



Green Public Procurement

A Guide for NGOs



Introduction

What if a sizeable part of the €2 trillion spent every year by public procurers in Europe was spent on environmentally-friendly products, works and services?

What impact would investing public money in products proven to be green have on the market?

How would the environment in our cities and towns be improved?

Green Public Procurement (GPP) aims to harness the purchasing power of governments to drive positive environmental change. Not only can GPP be used to lower carbon emissions, reduce resource use and speed up the transition to clean energy, it can also spur innovation in the private sector and set Europe firmly on a track towards a Circular Economy.

Governments are responsible for purchasing a tremendous range of goods and services. Public authorities acquire emergency vehicles, construct office buildings, feed school kids and hospital patients, hire cleaners, install street lights and much more, meaning GPP has the ability to influence a diverse collection of industries, pushing them to be greener and more resource efficient.

Despite its potential, many public procurers do not engage in GPP. The reasons are varied: overly rigid institutional structures that eschew change, a lack of staff capacity, and, perhaps most often of all, a lack of knowledge about how to get started.

For many public procurers, handling large contracts while embracing GPP can be an intimidating notion. A 2008 EU Communication proposed that by 2010 half of all tendering procedures should integrate GPP criteria, but a 2011 study found that this target was far from achieved, with some countries - Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia - reporting less than 20 percent take-up.

So what went wrong? According to the European Commission a lack of training, a dearth of reliable information and a failure to exchange good practice all contributed. And that's where NGOs can make a significant difference.

NGOs have the ability to strongly support the mainstreaming of GPP across Europe. NGOs, knowing the specific situation of the city, region, or country in which they are active, are well-placed to provide information to governments, making them better equipped to engage in GPP.

This brochure is aimed at giving NGOs the knowledge needed to help encourage public procurers to embrace GPP. It doesn't matter whether you're a procurement expert or are just hearing the term Green Public Procurement for the first time – this document is written for beginners and professionals alike!

The European GPP NGO Network

To formalise this idea of NGOs working with public procurers to enhance GPP uptake, a network has been established in 2016 with the support of the European Commission. All interested NGOs are encouraged to join.

The objective of the NGO Network is to increase the uptake of GPP throughout the EU by building NGO capacity to support public authorities. Environmental NGOs have knowledge and experience with many of the environmental issues addressed by GPP criteria, such as hazardous substances, waste management, energy efficiency etc., but few are involved in directly supporting GPP.

Through the network, NGOs will be provided with the information and materials necessary to support sub-national governments in GPP. By joining the network, your NGO will be given a practical introduction to GPP and the policy and legal framework, and will have a wealth of resources at your fingertips.

No prior knowledge of procurement is necessary to join.

One of the primary benefits to members is the opportunity to network with like-minded partners. Specific networking events are foreseen to ensure the exchange of experience, challenges, and best practice. By joining the network, your NGO will be contributing to a highly worthwhile cause with the capacity to make a resounding difference to all sectors of European society.



To find out more information and to join the network, contact procurement@iclei.org.

Joining the network is free and no membership fees apply.

What is Green Public Procurement?

At its simplest, Green Public Procurement means purchasing goods and services that have a reduced impact on the environment compared to the usual alternatives. It takes into account the life-cycle of goods and services, from development to disposal, aiming to provide better overall value.

The European Commission's Communication on Public procurement for a better environment defines Green Public Procurement as "a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life-cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured."

Through engaging in GPP, governments can use purchasing as an important tool to help achieve environmental policy goals relating to climate change, resource use and sustainable consumption and production.

From a legal standpoint, the application of GPP within EU Member States is subject to EU legislation. The [2014 EU Procurement Directives](#) set out the procurement rules for public authorities and public utility operators, governing how public money spent by over 250,000 public authorities – amounting to 14 percent of the GDP of EU countries - is applied.

Societal goals are embedded into the procurement directives, such as environmental protection, innovation, and employment. While the EU Procurement Directives **only apply above a certain cost threshold** GPP principles can be used within all procurement processes, regardless of the contract's worth.

