

## Environmentally-friendly office IT equipment in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM COUNTY COUNCIL, SWEDEN

### Procurement objectives

In 2010, Stockholm County Council introduced stringent new environmental requirements for purchasing computers. The new stipulations include low energy consumption, the use of recycled plastic in new products and eliminating lead, mercury and halogenated flame retardants from new computers.

The County Council owns about 40,000 desktop and laptop computers. It will be one of the first major Swedish enterprises to have mercury-free displays in both laptops and desktop computers.

### Background

Stockholm County Council has had a detailed environmental policy in place since the early 1990s.

The Council is currently implementing its fifth set of environmental policies entitled "[Environment Step 5](#)". The areas of focus are climate change and the reduction or elimination of hazardous substances in products purchased.



### Criteria used

To prepare the tender, Stockholm County Council used its own set of GPP criteria - the [SMIL 2010 set \(Smart Purchasing for the County\)](#). These are in line with the common [EU GPP criteria](#) for office IT (information technology) equipment.

Sustainability criteria were included in various areas of the tendering procedure Among others:

#### Technical specifications:

- All equipment must meet the latest [Energy Star](#) standards for energy performance
- Computers are free of lead, mercury, PVC and halogenated flame retardants, and comply with the [RoHS Directive, 2002/95/EC](#)
- Computers must have a 20% better Typical Electricity Consumption (TEC) than the Energy Star criteria and contain at least 10% recycled plastics
- All monitors must comply with the latest environmental and usability criteria under the [TCO Development](#) certification scheme (TCO Displays 5) or equivalent

**Selection criteria:** Bidders were required to demonstrate their technical capacity to meet the requirements of regulations [SFS 2005:209](#) and [SFS 2008:834](#) on producer responsibility for batteries and packaging.

**Award criteria:** The contract was awarded on the basis of the "Most Economically Advantageous Tender" (MEAT). Costs were calculated based on the Total Cost of Ownership, including purchase price and energy costs over three years.

### Results

Some specific requirements proved more difficult to meet than others. For example, only a few suppliers were able to meet the requirement for the use of recycled plastic in the new computers. Only one was able to remove PVC from the computers' internal and external cables. All suppliers were able to meet the requirement to provide, on request, desktop computers without cables in order to reduce the amount of electronic waste associated with the contract. The supplier that won the contract met all the requirements. In addition to the numerous environmental benefits, Stockholm County Council will save hundreds of thousands of Euros in the coming years, due to improved energy efficiency and reduced equipment costs.

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### Environmental impacts

The application of the latest Energy Star criteria (5.0) results in energy savings during the use phase over older, less efficient models. Computers meeting the TCO criteria 05 or above diminish energy consumption and limit the use of potentially harmful substances, such as lead, cadmium and mercury.

Stockholm County Council owns about 40,000 computers (about 25% of all the computers in the county), and is renewing it on a rolling basis. By the end of 2014, the County Council expects to have lessened the climate impact of its computers - including during their use phase - by 40%, reduced the weight of hazardous substances by eight million kilograms and cut the County Council's carbon dioxide emissions by two million kilograms.

### Lessons learned

As explained above, it proved difficult for suppliers to meet all of the sustainability requirements. This shows that some remain unprepared when faced with ambitious sustainability requests. However, while there is room for improvement, there is also potential for customer satisfaction as numerous suppliers were able to meet, not all, but many of the requirements. The winning supplier did succeed in fulfilling all of the requirements. As other suppliers are likely to take steps to meet the sustainability requirements indicated in the tender, Stockholm County Council would employ the same procedure again.

For more information, please see the [technical background report](#) and [European GPP criteria](#) for office IT equipment