

BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL, SPAIN

Procurement objectives

In 2009 Barcelona City Council implemented its new contract for street cleaning and rubbish collection. The tender procedure introduced a number of requirements to enhance the quality and sustainability of the service. More frequent rubbish collection, environmentally-friendly vehicles, separate collection of organic waste and recycling containers which are accessible to all users were implemented under the contract, which is worth approximately €250 million per year. The contract runs until 2017.

Background

Barcelona signed the [Aalborg Charter](#) in 1994 and has been implementing sustainable public procurement since 2001. Along with urban transport, waste management has been identified as an area of particular importance for the city. Reduction of emissions and efficient use of resources are key objectives, along with ensuring a high standard of cleanliness for city streets. Service providers are expected to demonstrate commitment to these objectives and apply best available technology and continuous innovation.



Criteria used

The contract was divided into four lots in order to facilitate participation by small and medium-sized enterprises in the tender procedure. Each lot corresponds to a geographic area of the city. The open tender procedure was used.

Technical specifications:

Service vehicles

- Service vehicles must comply with the requirements of the [EURO 5](#) norm or equivalent, with the exception of specialised vehicles which must comply with the highest EURO norm available for that vehicle class
- Vehicles which operate on non-contaminating combustible fuels and/or renewables, such as biofuels (bioethanol B-85, biodiesel or biogas), electric vehicles or hybrids, shall be included in the service proposal
- Vehicles must comply with [Directive 2000/14/EC](#) on noise emissions

Water consumption

- A system must be in place to rationalise the use of water by cleaning machinery and also at cleaning installations, particularly for high-pressure cleaning. Water used for all cleaning purposes shall come from alternative water sources and not from water fit for human consumption.
- Recycling of waste
- A waste management plan shall be applied to the waste from cleaning vehicles and machinery (oil, pneumatics, etc.) and the waste generated at the various installations
- Energy use
- The contractor is required to implement actions for reducing the energy consumed in the course of the contract, for example for lighting and heating at installations, and to use clean energy, for example from solar panels.
- Other inputs
- All other products used to carry out the contract (uniforms, paper and wood, for example) shall fulfil the green criteria of Barcelona City Council's [+Sustainable City Council Programme](#).

Award criteria:

15 out of a total of 100 available marks were used to assess sustainability considerations within the tender. Of this, 5 marks were available for vehicles offering lower emissions than those set out in the technical specifications.

Contract performance clauses

The contractor shall carry out training in environmental awareness for all staff involved in providing the service. The contractor shall provide a detailed training plan which explains the topics covered and hours dedicated, with a focus on continuous improvement.

Results

A total of five companies submitted bids and each of the lots was awarded to a different contractor. Under the contract, the frequency of street cleaning in all areas has been increased from five to six times per week. Dedicated teams are also available in each area to respond to accidents or special events requiring more intensive cleaning. This has led to a noticeable improvement in the cleanliness of Barcelona's streets. Recycling receptacles are now more accessible to all users due to lower heights and the use of foot pedals to operate the opening mechanism. The four companies involved employ a workforce of 4,601 people, and the award of the new contract led directly to the creation of 283 new jobs.

Environmental impacts

Noise and emissions from the vehicles used have been dramatically reduced and 35% of the fleet now runs on biodiesel, 35% on gas and 30% are electric or hybrid vehicles. More than 90% of the water used in the service is ground water, due to increase to 100% over the duration of the contract. The number of recycling points available across the city will be increased by 37% over the contract period and organic waste collection extended to all areas. The increase in recycling and organic waste collection has allowed for the reduction in the number of ordinary rubbish receptacles. The target for 2012 is to collect 55% of all organic waste generated in the city – an increase from the 43% collected in 2010.

Lessons learned

The Council is undertaking awareness campaigns throughout the city to educate citizens about correct disposal of waste, with an emphasis on the separation of organic matter. During the first year of the contract, almost half the households in Barcelona received information. Education and cooperation from citizens is considered vital for the quality of the service. Due to the introduction of an indoor smoking ban, more cigarette dampers are needed to prevent these from ending up on the streets – and these are now integrated into the receptacles.