meet the new recycling mandates of Executive Order 13101. You can focus on your mission while we take care of the details.

For more information, call or E-mail the DSCR product executive for commercial vehicle batteries, Vince Vincent, at 804-279-5311. The DSN prefix is 695. The E-mail address is: vvincent@dscr.dla.mil.

“Off the Shelf Green”

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Kansas City, KS Regional Office, set to open in June, 1999, is a spectacular atrium building that truly reflects EPA’s mission of environmental protection and resource conservation. This 200,000 square foot building is proof that being green doesn’t mean spending more.

This “design-build” project succeeded because EPA, the General Services Administration, and the developer kept “green issues” as an important consideration throughout the development process while maintaining a constant concern with the bottom line. Examples of this approach include:

- Bid documents emphasized green requirements such as energy and water conservation, good indoor air quality, use of recycled materials, and the importance of passive solar design, with equal regard for functionality and cost.
- The winning development team, Koll Development Company and their design firm, Langdon Wilson, developed an innovative base-building proposal that offered exceptional environmental features. Passive solar design elements included a building orientation that reduced HVAC loads and light shelves that allowed extensive day-lighting.
- During construction, “green opportunities” were maximized, including extensive use of coal fly ash and blast furnace slag in the building foundations.
- The interior design firm worked hard to locate appropriate finishes such as low and no VOC paints, adhesives, and sealants, and products containing recycled materials such as VCT and ceramic tiles.
- The project team is also working hard to document these accomplishments, so that others can learn from the experience, and EPA can do better on its next project.

“Every team member is proud that we succeeded in thinking ‘green’ at every step of the process and that we have incorporated ‘green’ into the building without affecting the original project budget,” says Bucky Green, EPA’s project manager. “The most gratifying part of the project is realizing that the cost-conscious ‘green’ products

we worked so hard to find and specify when we started this project are readily available now and even better. The market is definitely moving our way.”

For more information on this project you may contact Bucky Green at 202-260-6371, E-mail: green.bucky@epamail.epa.gov.

Note: This project won a GSA Environmental Award for Recycling, Acquisition, and Waste Prevention on January 25, 1999.



NRC's 18th Annual Congress & Exposition

September 26-29, 1999
Cincinnati, Ohio

The recycling industry is moving forward. Rapid changes in markets, recycled products, consumer expectations, regulations, and technologies are challenging the recycling industry. Opportunities for recycling have never been greater. This is the time to find out how to “Make the Triple Play... Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” The National Recycling Congress’ (NRC) 18th Annual Congress & Exposition, being held September 26-29 in Cincinnati, Ohio, can net you results in today’s marketplace. It’s a unique opportunity to come together with your colleagues in a noncompetitive environment.

Make the Triple Play.. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! At NRC’s 18th Annual Congress & Exposition, the emphasis is on recycling success stories. You’ll find out how to make the triple play as recyclers from around the country gather to

Recycled Glass Abrasive Meets Tough Federal Specification

TriVetro Corporation proudly announces that its new abrasive, VitroGrit, has been approved for Qualified Product Listing with the United States Navy. VitroGrit is made from 100 percent postconsumer recycled glass, and represents a breakthrough in developing new markets for recycled glass.

The Kent, WA facility is the first to achieve the qualification under the Navy specification MIL-A-22262 B (SH). For the abrasive blasting and coatings industry, the specification is critical to acceptance in the marketplace. Many other federal agencies, as well as state and local governments, rely upon the Navy specification for determining which abrasives can be used for abrasive blasting projects.

Abrasive blasting with finely processed recycled glass opens vast new markets for glass that is recovered through community collection programs nationwide. In Washington State alone, an estimated 25-30,000 tons of recycled glass can be successfully used in abrasive blasting. In concert with federal agencies'



share ideas, experiences, and knowledge. Whatever your interest: policy, procurement, markets, collection and processing, education, source reduction, organics, professional development you're sure to find sessions dedicated to your unique concerns.

See the latest recycling technologies in the Exposition Hall. Don't miss the Exposition, where the suppliers to the recycling industry display the latest products and services. Get all the information on technology and where you can get it all in one place! It's "resource management" at its best!

Once again the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) will be teaming with the National Recycling Coalition to sponsor the NRC-FEE Confluence Program! Meet colleagues, make new contacts, find out the best plays to reduce, reuse and recycling. You'll find expertise, experience, and advice that can help you reshape your facility to run more productively and efficiently. For more information, contact the National Recycling Coalition's Meetings & Conventions Department at 703/683-9025, extension 401.

leadership programs for purchasing recycled and environmentally preferable products, the new federal qualification can allow recycled glass abrasive to be used in fleet maintenance operations, shipyards, bridges, dams, storage tanks, and other projects. "Private sector contractors and shipyards will respond positively when the government leads the way," said Fred Miller, Director of Sales and Marketing for TriVetro. "We are hoping that with affirmative procurement programs, revised specifications, demonstration projects and teamwork, demand for recycled glass abrasives grows."

In addition to closing the loop for recycled glass, there are other benefits involved with using recycled glass abrasives. There are no heavy metals nor free silica in VitroGrit, a highly desirable alternative to the components found in coal, copper or nickel slags and silica sand, which are traditionally used in sandblasting. Performance advantages in coating removal and surface preparation translate into respectable efficiencies in the use of recycled glass for sandblasting. "It is very common for contractors to report using 30-50 percent less abrasive than slags, and they enjoy blasting faster and cleaner," Miller says. "We combine a 100 percent recycled product with waste reduction, alternatives to toxics, water quality protection [since most blasting happens near water], and better industrial hygiene. This is great news."

For more information, contact TriVetro at (360) 733-2122 or e-mail: info@trivetro.com.

About the NRC

What is the NRC? The National Recycling Coalition is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and improvement of recycling, and also source reduction, composting, and reuse by providing technical information, education, training, outreach, and advocacy services to its members in order to conserve resources and benefit the environment. Its 4,800 members include recycling professionals from the public and private sectors, large and small businesses, as well as local, state and federal government agencies. Based in Alexandria, VA, the NRC conducts programs and publishes information on effective recycling and source reduction practices, market development for recycling, and buying recycled products.

Become a NRC member! If you are committed to maximizing recycling in order to achieve the benefits of resource conservation, solid waste management, environmental protection, energy conservation and social and economic development, you should become an NRC member. With your NRC membership you can:

- Network with your peers, share information, knowledge and experience that will translate into lower costs, higher profits, more success for you and your organization.
- Gain access to the latest tools and technical resources that will help you do your job better.
- Attend the nation's premiere recycling event, the NRC's Annual Congress & Exposition, at a reduced registration fee.
- Support national initiatives that promote the purchase of recycled products, use the economic engine of recycling to bring jobs and new economic opportunity to distressed communities, and provide balanced information on the opportunities and benefits that recycling generates for our environment.

Recycling works when we work together. Join the NRC today! For more information on membership in NRC call (703) 683-9025 or E mail: RebeccaM@nrc-recycle.org.

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Containing a minimum of 30 percent postconsumer fiber.