The EU has placed a significant emphasis on GPP, which is reflected in its activities to support public authorities to go green and the endorsement of this policy within EU policy papers. This is particularly true for policies related to fostering the Circular Economy, such as the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) which was adopted in December 2015.

Beyond EU legislation, many countries have published [Strategic National Action Plans on GPP](#), which set targets and support measures for the use of GPP within procurement processes at national level.



Image: unsplash / Joey Kyber

The Circular Economy

At present, our approach to resource consumption follows a linear “take-make-dispose” pattern. Raw materials are extracted, transformed into a product and sold to a consumer – who then discards it when it no longer serves its purpose. A circular economy approach aims to change this unsustainable path.

According to the EU: “In a circular economy the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible; waste and resource use are minimised, and resources are kept within the economy when a product has reached the end of its life, to be used again and again to create further value.”

GPP has a major role to play in incentivising the market to create more durable products that are easier to recycle. This push for innovation also has the capacity to create new jobs in Europe. The EU has stated that supporting higher uptake of GPP is an excellent way to support a shift to a Circular Economy.

As GPP is a cross-cutting tool, it requires the involvement of different departments within the public authority. It can be a complex process, but with proper guidance difficulties can be mitigated. Members of the network will be provided with all of the information necessary to help public procurers implement GPP criteria.

Key GPP Sectors

To make it easier for procurers in Member States to ensure that they are purchasing products, services and works with a reduced environmental impact, the European Commission has developed GPP criteria for the procurement of specific items, which are grouped together by category¹. These criteria relate, for example, to the energy-efficiency of desktop computers or the fuel efficiency of vehicles. The criteria are developed using scientific data and an in-depth life-cycle approach. While sectors considered most important within individual countries can vary based on local priorities, the following is a general overview of key criteria categories, together with a few GPP ideas:

1) Food and Catering Services

The public sector buys a lot of food and drink, whether it's feeding hospital patients, soldiers, school children, or prisoners. The type of food bought, the way it is handled and the waste generated can have a significant effect on the environment.

GPP ideas:

- Set minimum percentages for organically grown products
- Encourage the use of fruit and vegetables that are in season
- Ensure catering staff have appropriate training, especially to avoid food waste

2) Road Transport Vehicles

Many cities are struggling with dangerous levels of air pollution. Moreover, with the transport sector responsible for around a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions within the EU, reducing the environmental impact of vehicles is

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_gpp_criteria_en.htm

a priority for many Member States. And it is not only the procurement of vehicles that needs to be taken into account - every product purchased by a public administration must be delivered, whether paper clips or streetlights. The majority of services procured by public administration involve the movement of goods and personnel, whether cleaning services, road maintenance, or waste collection. To reduce environmental impacts, a wider view of lowering road transport vehicle emissions must be taken, one that includes delivery and mass transit. The *Clean Vehicles Directive* obliges public authorities to take energy efficiency, and emissions of CO₂ and other local pollutants into account when tendering.

GPP ideas:

- Introduce alternatively fuelled vehicles, such as electric or hybrid vehicles into public fleets
- Encourage the use of cargo bikes and other low emission vehicles for deliveries
- Provide drivers with eco-driving training

3) Energy Using products

This wide-ranging product category covers everything from computers to specialised medical equipment. Energy using products are often resource-intensive to create and difficult to dispose of, making their carbon footprint relevant not only for energy consumption in the use-phase, but also for the production and end-of-life phase. As a result, GPP can significantly reduce environmental impact. It is *estimated by the EU* that energy efficiency measures will create €55 billion in extra revenue for European companies.

GPP ideas:

- Purchase items in the highest energy efficiency class
- Ensure purchased items have longer life-spans and can be easily disposed of or recycled
- Purchase items in the highest energy efficiency class

4) Buildings

Buildings are major consumers of resources, with around half of all the energy and raw materials consumed in the European community coming from the buildings sector. A third of water used and waste generated in the EU also stems from this sector. Public buildings therefore have a significant role to play in reducing the environmental impact of cities and countries.

