



Environmentally Preferable Products Procurement Program Case Study

Performance Shell Jackets & Fleece Made From 100% Recycled Plastic

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) needed jackets. Not just any jackets would do, though. Jackets would be provided to MDAR field staff for protection from the elements while conducting official Departmental activities, which meant they needed to be high-quality, high-performance, and ideally meet the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) directive.



A team of five MDAR representatives met to review vendor jacket samples, and chose jackets made from 100% recycled polyethylene terephthalate plastic from Kenai Sports. MDAR purchased 80 jackets, including 40 performance hooded fleece (*pictured, top left*) and 40 performance shell hooded jackets (*pictured, bottom left*), printed with MDAR logo patches. Some of the jackets were different than expected, and MDAR worked closely with Kenai to resolve the issue.

Kenai harvests plastic waste from landfills across the US and “upcycles” it into high-performance clothing fabrics. Plastics such as cell phone cases, yogurt cups, plastic bottles, and computer keyboards are used to make shell jacket and fleece garments. The jackets selected by MDAR were comparable in every way to polyester fabrics made from virgin materials, and, ultimately, were chosen because of the high quality and performance, including water resistance, breathability, and durability. Any extra costs Kenai has from making recycled fabric are offset by minimizing their inventory and conducting each order on a 100% customized basis.



Because Kenai Sports manufactures the clothing in-house, they can offer more aggressive quantity discounts on orders of 50 units or more. Even before including the quantity discount, the Kenai product pricing was within the range of comparable non-recycled products.

Kenai Sports asked MDAR to participate in a closed loop apparel program, where Kenai will take back any garments at the end of their useful life and recycle them, to preserve the infinite recyclability loop of this material. Kenai has worked with Massachusetts Correctional Industries (MassCor) to close the loop on their own textile waste since 2014 – recycling more than 64,000 pounds of fabric waste and diverting it from a landfill forever!

MDAR plans to order an additional quantity of jackets in the near future, as Kenai Sports delivered a high quality, cost competitive, custom product.

Tips

Work with the vendor to find out about quantity discounts and develop creative ways to enhance or prolong the lifecycle of your products. Ensure that the vendor understands your needs during the procurement process. If any issues arise, work with your vendor to find a workable solution.

Contact Information

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