

## EcoProcura 2014: Sustainability, innovation & cost-efficiency



Public Procurement Directives and how public procurement can stimulate innovation.

The conference programme is interactive; enabling ideas, experiences, guidelines and opinions to be shared throughout. EcoProcura will offer opportunities for good practice exchange, dialogues between business and the public sector. Public authorities wishing to implement high quality, cost effective SPP and procurement of innovation (PPI) will be provided with the latest information, advice, tools, initiatives and projects.

The event will be hosted by the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Ghent. Potential delegates can now view the [programme overview](#), [register online](#) and share experiences through the [call for contributions](#) to the 'Market Lounge' section of the event. Proposals for Market Lounge tables should be submitted by 24 April 2014.

[EcoProcura 2014](#), held from 24 to 26 September 2014 in Ghent, Belgium, will address "Sustainability, innovation and cost efficiency: taking procurement forward". The ninth edition of the EcoProcura conference series will bring together procurers from all levels of government, policy-makers, suppliers and representatives from the European Commission and European Parliament. The key themes for the 2014 conference include: cost-efficient use of public money, developing integrated sustainable public procurement strategies, implementing the new European

## How to make sustainable procurement networks work



*Kim Young is the Sustainable Procurement Lead with the [Sustainable Scotland Network \(SSN\)](#), which supports public sector action on sustainable development and runs programmes on climate change and SPP across Scotland.*

SSN organises quarterly meetings, which have so far included a focus on sustainable timber and food procurement. Last year's annual conference offered [presentations](#) on topics such as embedding SPP into national policies and strategies, sustainable, cost effective catering and the circular economy.

**How does SSN support sustainable public procurement (SPP) in Scotland?** SSN is a network of over 260 practitioners, representing almost 90 public sector organisations across Scotland. It supports officers through a programme of good practice sharing, knowledge exchange, training and collaboration, acting as a key link between Government policy and the officers who are required to carry it out.

**What specific support does SSN provide?** Our website and [Public Sector Climate Change Portal](#) host case studies, reports and links to organisations that can provide technical knowledge or financial support.

**What are the key success factors of a network, in terms of engaging local authorities?** In order to ensure effective outcomes in SPP there is a real need for a conduit between government policy and those working on the ground. A very effective mechanism has also been our 'Support Surgery' peer exchange, where public sector representatives sit around a table with relevant experts including national authorities, centres of expertise and NGOs. This facilitates meaningful and effective discussions.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).

### Zoom in on... New Public Procurement Directives Published



On 28 March 2014 the new Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU (replacing the 'Classic' 2004/18/EC) and Directive 2014/25/EU (which replacing the 'Utilities' 2004/17/EC) were published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). DG Markt has produced a set of related [fact sheets](#) and a Staff Working Document will be produced by the Commission on the on the environmental aspects of the reform in early 2015.

[More information...](#)

### Zoom in on... innovation procurement experience exchange



The PPI Platform offers a European experience exchange. The programme has the goal of spreading knowledge and know-how on PPI and PCP between advanced public procurers and public authorities trying to expand their horizon on this issue.

Currently four potential hosts are available on the website. Just fill out an application form and get first hand, practical knowledge from Europe's leading procurers.

[More information...](#)

## Zoom in on... new global programme on SCP

Image: Dave Durdale, Foter.com



Trillions of Euros of public spending will be directed towards greening global markets as part of a new programme, launched on 1 April 2014. The SPP Programme will be the first of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), assisting governments to redirect spending towards goods and services that enhance environmental and social benefits.

[More information...](#)

## Zoom in on... eco-innovation portal launch

Image: Stock.com



An extended version of the INNOVATION SEEDS portal has now been launched, providing practical, bottom-up information on eco-innovation from across a variety of sectors. The portal is a valuable and user-friendly source of knowledge for policy makers, companies and society at large and includes a database of success stories. Each article describes the added value of a specified R&D initiative based on the technical functions this initiative was able to fulfil.

[More information...](#)

## GPP examples

### Reduced environmental impact printing consumables in Tuscany, Italy

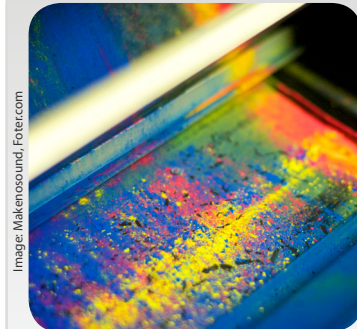


Image: Makrosound, Foter.com

Amongst other environmental obligations, public procurers in Tuscany must increase the use of recovered and recycled materials, and as well as technologies, techniques, systems and production processes with a low environmental impact. The Region of Tuscany wished to procure toner cartridges for its own purposes and on behalf of other public authorities. The subject matter of the open tender, worth €4.1 million, was "The supply of consumables for reduced environmental impact printing systems". Technical specifications, award criteria and contract performance clauses were also used to ensure high environmental performance in terms of chemical composition, remanufactured materials and Life Cycle Impacts (LCA).

The Tuscany Region was awarded the Premio CompraVerde Award 2013 for this tender procedure due to the completeness of the tender as well as the accuracy with which environmental aspects are covered in the tender documentation. The Region was also complimented on the fact that they implemented a process whereby the supplier was responsible for ensuring that the impact of the process on the environment was reduced, and that this process was monitored for the full duration of the contract.

Download the full case study [here](#).

### EEV certified biomethane bus services in Reading, UK



Image: Reading Borough Council

Reading Borough Council identified high levels of NOx emissions resulting from road traffic and in 2009 launched an air quality action plan to try and tackle this issue. In 2012, the Council carried out an open, technology neutral tender for a number of services using eight shuttle buses to link key sites within the Town. Technical specifications set a minimum Euro 4 emission standard (as second-hand vehicles could be offered) but companies offering higher emissions standards scored points in the award phase, as did those who put forward innovative options to improve environmental performance.

The winning bidder offered a service using new CNG powered buses, with an EEV emissions standard. The gas used to power the vehicles is 100% certified biomethane produced in the UK. NOx emissions are an estimated 30-50% lower than the Euro V diesel bus models available at the time the tender was launched. The services began in April 2013 and due to a 20% passenger increase, ten buses in total are now used.

Download the full case study [here](#).

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