GPP ideas:

- Specify nearly zero emission standard for new buildings
- Give preference to designs which incorporate renewable energy systems, and maximise the use of natural light
- Encourage the use of low-impact building materials

Through the appropriate application of these criteria, public procurers can fight climate change, and help to improve quality of life in European cities and towns. Carrying out GPP can also lead to considerable cost savings. Encouraging national, regional and local governments to apply GPP criteria in their procurement activities will have a positive impact across Europe.



Green Public Procurement in practice

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As previously described, not only can GPP help European countries meet environmental and climate change goals, it can also drive eco-innovation in the private sector. It is considered a key instrument in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient, green and competitive low carbon economy, and can enhance quality of life for citizens. Below you can read a selection of real-life examples of public authorities benefitting from GPP. These public authorities put their knowledge and resources behind GPP and achieved remarkable results, mitigating environmental impact and saving money. The following examples are capable of being reproduced in your city, region, and country.

Germany

Computer system contract results in significant energy savings

It is estimated that a framework contract prepared by the Procurement Agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Germany (BeschA) for thin clients - lightweight computers that do not have a hard drive but instead link back to an external server - will save over 10 million kilowatt-hours per year: equivalent to the annual emissions of over 2,000 European households. A tender for a nation-wide framework contract for around 50,000 thin client computer systems (and services related to these) was issued in August 2013. The total demand was determined to be around €15 million. Energy savings and CO₂ emission reductions were calculated based on the EU-funded GPP 2020 project methodology for a life span of five years. Based on the results, BeschA is considering using more ambitious criteria regarding energy efficiency performance as an award criterion in the future.

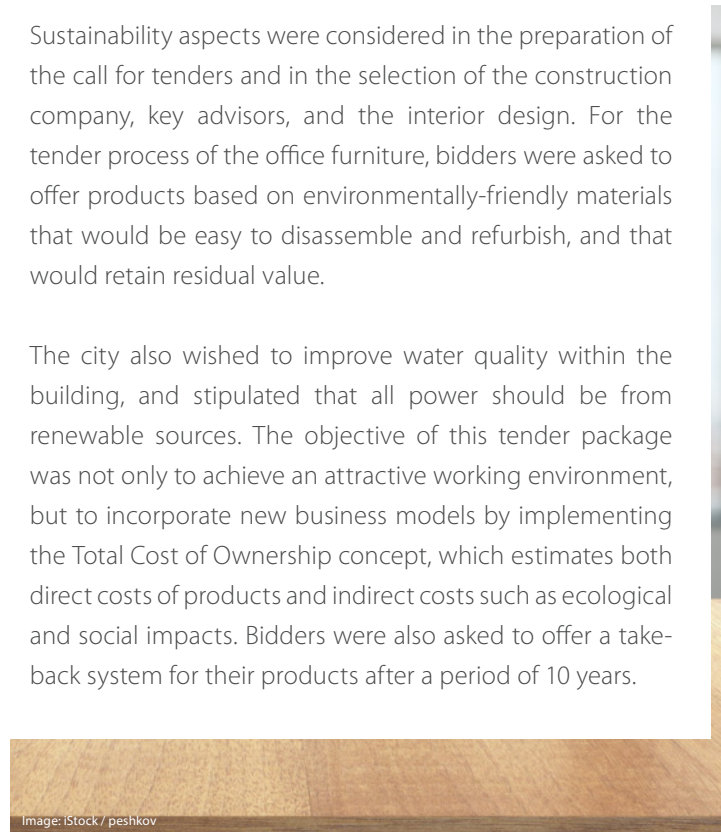
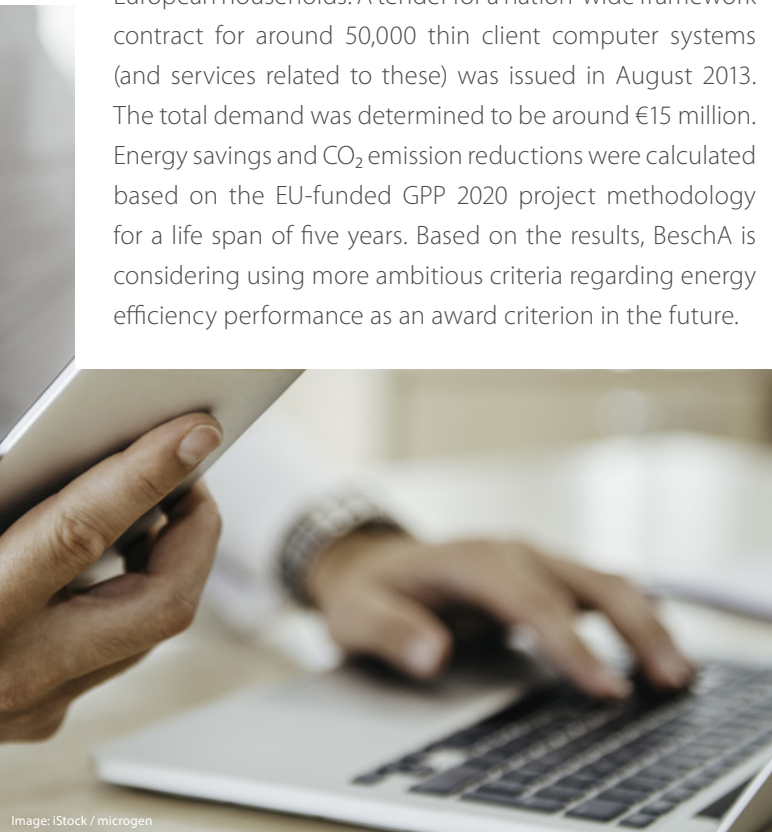
Venlo, The Netherlands

