

## **Goal 9: Sustainable Procurement Five-Year Plan**

### **Sustainable Procurement**

*All DOD and Fort Carson procurement actions support sustainability by 2027.*

The long-term goal for this Five-Year plan is to ensure that all Department of Defense (DOD) and Fort Carson procurement actions support sustainability by 2027. The desired end state is that all forms of purchasing have best value considerations that include sustainable principles.

### **Background**

The original goal from the Sept 2002 conference related to sustainable procurement is:

**100% of Fort Carson and DOD procurement actions support sustainability.**

This goal was developed to address not only sustainability, but also compliance. By purchasing products that do not create compliance issues, Fort Carson can eliminate problems resulting from spills, expensive tracking, and negative results from compliance inspections. Furthermore Executive Order 13101 requires that purchases from federal installations become more sustainable.

Sustainable purchases include products, materials, and services that are less hazardous, do not cause materials to be extracted or harvested in ways that excessively damage ecosystems, are made from recycled materials, are easily recycled, pollute less in their manufacture and use, and use resources that quickly replenish themselves. The goal for sustainable procurement supports the Zero Waste Goal by creating a demand for recycled goods, thereby closing the circle of products. When vendors begin to understand that these are the products the Installation desires, they'll become more competitive with pricing and search for more sustainable sources and ways to make their products.

Desired end states related to sustainable procurement from the Sept 2002 conference are as follows:

- Decrease “off-the-shelf” purchases.
- Educate personnel on sustainable purchases.
- Base procurement on life-cycle costs.
- Manage Government Purchase Cards (GPCs).
- Better centralize and oversee purchasing.
- Create more procurement flexibility (evaluate more than just what costs the least).
- Provide direction for environmentally friendly purchasing.
- Consider transportation impacts when considering purchases.
- Enforce credit card rules.
- Create a more consistent procurement process with regards to suppliers’ standards (e.g. environmental, quality, cost, etc.).

## **The Natural Step System Conditions**

1. Nature is not subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust.
2. Nature is not subject to systematically increasing concentrations of substances produced by society.
3. Nature is not subject to increasing degradation by physical means.
4. Human needs are met worldwide.

The Sustainable Procurement Goal directly supports all of TNS System Conditions. System Condition 1 concerns over-extraction of materials, and sustainable procurement requires purchases of recycled materials, which reduces the need for new materials. Recycling and purchasing less solid and hazardous materials supports TNS System Condition 2. The requirement for purchasing materials from quickly replenishing sources and preventing materials from going into the ground by creating recycle markets supports System Condition 3. Local purchases support the local community; however, prevention of over harvesting in other countries furthers meeting the needs of people around the world, supporting System Condition 4. These are just a few example of how the Sustainable Procurement Goal supports the System Conditions. Many other examples may be found throughout the activities and tasks of this Five-Year Plan.

### **Special Challenges (and Barriers)**

- Customer and contractor support
- Availability of sustainable products
- Technology limitations
- Enforcement of Affirmative Procurement plan and GPC card purchases
- Available organizational time/manpower
- No existing tracking mechanisms for types purchases

### **Strategies**

- Identify opportunities
- Training program for customers, contractors and suppliers
- Change and enforce policies
- Partnering
- Sustainability reviews
- Integrating best value considerations into purchasing

### **Areas of Overlap**

- Master Planning
- Sustainability training
- Platinum buildings
- Sustainable energy and water use
- Zero waste

## Objectives, Initiatives, Steps and Resources

### Objective 9.1: Increase sustainable procurement 20 percent by 2008.

Initiative 9.1.1: Baseline the number and types of yearly sustainable purchases at Fort Carson.

Lead: DOC

Action Agent: DOC with DECAM support

A baseline of sustainable purchases needs to be established to determine if this goal is progressing. After purchases are baselined, future purchases must be tracked. A tracking method for environmentally friendly and sustainable purchases does not currently exist.

Steps	Resources Needed	Time/Cost
Establish a baseline for sustainable purchases manually		
Create a tracking system for environmentally friendly and sustainable purchases		
Develop a method to track against the EPA's list of products		

**Measure:** Purchases are 100% tracked and reportable to the EPA by 2008.

Initiative 9.1.2: Increase the quantity of items provided and purchased that are made from recycled goods, energy efficient, and/or are environmentally friendly and promote them in stores/web-sites through AAFES, GSA and Envision.

Lead: DOC

Action Agent: DOC with DECAM support

Due to the many different sources for purchases at Fort Carson, all areas will need to identify opportunities already available for increasing sustainable purchases, including Envision, AAFES, and GSA. Some purchasing organizations, such as AAFES will need to address their sustainability needs at corporate offices and increase customer awareness. Recycled goods will need to be convenient to purchase at all of these locations.

