

State of play and future of GPP in the EU



Brussels was the setting for the [Green Public Procurement - state of play and future developments](#) event, held as part of European Green Week 2011. The session gathered speakers from the European Parliament, Commission, Member States and industry to discuss the status of GPP and next steps. Recent developments in policy and practice were presented, along with responses to the consultation on the modernisation of EU public procurement rules.

Some 650 responses were received and will be published along with a summary on the Commission's website [DG Internal Market](#). The application of life-cycle costing (LCC) to promote

greener procurement was one of the themes emerging from the consultation. Greater use of LCC in procurement was welcomed by speakers but it was highlighted that a common methodology should be developed. Responses to the consultation indicate that concerns remain that mandatory GPP requirements could be too prescriptive for public authorities, introduce greater complexity for businesses and risk impeding SME access to public contracts.

DG Environment highlighted that uneven uptake of GPP leaves great potential for tapping into resource efficiencies. The Swedish Environment Management Council showcased the benefits and challenges of ambitious GPP policies while Client Earth underlined the cost-efficiency aspect of GPP and need for greater legal clarity. Heide Rühle of the European Parliament, called for the elimination of the lowest price criterion and the simplification of the Directives as necessary steps for GPP to contribute to the EU 2020 targets.

Zoom in on... Commission's plan to expand ecolabelling scheme



The Commission plans to establish 15 new product groups under the EU Ecolabel scheme, bringing the total number certified to at least 41 by 2015.

The plan also includes a list of products ranked according to their environmental impacts and relevance to other green policies, such as GPP and ecodesign, with heating systems one of the product groups being considered.

[More information...](#)

Fast-tracking SPP actions to green the market



Interview with Ari Nissinen, GPP National Expert, Finnish Environmental Institute

Finland has had a national action in place since 2009, with a number of concrete targets. How is the public sector progressing towards these?

Finnish public organisations apply a lot of environmental requirements and award criteria, as shown by the European Commission's [two monitoring exercises](#). Hansel Ltd, responsible for the national government's framework agreements, uses a systematic approach to reaching environmental goals.

It develops the relevant environmental criteria for each product and service group, clarifies the market situation through technical dialogue, presents environmental criteria in the tender calls and uses them in the award. It also established product groups to promote sustainability, and

courses like fuel-efficient driving. A new area of interest is social criteria in public procurement.

What kind of tools will help support purchasers?

A proposed advisory service on SPP will deliver information about EU criteria, coordinate slight national modifications to the criteria, and possibly support the preparation of proposals for some product groups where we have special expertise. It will also organise a biannual high level eco-procurement forum for leaders, procurers and other stakeholders in the public sector.

How do you measure progress on GPP?

This autumn we will measure how well organisations have adopted national goals laid out by the government resolution in 2010. For example, buildings with very low energy consumption and cars with CO₂ emissions below 110 g/km.

Read the interview in full [here](#).

Zoom in on... EU and Indonesia join forces to combat illegal logging



The EU and Indonesia, the third-largest tropical forest nation in the world, signed an agreement on 4 May on illegal logging, which should see licensing systems in place to curb trade in illegally logged timber by 2013.

In terms of public procurement, the licensing scheme will further enable procurers to verify the source of potentially illegally sourced wood.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... €267 million available for co-financing of environmental solutions



The EU LIFE+ funding programme for 2011 is still open for proposal submissions. Public or private bodies that have projects which propose environmental solutions with a public dimension are encouraged to apply.

Projects can be submitted under the following categories: nature and biodiversity, environmental policy and governance (strong focus on environmental technologies and innovation) and, information and communication.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... Ten proposals to facilitate implementation of sustainable procurement



The *Sustainable Procurement Barometer*, published by the French Sustainable Procurement Observatory, the City of Nantes and the Young Entrepreneurs Centre (CJD) observed that while sustainable procurement is a concern for French public authorities, implementation is low due to a lack of knowledge and rigidity of procurement laws.

To facilitate implementation, a report has been issued presenting ten proposals to help make sustainable procurement the norm.

[More information...](#)

GPP examples

Environmentally-friendly cleaning services in Reykjavik (Iceland)



The City of Reykjavik, which has a population of 120,000, has been incorporating environmental criteria into all its tenders for municipal cleaning services since 2008. Today, the city's major buildings, for example all kindergartens, are cleaned by contractors certified by the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

The city's demand for environmentally sound cleaning services caused a boom in the demand for ecolabels and certifications in Iceland. It also led to a number of companies setting up and implementing certified environmental management systems,

such as ISO 14001.

The Icelandic experience clearly demonstrates that including sustainability criteria in large public contracts can have a rapid and significant effect on the supply of products and services, particularly in small markets.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Efficient purchasing of laboratory supplies in Maynooth (Ireland)



The National University of Ireland Maynooth has identified sustainability as a core function within its procurement cycle. In 2006, the university successfully introduced sustainability into a tender competition for office supplies and consumables by offering green options on a wide range of office consumables to users.

The aggregation of tenders, deliveries and invoices was identified as having the potential to reduce the university's carbon footprint while delivering better value for money. Following an evaluation of the existing system, the university realised that the tender processes for laboratory supplies could be aggregated. The existing situation involved a high volume of low-value transactions and multiple-drop deliveries on various days.

A single tender was launched with multiple lots to cover laboratory consumables, chemicals, molecular reagents and laboratory supplies. Evaluation of the tenders received showed an immediate reduction in cost from the consolidation of deliveries and invoices, leading to a drop in annual deliveries from 2,700 to 540, resulting in a significant decrease in transport emissions.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

To read more GPP examples, visit the GPP [website](#). Previous News Alerts are available [here](#).