Circular Procurement of Furniture for the City Hall

After discarding the idea of refurbishment due to the poor technical condition of the building and the high maintenance costs it would entail, the city of Venlo decided to demolish the old city hall and erect a new building that would be accessible and functional, while at the same time positively contribute to the town, the staff, the local environment and the economy.

Sustainability aspects were considered in the preparation of the call for tenders and in the selection of the construction company, key advisors, and the interior design. For the tender process of the office furniture, bidders were asked to offer products based on environmentally-friendly materials that would be easy to disassemble and refurbish, and that would retain residual value.

The city also wished to improve water quality within the building, and stipulated that all power should be from renewable sources. The objective of this tender package was not only to achieve an attractive working environment, but to incorporate new business models by implementing the Total Cost of Ownership concept, which estimates both direct costs of products and indirect costs such as ecological and social impacts. Bidders were also asked to offer a take-back system for their products after a period of 10 years.



London, United Kingdom

Sustainable city logistics

Like most local authorities, the London boroughs of Camden and Enfield manage a large number of properties, and are responsible for ensuring that the products needed by each are delivered in a timely manner. This often means daily deliveries, which can be both expensive and environmentally damaging. A feasibility study carried out on behalf of the London boroughs focused on obtaining supply chain savings and environmental benefits through procurement. The study recommended the use of a London Boroughs Consolidation Centre - a facility that channels suppliers' deliveries into one central point, allowing them to be intelligently sorted for the final part of the journey (known as the 'last mile'). By doing so, fewer vehicles are needed, reducing the amount of journeys and lowering the number of heavy goods vehicles on city streets. Following the study, a successful trial period took place, with the last mile carried out using low or zero emission vehicles.

A long-term logistics partner was then contracted. Since its start, the Consolidation Centre has achieved a 57 percent reduction in vehicle trips, 69 percent reduction in kilometres travelled and significant savings in emissions: CO₂ has fallen by 67 percent, NO_x by 71 percent, and PM is down by 87 percent! As a result of the consolidation centre freight vehicles have largely been removed from urban roads, improving quality of life for Londoners.



