



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
Defense Commissary Agency  
Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

## DIRECTOR'S POLICY

DP 500-30  
June 29, 2018

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Sales, Marketing, and Policy Group  
OPR: DeCA/MPS

**SUBJECT:** Sustainability

**1. PURPOSE.** This Director's Policy (DP) provides guidance concerning the Defense Commissary Agency's (DeCA) purchase of sustainable products, domestic and local food products, and recyclable materials for resale in commissary stores; and reducing the environmental and energy footprint. This DP supersedes DP 500-30, dated June 26, 2013.

**2. POLICY STATEMENT.** DeCA understands and appreciates the goal of providing healthy products produced in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Recognizing that sustainability concept in the retail sector is a changing and evolving process, DeCA will, nevertheless, endeavor to integrate sustainability into its operations.

a. Sustainability is not an end point or specific process; it is a new way to do business which should permeate all aspects of the DeCA organization. Thus, our sustainability policy includes not only the products sold, but the retail operation itself.

b. Consistent with price, quality, and customer preference, DeCA will endeavor to provide patrons with products produced through sustainable methods. In addition, DeCA will continue to showcase domestic products and encourage its contractors to, where practical and again consistent with price, quality, and customer preference, work with local producers and provide fresh meat, poultry, seafood, fish and produce for sale in commissaries.

(1) Often local purchase also benefits small business, even though it may not have an affect on DeCA's small business goals.

(2) Buyers must be mindful that while the purchase and sale of local food products is an important part of DeCA's sustainability program, sustainability alone is not a substitute for independent evaluation of food quality and production practices.

c. DeCA is committed to conducting business in a manner that adds value for our patrons and our stakeholders, including the American taxpayer. For example, DeCA has worked hard to

reduce energy use since 1993 and achieved high levels of energy efficiency prior to the establishment of Federal goals. As a consequence, today a typical commissary is much more energy efficient than a commercial supermarket. Likewise, DeCA remains ahead of the long-term Federal goal for water use reduction with an overall reduction of 19.8 percent from 2007 to 2012, as compared to the cumulative Federal goal of 10 percent for the same timeframe. Finally, current initiatives such as the Solid Waste Infrastructure Change (SWIC) which reduces the number of solid waste containers, compactors, and frequency of pick up help to increase recycling efficiency will continue to be evaluated for improvement. The establishment of the Waste Management Reporting website which requires all stores to report their recycling efforts by tonnage for cardboard, plastic, etc., will be refined to allow DeCA to track all of its recycling efficiencies worldwide.

d. Diverting the commissary waste stream from landfills is paramount. Every effort must be made to reduce the amount of waste disposed of as garbage. Actions, including recycling, composting and food donation, will assist in achieving this goal. Unsalable products not subject to buy back by contractors, will, to the maximum extent possible be donated to local food banks in accordance with 10 U.S.C. §2485(f). Industry partners, whose unsalable products are on buy back, will be encouraged to participate in the food donation program. Under no circumstances will contractors be authorized to dispose of unsalable products in government waste receptacles.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITY.**

a. The Sales, Marketing, and Policy Group will:

(1) Track the supermarket industry evolution of sustainability programs and cross feed new developments to the appropriate Executive Director for evaluation and potential implementation.

(2) Increase the selection of domestic and locally produced or acquired products consistent with price, quality, customer preference, and commercial retail practices.

c. The Infrastructure Support Group will evaluate the development of sustainability methods involved in construction and equipment modernization.

d. The Store Operations Group is responsible for implementing waste stream diversion efforts at DeCA stores, including maximizing the donation of unsalable foodstuffs.

e. All DeCA employees are responsible for reducing energy, water consumption, and diverting the waste stream.

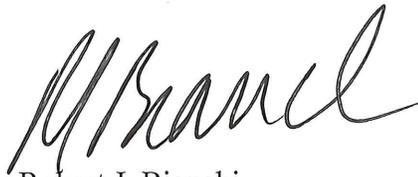
f. The responsibilities for solid waste management and recycling are published in Director's Policy 500-23.

**4. APPLICABILITY.** This DP assigns responsibility for accomplishing the requirements of DoD Issuance program, in accordance with DoDI 5025.01.

**5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Policy is effective immediately.

**6. RELEASABILITY. Cleared for public release.** This DP is available on DeCA's internet website at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

**7. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This policy is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bianchi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert J. Bianchi  
Director