

Increase in GPP and SPP training available to public procurers



There are currently a large number of projects funded by the European Commission that are offering an extensive amount of free training to procurers in public authorities and related professionals, in the fields of green and sustainable public procurement (GPP and SPP) and public procurement of innovation (PPI). Training sessions and materials are available in a total of 21 European languages.

The GPP2020 project on low carbon procurement offers [train-the-trainer sessions](#), [direct training](#) and [online materials](#), whilst the Clean Fleets project

offers [European and national workshops](#) along with [train-the-trainer](#) events on the procurement of clean, energy-efficient vehicles. Both projects offer training materials in a variety of languages, as do the [Baltic GPP](#) and [BuySmart](#) projects, which centre on GPP. The [PPI Project](#) is also providing training in different European locations, focused on innovation procurement. WRAP UK has developed a number of [SPP e-learning modules](#), which cover a range of topics such as ICT and Construction and Major Refurbishment Projects. Meanwhile, the [ENIGMA](#) project website includes training on how to develop, implement and manage a Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP).

These types of initiatives, in conjunction with similarly useful national activities, can play a large role in assisting towards the professionalisation of public procurement. They allow public procurers to further their knowledge of GPP and SPP and provide mechanisms to implement these concepts within their organisations.

Zoom in on... new EU Energy Star criteria



A European Commission decision was made on 20 March amending the energy efficiency criteria for: displays (now Version 6.0), imaging equipment including copiers, printers and multifunctional devices (now Version 2.0), servers (now Version 2.0), and uninterruptible power supplies (Version 1.0). The decision was published in the OJEU on 16 April 2014 and obliges central governments and EU institutions to purchase equipment which meets these criteria as a minimum.

[More information...](#)

Measuring the impact of sustainable procurement



Aline De Tremerie is the Purchasing Director at the City of Ghent in Belgium. A sustainable procurement strategy was developed and approved by the City Council in December 2012.

What advantages does a strategic approach bring to achieving Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP)? The key to a strategic approach is the development of the procurement function and its positioning at strategic level within the organisation. By setting targets on effective spend used to achieve strategic objectives (10%), procurement process cost reductions (10%) and TCO reductions (5%), Ghent's Facility Services department will have achieved cost savings of €1.3 Million by 2019.

How important is it for Ghent to demonstrate a sustainable return on investment (SROI)?

Looking at SROI is more comprehensive than using cost benefit analyses, it explores impacts on factors outside of the organisation itself. We choose to spend every euro on goods or services using SPP processes, reporting lifetime costs and benefits and making choices that have the most positive impact on priority outcomes.

How are the Municipality's sustainability goals reflected in procurement procedures?

Sustainability goals are set and approved by the City Council for both Ghent and satellite municipalities. We started the implementation of the SPP strategy within the Facility Services department where a vast majority of the central contracts are managed. For each contract we draft a criteria document where goals, measures, market information is captured and tools and methods are developed and piloted.

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

Zoom in on... top tips for procurers on energy efficiency



The Topten project has made guidance available on how to opt for the most energy efficient appliances in four new product categories, including LED Classic Lamps, LED Spots, Dishwashers and Office Luminaires. Sample tender documents are also provided to assist procurers in making low carbon, low LCC buying decisions. These accompany the six sets of guidance already published on the Topten website for a range of other product categories.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on... webinar on demand management

Webinar

Web-based seminar
live online educational presentation
viewers can submit questions
see slides while the speaker
interactive elements - the a

On 1 July at 14.30 (CEST), there will be a webinar on arguably the most important part of the procurement process: demand management. Buying products using green criteria is a progressive approach to purchasing, but reducing the quantity of goods bought and changing the way services are delivered to increase efficiency are vital first steps. This webinar provided by the GPP Helpdesk will explore such issues and showcase examples of good practice in demand management.

[More information...](#)

Image: Dreamstime

Zoom in on... comparing vehicle emissions



The French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) recently launched an online Platform in French for vehicle emissions. This easy-to-use platform uses an extensive database of vehicle environmental performance to provide a visual illustration of monetised carbon emissions. It also shows the energy costs of each car in comparison to an average figure and gives a breakdown of the pollutants levels for each model.

[More information...](#)

Image: iCenturionStudioit, Fotolia

GPP examples

Docking stations for electric police vehicles in Germany



Image: Bundespolizei/ Deutschland

The German Federal Procurement Agency (BeschA) is the national central procurement body. As part of Germany's transition towards electromobility, it was established that 10% of all new or leased cars for all Federal Organisations must emit less than 50g CO₂/km. To this end, BeschA procured 28 docking stations and wall-integrated sockets for charging electric vehicles (EVs) owned by the Federal Police.

The tender development was supported by a multi-stakeholder working group to ensure the long-term sustainability of the technological solutions. The docking stations use electricity from renewable sources (between 26% and 100% depending on their location). This tender

has paved the way for the installation of charging stations throughout the country.

As electromobility is a rapidly developing field of technology, it is difficult to foresee what charging needs and systems will be in the future. This challenge was addressed in this tender by installing four plugs at each docking station; two regular plugs and two plugs for rapid charging. BeschA hopes that this provision will ensure the long term usability of each e-fuel station.

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

Organic food procurement for school catering services in Lens, France



Image: Katrin Morenz, Flickr

The City of Lens is in the North East of France and has a population 36,000 people. The City wished to demonstrate that GPP need not be restricted to the wealthiest cities.

The food and catering sector was one of its primary GPP targets and the City prioritised the 203,000 meals per year served in its ten schools. In its most recent tender it was specified that 20% of the food provided to each school must be organic. The procurers involved did not mandate a higher proportion of organic food than this, as they felt that it may have too much of an impact on price. However, variants were allowed giving the bidder

the opportunity to offer a higher percentage of organic food.

The City discovered that organic meals were only marginally more expensive than standard meals. Another positive outcome is that the success of this green procurement activity has made local politicians realise the value of GPP and of introducing a sustainability policy for the City of Lens.

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

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