Copenhagen, Denmark

Procurement of 90% organic, seasonal food

The Municipality of Copenhagen aims to serve 90 percent organic food in its public kitchens, rising to 100 percent for fruit and vegetables. In order to achieve this goal, the Municipality has been working together with the Copenhagen House of Food, an organisation whose goal is to improve the quality of meals offered by the city and to create a healthy, happy and sustainable public food culture.

In 2013 the Municipality of Copenhagen published a public tender to provide 100 percent organic, seasonal fruit and vegetables to supply 80 large kitchens in the city serving around 20,000 meals per day. These kitchens provide the food for the city's nursing homes, elderly homes, schools, day-care centres and homes for people with intellectual disabilities.

By procuring seasonal, organic food the Municipality reduced energy consumption in the production and processing of the food, lowered water consumption, cut down packaging waste and reduced the transport impacts. Although the price of organic food tends to be more expensive than non-organic food, the Municipality ensured that this tender did not cost more by making changes in their kitchens such as using less meat and more vegetables.



Preddvor, Slovenia

Construction of an energy-efficient kindergarten

Almost two decades ago it was decided that the Municipality of Preddvor would strive to become as energy independent as possible. To date, Preddvor's CO2 emissions have decreased by nearly 40 percent thanks to some clever renewable energy measures. The central town of Preddvor and a number of surrounding villages are all heated by local biomass, while solar energy is produced from six solar power roof installations. The town also owns four small hydropower plants.

In May 2009 the Municipal Council made a decision to invest in a new kindergarten facility. The plan was to construct a low energy building using environmentally friendly materials, emphasising the use of wood products and renewable energy. In November 2012, the first passive wooden kindergarten in Slovenia was opened. The kindergarten is heated by biomass from a central boiler in Preddvor and has a photovoltaic system on the roof.

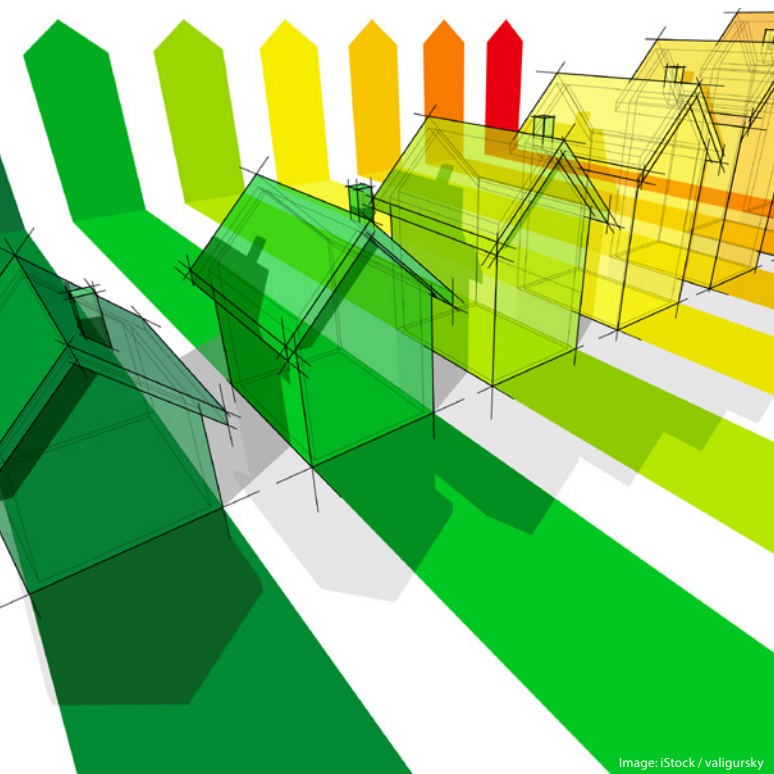


Image: iStock / valigursky

Croatian Post

e-bikes for mail deliveries

Croatian Post, the national postal service in Croatia, launched a public tender in April 2015 to purchase 180 electric bicycles to replace an equal number of conventionally fuelled scooters.

