



## Office of General Services

**For Immediate Release:** 5/11/2017

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### **NYS WINS 2017 SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING LEADERSHIP AWARD**

RoAnn Destito, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner, today announced that the State of New York's green procurement and agency sustainability program was awarded the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council's (SPLC) highest honor this week at the council's 2017 Leadership Awards in Denver, Co.

"Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York has strived to be at the forefront of green and sustainable initiatives, and we are proud that the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council has recognized us for our efforts with their highest honor," Commissioner Destito said. "I want to applaud the members of the OGS Procurement Services team and the EO 4 Interagency Committee on Sustainability and Green Procurement, which is co-chaired by OGS and the Department of Environmental Conservation, for their commitment to incorporating green practices into all aspects of state operations."

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "New York's green purchasing program has built a solid track record of moving the market toward greener products and services, all while helping the state save money through lower energy costs, less waste generation, and a healthier environment for workers, residents, and visitors. I am proud that New York State, at Governor Cuomo's direction, is leading the way toward a more sustainable future for all."

New York was among 10 organizations and one individual recognized by SPLC for their leadership in the sustainable purchasing movement, a growing trend in which organizations are using their purchasing power to advance the long-term health and vitality of society, economies, and the planet. Each of the winners were cited for a wide range of sustainable purchasing strategies and their resulting environmental, social, and economic benefits.

SPLC's highest honor was presented to the State of New York for having put in place a comprehensive sustainable purchasing program that exemplifies the qualities defined in SPLC's "Principles for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing." New York established an ambitious interagency green procurement and sustainability program that has created dozens of green specifications that serve as a valuable resource for developing state contracts.

New York State's Green Purchasing and Agency Sustainability Program was created under Executive Order 4, which directs state agencies and authorities to green their purchasing to make state operations more sustainable. Executive Order 4 was issued in 2008 and continued by Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 2 in 2011. The order establishes a framework to accomplish these goals under efforts co-led by OGS and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Through this program, New York State government has decreased solid waste by 50 percent since fiscal year 2008-2009 levels, significantly reduced its purchase of copy paper, and virtually eliminated the use of bottled water.

Founded in 2013, the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council convenes buyers, suppliers, and public interest advocates to develop programs that simplify and standardize sustainable purchasing efforts by large organizations. The council has attracted, from a wide variety of sectors and regions, more than 180 members with over \$200 billion in collective purchasing power.”

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