



Because Every Purchase Matters



## Spring 2017 Newsletter

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### RPN and USDN Create *Sustainable Procurement Playbook for Cities*



RPN teamed up this past year with the [Urban Sustainability Directors Network \(USDN\)](#) to create a new resource for local governments to advance their green purchasing policies and programs. [The Buck Starts Here: Sustainable Procurement Playbook for Cities](#) includes analytical tools, best practices, implementation tips, and recommendations for sustainability directors and city teams interested in launching or strengthening sustainable purchasing efforts.

### US EPA Releases Sustainable Purchasing Recommendations for Federal Agencies

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new [Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels](#). This resource is designed to standardize and support sustainable purchasing by federal agencies. It lists credible sustainability certifications and standards that federal agencies are encouraged (or required) to use when making their purchasing decisions for specific categories of goods and services. This includes, but is not limited to:

- *Cafeteria Products: takeout containers, cutlery, and dish detergents;*
- *Construction Products: carpet/flooring, ceiling tiles, insulation, paint and wallboard;*

## RPN WEBINARS

### Greening Facility MRO Contracts

Wed, April 19  
11am-12:30pm PDT



This webinar will highlight how Massachusetts used NASPO Green Technical Assistance funds to add sustainability standards to several Facility Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) contracts with the help of RPN's technical team.

[Register Now](#)



### Learning to Clean with Safer Chemicals

Wed., May 3  
10am-11:30am PDT

#### BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This webinar will explain how Baltimore City Public Schools has been creating a districtwide *Green Cleaning Program*, complete with pilot testing, onsite training,

- *Custodial Supplies:*

cleaners, floor care products, hand soap, janitorial paper products, and trash bags;

- *Electronics:* computers, monitors, imaging equipment, and televisions;
- *Landscaping Products:* deicers; and
- *Office Supplies:* copy paper and office furniture.



## US EPA Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Purchasing Programs Face Budget Elimination

The EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention, including its successful green purchasing program - which features its internationally renowned ENERGY STAR and WaterSense labeling and procurement programs - have been targeted for severe cuts in the [Trump Administration's proposed EPA budget](#). A memo from the EPA's Acting Chief Financial Officer explained that this program is "eliminated as part of the effort to limit or eliminate federal investment activities that go beyond the EPA's core statutory requirements."

The US Green Building Council is circulating a [sign-on letter](#) to Congress opposing cuts to the ENERGY STAR, WaterSense and Safer Choice programs. RPN is a signatory. [Let us know](#) if your jurisdiction or organization has benefited from these programs so we can share your story.

## RPN and FOE Release Bee-Friendly Purchasing Guide

RPN and [Friends of the Earth](#) (FOE) created a new resource, [Buyers Bee-ware: Municipal Purchasers' Guide to Protecting Pollinators](#), which outlines how public agencies and institutions can change their purchasing policies and practices to protect honeybees and other pollinators. This guide explains why pollinators are important and reasons for their rapid decline. It also describes key elements of a pollinator protection policy, how to implement a pollinator-friendly purchasing plan, and additional ways institutions can protect pollinators.



## New Study Finds Toxic Non-Stick Chemicals in Disposable Food Service Ware

and a new sustainability policy.

[Register Now](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council's 2017 Summit**  
*May 8-10  
Denver, CO*

[SPLC's 2017 Summit](#) will bring together 400 leading sustainable purchasing experts and practitioners from a wide variety of sectors and regions for two days of best practice sharing, training, and relationship building.

This year's Summit features 100+ speakers, 45+ interactive workshops, and a Leadership Awards banquet.

Look for RPN at the Innovation Accelerator and the CONNECT events!

Use code **RPN2017** for **10% off your registration!**

[Register Now](#)

**SB 2017 DETROIT**  
**Sustainable Brands'**  
**2017 Detroit**  
*May 22-25*



A [new study](#) conducted by scientists at the Green Science Policy Institute and several other nonprofit organizations, US EPA, California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and University of California/Berkeley found fluorinated stain- and water-resistance chemicals in nearly half of the disposable food service ware products they tested. These substances can leach into food; some have been linked to cancer, developmental harm, immune system toxicity, and other health effects.

## Climate-Friendly Purchasing Webinar Slides Available

[Slides are now available](#) for a webinar hosted by the [Association of Climate Change Officers](#) (ACCO) that RPN participated in along with Alameda County, CA, and the West Coast Climate & Materials Management Forum. The



webinar highlighted strategies and tools to reduce the carbon footprint associated with purchasing products and services. Two new resources were highlighted: the [Sustainable Procurement Playbook for Cities](#), created by RPN on behalf of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), and the [Climate-Friendly Purchasing Toolkit](#), created by the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum. The *Playbook* features chapters on fuel-efficient fleets, energy-efficient computers, and green building supplies.

## Healthier Hospitals Release Updated List of Safer Furniture Products



[Healthier Hospitals](#) (HH) makes it easier to select furniture and materials that meet the Healthy Interiors goal of the *Safer Chemicals Challenge*. HH worked with furniture and textile manufacturers to create a [list of products](#) that meet the Healthy Interiors goal. The goal requires participating hospitals to ensure that 30 percent of the annual volume of furnishings and furniture purchases (based on cost) eliminate the use of formaldehyde, perfluorinated compounds, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), antimicrobials, and all flame retardants.

## UL Introduces Online Database for Sustainable Products

## Detroit, MI

[SB '17 Detroit](#) provides infinite opportunities to learn, connect, and co-create with courageous optimists from around the world. Come together to **Redefine the Good Life** and show how brands can benefit by leading the way.

Use code  
**nwRESPPURNWsb17d**  
for 20% off your  
registration!

[Register Now](#)



Currently featuring more than 40,000 products, UL's new [SPOT database](#) is a first of its kind tool that enables purchasers to find products by sustainable attributes, including third-party environmental and health certifications (e.g., UL EcoLogo and GREENGUARD, ENERGY STAR), validated claims (e.g., recycled content and formaldehyde-free), LEED credits, and more. The UL SPOT database is also available as a mobile app from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

## Purchasers Can Save Money with Refillable Propane Gas Cylinders

40 million single-use 1 lb. propane gas cylinders are used each year in the U.S. This costs local governments money to recycle and poses a safety threat to sanitation workers if improperly disposed. A new, refillable 1 lb. propane cylinder is available, but in order to achieve the market shift from disposables to refillables, more locations that dispense propane need to add refill services. ReFuel Your Fun is asking large purchasers of propane to give preference to companies with retail locations that sell and refill 1 lb. gas cylinders. To learn more, visit [www.refuelyourfun.org](http://www.refuelyourfun.org) or contact Jordan at the National Stewardship Action Council by [email](#) or at 916-402-3911.



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