Following a successful 12 month testing period, the organisation concluded that e-bikes provided a better alternative to conventional scooters, citing cost savings and reduced noise pollution. It was also found that around €926 per scooter would be saved by the scheme annually. Most employees reported that they were satisfied with the new bikes, as they are easy to use and maintain.

The e-bikes are capable of covering the same range as their combustion-engine counterparts, with the added benefit that when battery power is low they can be ridden as a normal bicycle.



Image: Hrvatska pošta

FAST FACTS

Looking for more information on the benefits of GPP? Consider the following:

100 million EUR

could be saved if all Italian bodies would use Consip's integrated energy management services framework contracts (source: [OECD](#))

100 million EUR

could be saved each year if Ireland implemented its target on energy efficiency for public schools (source: [Friends of the Earth](#))

17 million EUR annually

saved by the City of Vienna by applying guidelines and energy efficiency criteria for 23 goods and service categories (source: [World Bank](#))

27% costs savings

has been achieved by the central purchasing body (Consip) in Italy by including green considerations into their integrated energy management services framework contract (source: [OECD](#))

50% costs savings

achieved by Szekszard Municipality in Hungary, by purchasing energy efficient IT equipments (source: [Zoldkozbeszerzes.hu](#))

14% of GDP

is being spent by the public authorities in the EU on the purchase of services, works, supplies (source: [European Commission](#))

40% of energy

has been saved in the City of Maroussi, Greece, by switching to energy efficient street lighting (source: [pro-ee](#))

24 households daily electricity consumption

a Danish Municipality saved this amount by applying a new energy efficient solution in its tender (source: [OECD](#))

15 million tonnes

CO2 emission could be reduced per year if the whole EU adopted the same environmental criteria for lighting and office equipment as the City Of Turku, Finland (source: [Norden](#))

1,425m3

the annual decrease in the water use in Lolland, Municipality, Denmark, by switching to environmental friendly innovative cleaning products (source: [EPA](#))

100%

the level of sustainable procurement that Dutch authorities have to implement since 2015 (source: [OECD](#))

How can NGOs engage with public authorities?

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With the potential of GPP clear, how can and should NGOs be involved in pushing this forward at the local, regional and national level? The majority of public authorities still face difficulties in including GPP criteria in public procurement.

The main obstacles as identified by different studies are:

- Lack of knowledge and information
- Lack of political support
- Lack of cooperation among departments

To overcome these obstacles and to reach these authorities, local change agents capable of providing information are needed. NGOs are in a unique position to reach public procurers, having both the institutional mandate and a trusted position within their community.

NGOs are well placed to implement activities including:

- raising awareness and press work
- event organisation and training
- providing input into policy-making at the local, national and European level
- undertaking advocacy work
- acting as service providers for public authorities

NGOs can support the visibility of GPP policies and strengthen political support. In this sense, as with other environmental policies, NGOs can become important allies in raising the profile of GPP across the EU.

Practical tips

So you've decided to promote GPP – but how do you turn your intentions into practically engaging with local, regional and national authorities? It may be helpful to identify a point of contact within the local government, such as a government agency that frequently works with consumer groups, grass-roots initiatives, or non-profit organisations. Approaching transition groups with access to public officials can also help to ensure that the right people hear your message. Ultimately the approach to take in order to attract the attention of government officials will vary based on the local context – in some cities a meeting with the mayor is preferable, in others there may be other representatives more suited to discussing GPP. A mixture of traditional and innovative methods of contact is advisable.

Raising awareness

It is also important to pursue traditional means of communication, such as online articles, newsletters, and publications. Bringing the message of GPP to a wide audience will help politicians to take notice and will sensitise procurers to the idea that public money can and should be used to achieve environmental targets. Local print and online media contacts should also be reached out to.

