

BioPreferred<sup>®</sup>

# BioBuzzGov

Promoting the use and purchase of biobased products in Federal agencies

## Reporting Shows Federal Government Purchased Nearly \$100M in Biobased Products in FY22!

**Seventeen agencies boosted their biobased products purchasing, creating an almost 20% increase in procurement compared to FY21.**

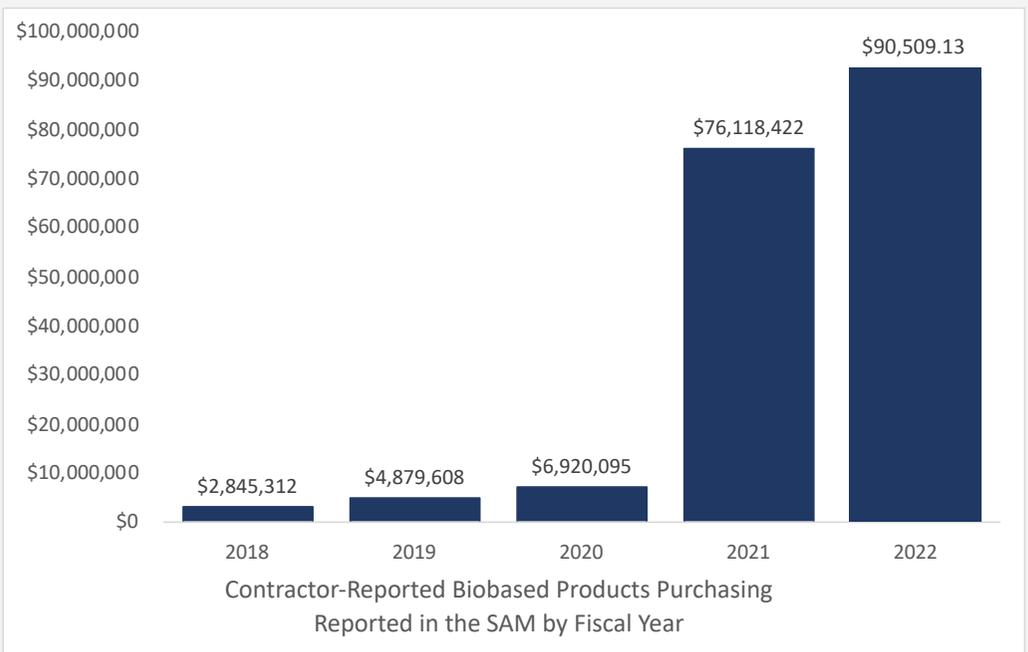


Each year, federal contractors report biobased products purchasing through the System for Award Management (SAM), as part of their compliance with Federal Acquisition Regulations (and specifically FAR Clause 52.223-2). Reporting for the 2022 Fiscal Year (FY) shows a 20% increase in spending on biobased products over FY21, for a total of more than \$97M, with more than 17 agencies boosting their efforts—marking a strong upward trend over the past three fiscal years.

These milestones illustrate how the federal government can leverage its scale and procurement power to lead by example and tackle the climate crisis—key objectives in President Biden’s Federal Sustainability Plan and his Executive Orders (#14057 and #14081) to make the federal government carbon-neutral by 2050 and reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030. In future issues of BioBuzzGov, we’ll dive deeper into these results to explore the types of agencies, contracts and biobased products that contributed to the nearly \$100M in biobased purchases.

Thank you and congratulations to all who prioritize biobased products and remind contractors to report their purchases!

*The graph below shows total federal contractor biobased products purchasing reported in the SAM for each of the past five fiscal years. The Department of Energy also reported \$7M in additional purchasing not reported through the SAM, bringing this year’s total to \$97M.*



## Agencies Receive High Marks and Praise for Including Biobased Products in Solicitations

Each year, the USDA BioPreferred Program analyzes federal solicitations to determine how well the government is doing in terms of meeting mandates to include biobased products in contract requirements. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the 425 solicitations reviewed by the USDA BioPreferred Program in FY22 were compliant with federal requirements. To be considered compliant, the solicitation had to include FAR Clause 52.223-2 Affirmative Procurement of Biobased Products under Service and Construction Contracts.

Thirty-five federal Contracting Officers received letters complimenting their efforts to include biobased product purchasing requirements in other parts of the solicitation, such as the Performance Work Statement and Evaluation Factors.

Only 54% of Groundskeeping solicitations were compliant. Consequently, the BioPreferred Program updated its sample contract language for [Groundskeeping and Landscaping](#) to provide Procurement Professionals with the preferred federal purchasing language for biobased products.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF SOLICITATION ANALYSIS

- Department of Transportation was 100% compliant for the second year in a row!

#### Across federal agencies:

- 98% compliance with road and parking lot construction solicitations
- 94% compliance with construction and renovation solicitations

## Paving the Way for Increased Compliance in Solicitations

**NEW! Road Construction Sample Contract Language Available**



Do you have upcoming road construction or road maintenance work? Our [sample road construction contract language](#) makes it easy to add biobased product requirements throughout the contract. For example, Section C, Performance Work Statement, includes likely product categories used in road construction contracts. Sample language is also included for Sections F, K, L, and M; it's easy to cut and paste into your solicitations.

