

DAS Procurement Introduces a New Shade of “Green” Paint

It has been well publicized over the years that many paints and coating products contain toxic chemicals that may harm painters, facility occupants, and the environment.

Recently, the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Procurement awarded a contract ([11PSX0126](#)) for Paint and Related Products that offers a wide variety of environmentally preferable painting supplies. This contract leads the way in green procurement by creating an easy-to-access “Green List” of competitively priced, high-quality paints, coatings, and other painting supplies. Contract users can check this “Green List” first to find the best available options, which not only release fewer toxic chemicals into the air but often have lower prices.

The contract has been awarded to six vendors; three from Connecticut, including a state-certified small Connecticut business – The John Boyle Company.

“The DAS Supplier Diversity program is always thrilled when we can match a small business to any state contract. Working with the John Boyle Company to get them state certified and helping them through the process is our job. Seeing them now on the contract will provide economic opportunities for this small business,” said Supplier Diversity Program Manager Meg Yetishefsky.

What sets this contract apart are the extra efforts made to make sure that the “green” paints and coatings offered on this contract meet strong environmental and health standards, as well as performance standards. For example, all of the latex paints on the Green List are certified by Green Seal, EcoLogo or the Master Painters Institute (MPI, under its Extreme Green standard and all paints must meet current MPI performance standards to be on the contract). These nationally recognized, multi-attribute certifications ensure both low toxicity and high performance. Among the other products on the contract’s Green List are specialty paints, sealants and other types of coatings that meet stringent limits on volatile organic compounds



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12PSX0255 Statewide Contract for Natural Gas Vehicles

12PSX0352 Property Management Services for the CT DAS

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(VOCs) as well as rollers and other painting supplies made with recycled materials.

“This contract will undoubtedly serve as a model for other states that are interested in adding environmentally preferable painting supplies to their contracts,” said Alicia Culver, Director of the Responsible Purchasing Institute (RPN). She added, “An important element of this paint contract is the addition of recycled-content latex paints because it supports the State’s ‘product stewardship’ law, which requires paint stores to accept leftover paint from consumers to be recycled.”

Recycled paint must also meet MPI quality standards, which is not difficult these days. Deanna Simon with Responsible Purchasing Network explains: “Recycled paint has come a long way in recent years. High quality recycled paint with low emissions is now available in custom colors and a variety of finishes.”

In an effort to gauge customer usage of the contract, DAS Procurement’s contract specialist Ada Rivera gathered representatives of agencies that, historically, have been high-volume users of the contract. With assistance from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), she formed a committee to assess contract users’ needs, determine what they would like to see in the contract, and solicit

their opinions on both the products and the process.

“Everyone on the committee was very forthcoming with their wants and needs and we discussed at length the pros, cons and misconceptions of environmentally friendly paint products,” said Rivera. “Adding a green component to every contract may not be feasible,” said Rivera, “but we felt it was important for this contract considering the nature of the products.”

Rivera added, “DAS Procurement has benefitted from our partnership with RPN, which has served as a valuable resource in finding environmentally preferable products to add to our state contracts.” RPN is an international network of buyers dedicated to environmentally sustainable and socially responsible purchasing. Their consulting services provide institutional purchasers like DAS with cutting-edge procurement tools and resources designed to save money, conserve resources, reduce waste, and improve efficiency.

RPN’s technical assistance was made available to the State of Connecticut by the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

DAS Procurement has new Federal Surplus webpage

The DAS Federal Surplus Property Program is responsible for the administration and distribution of donated federal surplus property (excluding real estate) to certain eligible organizations.

The acquisition and use of federal surplus property saves customers time and money. Recipients are only obligated to pay an administrative fee to DAS for the transfer of the property.

For more information on the Federal Surplus Property program, visit the website das.ct.gov/FedSurplus

