Addendum to the 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan: Responding to the President’s Memorandum on Promotion of Biobased Markets

On February 21, 2012, President Obama signed a Memorandum, Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement. The memorandum requires all federal agencies to undertake a number of activities to increase their purchase of biobased products. The U.S. Department of Education is moving aggressively to implement the Presidential Memorandum requirements.

Accomplishments to date include:

- Updating Department-wide Green Purchasing Training to include detailed information on Federal Acquisition Regulations clauses related to biobased products and information on biopreferred products.
- Requiring the Department’s acquisition workforce of approximately 300 to take the revised Green Purchasing Training during calendar year 2012.

Baseline for Biobased Contracting:

In FY 2012, the U.S. Department of Education awarded no contract actions that included the purchasing of biobased products.

FY 2013 Target/Compliance Goal:

- As a leader in sustainable acquisition strategies and compliance, the U.S. Department of Education plans to meet a level of 75 percent for all relevant acquisitions in the first two quarters of FY 2013.
- The U.S. Department of Education plans to achieve full compliance of the 95 percent sustainable acquisition goal in E.O. 13514 for biobased products no later than FY 2015.

Strategies for Improving Compliance:

The U.S. Department of Education’s strategy for improving compliance--full incorporation of requirements and clauses for biobased products in relevant and appropriate contracts and follow on activities to ensure compliance is achieved--includes the following elements:

- In its quarterly acquisition reviews, the U.S. Department of Education will conduct a deep dive for service contracts relevant to biobased purchasing to ensure that requirements for biobased products are met.