There are also contract language samples for groundskeeping, janitorial, construction, and other types of service and construction contracts.

## Do Biobased Products Form the Foundation of your Construction Contracts?

Check out our infographic [here!](#)



## **Biobased Category Spotlight: Road Maintenance Products** **Protect Your Roads from the Cold and Ice**



If record-breaking low temps and the recent Polar Vortex are any indication, Winter's not over yet! That's why it is important to make sure roads remain safe and passable for vehicles and pedestrians. The [BioPreferred Program Catalog](#) has a variety of biobased products to help tackle snow, ice, cracked asphalt and other road needs. Included in the Catalog are deicers for use before, during, and after ice and snowstorms to make sure roads can continue to be used safely. Ice is not the only threat to drivers and roads – potholes, cracks, and wear and tear can lead to dangerous driving conditions and significantly reduce the lifetime of a driving surface. There are variety of asphalt preservation biobased products designed specifically to reduce cracking and pothole formation in roads, parking lots, and driveways. In addition, the biobased asphalt cleaners and routine road maintenance products in the Catalog can be used almost any time of the year. Make sure you protect the roads—and the environment—this winter season!

## **March 8th is National Biobased Products Day...** **How Will You Celebrate?**

The USDA BioPreferred Program is happy to announce we have registered March 8th as National Biobased Products Day, an annual date designed to raise awareness of biobased products—how they're made, what they're made from, their many benefits, and the wide variety of products available for use at home, in the office, on the playground, at construction sites and even in landscaping. This is not a USDA specific program or event. Instead, National Biobased Products Day is a collective effort and opportunity for all of us within the bioeconomy to bring attention to the great work being done to improve sustainability, grow U.S. manufacturing, jobs and the bioeconomy, and benefit rural communities.



### **Since March 8th is just around the corner, we encourage you to:**

- Visit the special webpage we established for [National Biobased Products Day](#) to learn more.
- Share the website with colleagues so they can do the same.
- Spread the word to let others know about National Biobased Products Day.

We look forward to launching the inaugural National Biobased Products Day on March 8, 2023, with your support. Any and every enterprise is invited to join the celebration. Together, we can bring even more attention to the great work being done within the bioeconomy and increase the use and purchase of biobased products.

Have questions? Contact us at [help@usdabiopREFERRED.net](mailto:help@usdabiopREFERRED.net) or call us at (202) 643-3287.

## BioPreferred Program Exhibits at DOE Energy Exchange



The BioPreferred Program exhibited at the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Energy Exchange, held in Cincinnati, OH at the end of October. Prior to the event, we refreshed our stockpile of sample biobased products, so we could display an even wider array of products at our booth. They help us to educate attendees about federal requirements for purchasing biobased products, the many options available to them, and how biobased products advance sustainable procurement efforts.

Energy Exchange, which is held annually, provides an opportunity for the federal workforce to share and learn about leadership directions, priorities, goals, and strategies related to energy and federal infrastructure. The theme of this year’s conference was “Advancing

Federal Infrastructure through Innovation,” with a focus on sustainability, including planning for net-zero buildings, fleets, and operations; climate resilient infrastructure and facilities; practices for sustainable federal facilities; and sustainable procurement. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth!

## Meet Some Sustainability Superstars!

In reviewing new service and construction solicitations for FY23, we want to recognize and thank Contracting Officers and Contracting Specialists who are achieving high standards by including biobased product purchasing requirements in their solicitations.

- Curtis Landreth – USDA
- Brian McCabe – Interior
- Breanne Parker – USDA
- Osvaldo Rodriguez – USDA
- Scott Schulz – Navy
- Michelle Walton – Commerce
- Carl Weber – USDA

We applaud their important efforts to create a more sustainable government!



## Share BioBuzzGov with a Fed Gov Friend!

Know a colleague or teammate who wants to learn more about purchasing biobased products?

Share this issue and let them know they can [subscribe](#) to BioBuzzGov!

## New Products Spotlight

What’s New? The BioPreferred Program has certified more than 275 biobased products since our last issue of BioBuzzGov! Below are a few of the products we recently added to our catalog.



- New cleaning supplies, including Hoover Pure Essentials™ Carpet Cleaner and stain remover.
- Biobased personal care products like a bioplastic comb and shaver from Natural Joint Stock Company.
- More tableware - Hefty ECOSAVE™ Tableware, World Centric Fiber Bowls - Leaf+, and Biodegradable Food Service’s Earth To Go™ PLA Cup.

Be on the lookout for these and other biobased products!

## Web-Based Training for COs and CORs



If you haven't yet, check out our new web-based training course: [Incorporating Biobased Purchasing and Reporting Requirements in Federal Service and Construction Contracts](#). This new web-based training is designed to enable Contracting Officers (COs) and Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs) to boost their sustainable acquisition efforts. Through engaging video, narration, and interactivity, participants learn how to incorporate biobased requirements into solicitations and oversee contractor reporting of purchases in SAM. (1.5 CLPs)



## Where Will We See You?

As 2023 begins, the BioPreferred Program is preparing to attend, exhibit, and present at upcoming events and conferences. Check below to see the upcoming events where we will be and don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates on these and future events.

- March 27-29 – Annual Plant Based Products Council (PBPC) Conference at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C.