Steps	Resources Needed	Time/Cost
Envision will analyze the Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) and E-Mall for products and increase the inventory of sustainable products by 50%. (FY07)		
Identify high priority products Fort Carson purchases that need to be more sustainable and formally submit list to GSA (FY04)		
Products identified by Envision as having potential for more sustainable purchasing will be brought forward through formal requests to Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) program (Continuous)		
Improve sustainable product awareness through GPC training (DOC), newsletters, and supply officer training (Continuous)		
Draft a letter to AAFES corporate explaining Fort Carson sustainability goals and request participation (FY03)		

Encourage the purchase of these items by identifying/displaying these products more prominently at AAFES and Envision (FY04)		
Encourage the purchase of these items by identifying GSA sustainable products available through pamphlets and training (FY05)		
Research and set up drop off and recycling locations for toner cartridges and batteries (FY04)		
Investigate recycling opportunities at the Medical Activity (MEDDAC), DCA facilities, AAFES, Envision and GSA (FY05)		

**Measure :** 20% increase in the number of sustainable products available for purchase by 2007 (added to 10% in Initiative 9.1.6 equals 30% more product availability).

Initiative 9.1.3: Contracting will encourage all contracts (i.e., product, service, supply, and construction), to receive sustainable best value considerations; sustainable considerations will be required for contracts over \$10,000.

Lead: DOC

Action Agents: DOC with Process Owners/Requestors

Implementing Initiative 9.1.2 will require coordinating the signature and approval of an Affirmative Procurement (AP) Plan to identify which sustainable items must be procured in the execution of Fort Carson contracts.

Steps	Resources Needed	Time/Cost
Train DOC employees on the AP Section of AR 200-1		
Have AP Section of 200-1 signed by appropriate organizations (FY03)		
Set up a database to document sustainable purchases (FY04)		

**Measure :** 50% more contracts incorporate sustainable purchasing principles compared to those that do not (contracts \$100,000 or more) by 2005.

Initiative 9.1.4: Ensure all hazardous material purchases are coordinated through the Hazardous Materials Control Center (HMCC), improve enforcement of HMCC, and take greater efforts to reduce the need for hazardous materials.

Lead: DOL

Lead: DOL with DECAM support

While Fort Carson has an active HMCC, more may be done to reduce purchases of hazardous materials with better control of credit cards and improved awareness. Further research will also support the replacement of hazardous products with less hazardous products that work just as well for the intended purpose. This has been demonstrated by substituting traditional weapons cleaning solvents with a citrus-based solvent and system that cleans weapons better in a fraction of the time. Creating healthier working conditions for our soldiers by decreasing their exposure to hazardous materials supports sustainability as well as improves quality of life and working conditions.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>	<b>Time/Cost</b>
Investigate reinstating the GPC hazmat card or other methods to better control purchases (FY04)		
Increase training and enforcement of improper purchases (FY04)		
Hire additional auditors to improve control (FY05)		
Increase the use/ordering of bio-fluids and other environmentally friendly products such as hydraulic fluids and oils by 30% (FY07)		
Identify less hazardous alternatives to products through joint DECAM and DOL training (Continuous)		

**Measure :** 20% reduction of hazardous/toxic materials acquired or purchased through the HMCC.

Initiative 9.1.5: Improve sustainable purchases of the hospital, installation maintenance and housekeeping contractors.

Lead: DOC

Action Agent: MEDDAC

Contractors and MEDDAC play important roles in maintenance, housekeeping, and health at Fort Carson. Their activities require numerous purchases that need to be analyzed for sustainability factors. Contracts need to be rewritten and processes and materials need to be analyzed to ensure a more sustainable Fort Carson.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>	<b>Time/Cost</b>
Identify common purchases and recommend suggested sources (FY04)		
Investigate incentive opportunities for sustainable purchasing (FY05)		
Investigate the hospital contract to include more sustainable wording		
Find low-volatile organic compound (VOC) paint for road markings (FY04)		
Identify systems needing refrigerant upgrades and prioritize for funding (FY04)		
Investigate hospital sustainability purchasing concerns and challenges (FY05)		

**Measure :** 20% reduction in toxic/hazardous materials used for hospital activities by 2008.

Initiative 9.1.6: Work with local area vendors to establish a relationship that encourages availability of environmentally friendly products.

Lead: DOC

Action Agent: DOC with DECAM support

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Resources Needed</b>	<b>Time/Cost</b>
DOC representative to attend special working group session at 2003 sustainability conference		
Establish and participate in local area vendor working group		

**Measure:** 10% increase in the number of sustainable products available for purchase by 2007 (added to 20% in Initiative 9.1.2 equals 30% more product availability).

**Goal 9 – Sustainable Procurement: All DOD and Fort Carson procurement actions support sustainability by 2027.**

**Objective 9.1: Increase sustainable procurement 20% by 2008.**

**Measure:**

20% increase in sustainable purchases by 2007.

**Target 1-5 Years**

Sustainable procurement plan signed and implemented  
Sustainability programs in place for all procuring entities on post  
Full tracking of purchases for sustainable items

**Target: 6-25 Years**

100% of items purchased for Fort Carson are sustainable

**Baseline FY 2002**

- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) just getting started
- No set programs in place
- Some activities already purchasing sustainable goods
- Incomplete Tracking

**Initiatives:**

Baseline sustainable purchases at Fort Carson  
Increase the availability and quantity of environmentally friendly items and promote them in stores/web-sites through AAFES, GSA and Envision  
Encourage all contracts to receive sustainable best value considerations  
Ensure all hazardous material purchases are coordinated through the Hazardous Materials Control Center (HMCC)  
Improve sustainable purchases of the hospital, installation maintenance and housekeeping contractors  
Work with local area vendors to establish a relationship that encourages availability of environmentally friendly products