Putting GPP in the spotlight through your communications channels is an excellent way to get diverse stakeholders interested in the topic, thereby driving uptake.

Capacity building for local, regional and national local authorities

Before committing to holding a capacity building session it is extremely important to find out the local context in terms of environmental policies and targets. Knowing the baseline situation will help you to understand where the public authority stands and what the key areas for improvement are. Knowing the context will also allow you to present GPP as a solution to specific policy goals, making it more attractive to procurers and politicians alike. It is necessary to frame GPP as a means to achieve benefits that would otherwise be unattainable.

Providing technical expertise on public procurement procedures

Individual advice and support with policies, strategies, and ongoing and upcoming tenders is of great value to public authorities. The chance to collectively develop policy and criteria on specific areas related to green procurement can help public authorities to feel more secure in their procurement activities. NGOs can foster this process by putting procurers in touch with other local authorities with experience in the field, and by designing peer-to-peer, mentoring, and work-shadowing programmes.

The benefits for NGOs of embracing GPP

Gain knowledge in a rapidly growing field

GPP is a major focus area at national and European level. The European Commission sees it as a key method to meet a wide-range of policy objectives, such as living up to the obligations under the *Paris Climate Agreement* and

the Circular Economy. For NGOs that have knowledge in this field new funding opportunities become available, including the ability to tender for EU-funded projects and sub-contracts on GPP.

Gaining a foothold in GPP can open the door to expertise in sustainable public procurement, public procurement of innovation and other areas of procurement gaining greater prominence in European and national level policies. Understanding procurement also allows NGOs to comprehend the challenges facing local authorities in how their budget is spent, as well as gaining an insight into issues facing the private sector in attempting to join the green economy. Having a better knowledge of both public and private sectors and the challenges individuals face in their daily work is of great value to any NGO attempting to partner with and influence these actors.

Building relationships with cities/regional governments

Through joining the network, NGOs will be encouraged to form direct relationships with sub-national governments, working with them to solve challenges in implementing GPP criteria. This close cooperation leads to greater bonds, and can contribute to establishing a longer-term working relationship. By being part of the network, NGOs are established as knowledgeable in the field of GPP and are seen as go-to organisations for procurement knowledge and assistance.

Join with other actors interested in the topic

NGOs will be put in touch with a wide range of stakeholders, many of whom they may not have had access to otherwise. From European-level experts, to other NGOs with a background in the topic, to municipal authorities that wish to refine their procurement activities, the network on GPP opens the door to new partners.

Testimonials

REDUCING BUILDING SITE EMISSIONS

Upon realising that its building sites were contributing to the air pollution problem in the city, Omsorgsbygg, a public building owner in Oslo, Norway, wanted to make a change. Harmful emissions are a serious issue in Oslo, with air quality so poor at times that people with asthma or other respiratory problems are advised to stay inside.

To find out how they could go about reducing the emissions coming from their building sites, Omsorgsbygg teamed up with an NGO, the Bellona Foundation. The non-profit Bellona Foundation helps organisations to identify and implement sustainable solutions. An analysis found that emissions primarily stemmed from the heating and drying of building sites, construction machinery, and transport to and from the site.

Bellona helped to organise a market dialogue conference, inviting suppliers with competence in these three areas to discuss with Omsorgsbygg. The idea was to gain feedback on the potential solutions available on the market, and those that could be developed.

Omsorgsbygg will use the information gained from the conference when drawing up requirements for its next public procurement project. At least one pilot project on ensuring a fossil fuel free building site will be started by Omsorgsbygg in the near future.

The cooperation between Omsorgsbygg and the NGO Bellona was vital to successfully identifying solutions, and the two will continue to work together going forward.



Quotes

"At Ecoinstitut we are committed to improving respect for the environment and enhancing social responsibility. Green Public Procurement is central to our efforts to achieve this. Through GPP, cities can use their money in a way that promotes positive consumption patterns and that fosters well-being and minimises negative environmental and social impacts without endangering the needs of present and future generations. For us, building our knowledge of GPP has been hugely beneficial, as it has allowed us to help governments we have worked with in a more comprehensive and practical way."

