

BioPreferred®

# BioBuzzGov

Promoting the use and purchase of biobased products in Federal agencies



## FAR Part 23 Changes

*Changes to FAR Part 23 necessitate changes to Section I of new contracts*

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 23 has been updated to make sustainable purchasing requirements clearer. There are no changes to the statutory requirement to give a purchasing preference to biobased products and the requirement to include Clause 52.223-2 in your contracts. Here are a few of the changes that you will notice:

- Changes title of Clause 52.223-2 to Reporting of Biobased Product Purchasing Under Service and Construction Contracts.
- Creates a new omnibus contract clause at FAR 52.223-23, Sustainable Products and Services, to uniformly communicate the Government's requirements for sustainable products and services including biobased purchasing requirements.
- Dedicates FAR part 23 to environmental matters by moving unrelated content.
- Consolidates and updates statutory programs (required by law) and other environmental purchasing programs in FAR subpart 23.1, Sustainable Products and Services.
- Removes certain contractor reporting requirements in the clauses 52.223-11, 52.223-12, and 52.223-5.

## What Remains the Same with FAR Part 23?

- Requirement to give a purchasing preference to biobased products
- Requirement to include Clause 52-223-2 in service and construction contracts

## What's New with FAR Part 23?

- Clause 52.223-23 that combines both the statutory (i.e. required by law) and non-statutory sustainable purchasing programs
- The renaming of Clause 52.223-2 to Reporting of Biobased Product Purchases Under Service and Construction Contracts



## Now Available: Purchase Card Holder Training

If you are a purchase card holder, Executive Order 14081 requires that you complete training on how to increase your agency's purchase of biobased products and use your card to do so. Watch this short [video](#) to meet your requirement!

**SPOTLIGHT:**

**Examples of Solicitation Language to Support Biobased Product Purchasing**

*Recent solicitation language demonstrates great work by Contracting Officers*



Throughout the year, the BioPreferred® Program team reviews federal solicitations to identify efforts which fall short in terms of promoting biobased product purchasing and meeting mandates. At the same time, we take note of Contracting Officers excelling in their efforts to incorporate solicitation language to improve their agency’s sustainability efforts. Here are some recent examples.

**Statement of Work:** The Contractor shall submit with the initial proposal a complete list of biobased products, indicating the name of the manufacturer, cost of each material, and the intended use of each of the materials that are to be used in carrying out the requirements of the contract.

**Statement of Work:** Within thirty (30) days of contract award, the Contractor shall submit an Operations and Maintenance Plan. The Plan must include 1: Contractor’s written policy stating its commitment to the use of biobased products, employee health and safety, and sound environmental management practices. 2. Detail on how the Contractor intends to keep abreast of the increasing availability of biobased products and how any new or improved products will be incorporated on an ongoing basis into contract performance.

**Technical Approach to Performing the Work:** At a minimum, describe your planned approach to performing this work. Include the type of equipment to be used, key personnel and their qualifications, logistics of equipment and supply delivery, crew accommodations, major sub-contractors and their roles, **biobased products to be used in the accomplishment of the work**, and anticipated schedule of work.

**Deliverables:** Report Biobased Product Purchases in the System for Award Management: Due: October 31st of each contract year.

**Report Released: Economic Impact of the Biobased Products Industry**

Released in March 2024, the latest Economic Impact report demonstrates the growth and resilience of the “bioeconomy.” According to this study, the biobased products industry or “bioeconomy” added \$489 billion to the U.S. economy and directly employs 2.4 million Americans.

[Fact Sheet](#)



**Congratulations to These Contracting Officer Superstars!**

Jose Allende – USDA

Jen Brown – Commerce

Jessica Carter – USDA

Tanna Finley - Interior

Christina Graves – USDA

Bradley Higley – USDA

Jennifer Hipp – Homeland Security

Christopher Kane – USDA

Nicholas Rolin – VA

Kimberly Steele - Interior

Debra Wells – USDA

Paula Winningham – USDA

Maria Christina Yalung – Air Force

## Building with Biobased Products Earns Points Toward LEED Certification



LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the world’s most widely used green building rating system. For each LEED project category there is a rating system that is based on 100 total points. Now, biobased products can earn up to 10 points towards LEED certification, which is 25% of the points needed for basic certification or 12.5% of the total to earn platinum status.

### There are four levels of LEED certification:

- LEED Certified = 40 to 49 points required
- LEED Certified Silver = 50 to 59 points required
- LEED Certified Gold = 60 to 79 points required
- LEED Certified Platinum = 80+ points required

### Points can be earned by meeting specific criteria in five different “credit” categories:

- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy and Atmosphere
- Materials and Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality

Whether you are constructing a new building or making significant renovations to an existing building, the use of biobased products can help in achieving LEED certification.

## The Biobased Academy®

The American Lung Association and the United Soybean Board have partnered in training programs to educate professionals on the benefits of biobased products for fleet, facilities, and groundskeeping.

You can complete the training and become a Biobased Certified Fleet Professional or a Biobased Certified Facility and Property Professional.

Learn More: <https://biobased-certified-fleet-professional.teachable.com/>



## Biobased Single-use Products Support Recently Announced New Strategy

The Biden-Harris Administration is announcing a new government-wide strategy: Mobilizing Federal Action on Plastic Pollution: Progress, Principles, and Priorities. This new strategy has been developed by an interagency team over a number of months. **Note that the messages include a target to phase out single-use plastics across Federal operations by 2035**, beginning with a phase-out from food service operations, events, and packaging by 2027.

[Fact Sheet](#)

Find alternatives to single-use plastics in the BioPreferred Program [Catalog!](#)

*It Matters What's Overhead!*

### Consider These Six Factors When Choosing Biobased Ceiling Tiles

When it comes to sustainable building practices, we often think about the floor coverings underfoot or the building materials holding up a structure or the paint gracing the walls. But what's overhead matters too! Switching to biobased ceiling tiles can help reduce a building's carbon footprint and improve its indoor environmental qualities—both of which affect the health and well-being of occupants. When choosing biobased ceiling tiles, consider these six factors in your decision:



#### 1. Fire resistance

Fire rating requirements can vary from building to building and city to city and reflect how the space will be used. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) rates ceiling tiles based on their resistance to fire and flame spread, with Class A, Class B, and Class C ratings.

#### 2. Acoustics

For offices, creating a quiet, yet collaborative workspace can be difficult thanks to the trend toward open office layouts. The right ceiling tile can be useful in absorbing sounds and reducing noise.

#### 3. Light reflectance

A highly reflective ceiling tile makes lighting systems more effective, while contributing to the decrease of energy costs and consumption.

#### 4. Cleanability

Particularly in environments like hospitals, the ability to clean tiles repeatedly without discoloration or deterioration is essential.

#### 5. Mold and Mildew resistance

Certain tiles are designed to resist mold and mildew growth and are an important consideration in higher humidity environments.

#### 6. Aesthetics

Finally, the right ceiling tile can create an overall pleasing aesthetic. Biobased ceiling tiles come in a variety of edge types, sizes, textures, and other features. Biofibers, such as rice husks, hemp, basalt, rice, flax, kenaf, and jute, are often used to create biobased ceiling tiles. The [BioPreferred Program Catalog](#) offers many USDA Certified Biobased ceiling tiles from which to choose.

**Want to stay up to date on what's happening in the bioeconomy and with our Program?**

Click [here](#) to subscribe to BioBuzz and BioBuzzGov. And share with a friend!

