

**Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission
3090-0262 – Identification of Products with Environmental Attributes**

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) was amended to require contractors that submit offers under Multiple Award Schedule solicitations to identify products that they market commercially that have environmental attributes and to briefly describe the environmental benefits associated with those products. This information will be used to assist Federal Agencies in meeting their responsibilities under a number of statutes and executive orders, including the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42, U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486), the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-549), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), and Executive Orders 12843, 12845, 12873 and 12902.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Federal Agencies will utilize this information to determine if such products will meet their needs and meet the Federal acquisition statutes in preference to other products that meet their needs, but do not have the environmental attributes.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

We use improved information technology to the maximum extent practicable. Where both the General Services Administration and contractors are capable of electronic interchange, the contractors may submit information requirements electronically.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

We did not identify any duplication of information being collected. Our review did not identify any similar data.

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5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The burden usually applies equally to small organizations that want to do business with GSA but is the minimum necessary to meet the specific objectives of the solicitation or contract.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Government would not be able to identify products that have environmental attributes and benefits.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner requiring respondents to:

- **Report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **Prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **Submit more than an original and 2 copies of any document;**
- **Retain records, other than health, medical, government contracts, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than 3 years;**
- **In connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid, reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **Require the use of a statistical classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **Include a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **Submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

None.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and

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recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

Notices in the March 26, 2012 (77 FR 17481) and July 11, 2012 (77 FR 40883) Federal Register made this requirement available to the public and requested comments. No comments were received regarding this requirement.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than reenumeration of contractors or grantees.

GSA makes no such payments under this collection.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

GSA makes no such payments under this collection.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

No sensitive questions are involved.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate**

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categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 13.

The estimated number of respondents annually is 16,941 with each response requiring 5 hours for a total of 84,705 hours.

Based on estimates of number of contracts; estimated burden hours to the public:

Estimated respondents/yr	16,941
Number of submissions per respondent	<u>1</u>
Total responds annually	16,941
Estimated hours/response	<u>5</u>
Estimated total burden hours	84,705

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling, and testing equipment, and record storage facilities.**
- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995; (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection; (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the Government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

See response number 12.

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14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include qualification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Estimate of the burden hours to the Federal Government is 8470.5 hours. Reviewing and processing each response should take approximately .5 hour; the total number of responses is estimated to be 16,941 each year. 16,941 responses x .5 minutes = 8470.5 hours.

Reviewing time/hr	.5
Responses/yr	<u>16,941</u>
Review time/yr	8470.5
Average wages/hr	<u>\$34.15</u>
Total Government cost	\$289,268

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14.

No adjustment reported.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

Data collected will be used for internal administration of contracts.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

GSA is not seeking such approval for this collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions”.

GSA has no exceptions to the certification statement.