Bettina Schaefer

Co-founder and Head of Projects
Ecoinstitut
Barcelona, Spain

"GPP is central to our mission and to our work. It is an important tool to promote sustainable development at the local, regional and national level. We wish to reduce environmental impacts and lower the cost for the organisations we work with - GPP enables us to do so. We believe that GPP has the ability to make Italy and the rest of Europe stronger both environmentally and economically and this perception drives our commitment to spread GPP across the continent, particularly through the CompraVerde-BuyGreen Forum."

Livia Mazzà

Project Coordinator
Fondazione Ecosistemi
Rome, Italy



Resources

Below you can find a list of useful documents, web-links and legislation on GPP.

European Commission GPP Website:

European Commission's central information point on GPP, including news, policy, tools and more

Buying Green Handbook:

Comprehensive guidance on the implementation of GPP under the EU Procurement Directives

European Commission GPP criteria:

GPP Criteria for over 20 product/service sectors, to be inserted directly into tender documents

Procurement Forum:

a place for procurers to share information and discuss experiences, problems and solutions

Procura+ Exchange:

an information and exchange mailing list to share sustainable procurement know-how

EU GPP Helpdesk:

a service provided on behalf of the European Commission which addresses enquiries on green public procurement

EcoProcura Conference Series:

promoting exchange and dialogue on the latest strategies and practical solutions on sustainable procurement and innovation procurement

The 10 Year Framework Programme on SPP:

co-leading a global collaborative framework that aims to foster worldwide adoption of SPP

EU GPP News Alert:

provides case studies and information about the latest GPP developments in Europe via a newsletter

EU POLICY REFERENCES

Europe 2020 Strategy (2010)

a strategy proposed by the EC for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe by 2020

Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe (2011)

sets the milestones, which illustrate what will be needed to put the EU on a path to resource efficient and sustainable growth

Eco-innovation Action Plan (Eco-AP) (2011)

puts the main focus on boosting innovation that results in or aims at reducing pressures on the environment and on bridging the gap between innovation and the market

7th Environment Action Programme (2013)

is a decision of the European Parliament and the Council to help to achieve the environment and climate change targets of the EC

Energy 2020 (2010) is a strategy for a competitive, sustainable and secure energy

Innovation Union (2010) aims to improve conditions and access to finance for research and innovation, to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs

GPP DIRECTIVES AND PERTINENT LEGISLATION ENERGY

Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the EC.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU)

promotes the improvement of the energy performance of buildings.

Energy Labelling Directive (2010/30/EU) establishes a framework for the harmonisation of national measures on end-user information, particularly by means of labelling and standard product information.

EU Ecolabel Regulation (106/2008/EC) lays down rules for the establishment and application of the voluntary EU Ecolabel scheme.

Clean Vehicles Directive (2009/33/EC) requires contracting entities and certain operators to take into account lifetime energy and environmental impacts when procuring road transport vehicles.

Energy Star Regulation (106/2008/EC) establishes the rules for the Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment.



Image: dreamstime / Elnur

Important notice

This handbook is an indicative document of the Commission services and cannot be considered binding to this institution in any way. It should also be noted that the content of the handbook is subject to the evolution of EU law, including the revision of the Procurement Directives and case-law of the Court of Justice. It represents the state of play as of October 2016. This Handbook has been compiled under Contract N° 07027729/2016/727287/SER/ENV.F.1 between the European Commission and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, EEB - European Environmental Bureau and REC - Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, supported by Public Procurement Analysis (PPA).

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

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To find out more information and to join the network, contact procurement@iclei.org.
Joining the network is free and no membership fees apply.

Europe Direct is a service to help you find answers to your questions about the European Union
Freephone number*: 00 800 67 89 10 11

(*) Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00800 numbers or these calls may be billed.



