

Sustainable public procurement supported by the United Nations Environment Programme



The [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP) has been leading the global agenda on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This is where unsustainable consumption and production patterns were recognised as one of the fundamental reasons for environmental degradation.

UNEP coordinated the global [Marrakech Process](#), which was an outcome of the [2002 Earth Summit in Johannesburg](#) and was a global initiative designed to support the elaboration of the global political agenda to change consumption and production patterns. This resulted in the adoption of the [10-year Framework of Programmes](#) (10YFP), at the [Rio+20 United Nations Summit](#) in 2012. UNEP was invited to host the secretariat of the 10YFP. One of the programmes of the 10YFP is on sustainable public procurement (SPP), which is led by UNEP, and co-led by [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#), and the [Korea Environment Industry & Technology Institute](#) (KEITI).

The [SPP programme](#) has an evolving set of activities defined and implemented by a global platform that supports the implementation of SPP around the world under the mandate of the 10 YFP. It serves two primary goals: building the case for SPP by improving knowledge on the topic and thereby effectiveness of procurement as a tool to promote SCP; and supporting the implementation of SPP on the ground by increasing collaboration between stakeholders and improving access to capacity building tools.

To date the programme has produced a number of [key reports](#), a set of [SPP principles](#) and has [over 85 members](#) in more than 40 countries, including the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Development Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection in China, and the International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN). The programme's communication and outreach activities include a series of [informative webinars](#) and [newsletters](#) disseminated to the large community of SPP stakeholders. The programme's work areas for 2016-2017 will include greening supply chains, as well as measuring the impacts and communicating the benefits of SPP.

UNEP further supports the implementation of SPP in 16 countries through three projects:

- the [Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling](#) (SPPL) project, which aims to combine SPP and eco-labelling in order to stimulate the supply and the demand of sustainable products,
- the [Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood](#) project, where the SPP component aims at strengthening public procurement systems and enacting a basis for SPP by introducing sustainability into the national development plans, legislation and regulatory frameworks of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus, and
- the ASEAN+3 GPPEL project, which aims to strengthen capacity, while improving the knowledge on GPP and eco-labelling in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information, please visit www.unep.org/10yfp/procurement

Webinar

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

Image: Dreamstime

Zoom in on... Webinar on engaging the market

The second of this year's webinars (organised as part of the EU GPP Helpdesk) is scheduled to take place on 24 November (14:30-16:00, CET). Strategies for effectively engaging the market as part of public procurement actions will be the topic of focus. If you would like to take part please send an email with your details to gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org. Furthermore, the [EU GPP Helpdesk service](#) continues to be available for any questions regarding greening procurement. These can be sent to gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org.

[More information...](#)



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Zoom in on... German GPP Award

The EU-funded project, [Green Public Procurement in Action \(Green ProcA\)](#), recently launched a call for applications for the German GPP Award. The prize will be awarded based on the size of the participating municipality, and assessed according to the following criteria: CO₂ savings, innovation transferability, social criteria, and the commitment of the municipality to achieve energy efficiency. The winner will be announced in spring 2016. Deadline for applications is 31 December 2015.

[More information...](#)



Healthy toxic free preschools in Sweden



Anna Christiansson is the project manager responsible for toxic free preschools and chemical requirements for sustainable public procurement (SPP) at the National Agency for Public Procurement in Sweden.

Anna has a PhD in Environmental Chemistry and has worked on green public procurement (GPP) since 2009.

What is the Swedish National Agency for Public Procurement and what is its mandate?

The National Agency for Public Procurement has an overall responsibility in Sweden to further develop public procurement, and to provide support to Swedish public contracting authorities and agencies, as well as to suppliers (such as by supporting them in participating in public tendering processes). Our primary goal is to achieve innovative, efficient, socially and environmentally sustainable public procurement. Our support consists of the provision of a helpdesk service, written guidance and training.

Can you tell us about the toxic free preschools programme launched by the agency?

In 1999, Sweden started working on [16 environmental goals](#), one of which was to create a [non-toxic environment](#) by 2020 (not just limited to preschools). [The Swedish Chemicals Agency](#) is the public agency responsible for achieving this goal, and their work is based on an [Action Plan for a toxic free everyday environment](#). As part of their Action Plan, the Agency chose to focus primarily on how to achieve toxic free environments for children and identified public procurement as one of a number of important tools which could be used to help create such environments. In 2014, a government assignment was given to the National Agency for Public Procurement to develop guidance and GPP criteria outlining how to purchase products for public preschools which do not contain hazardous chemicals and cause less harm to the natural environment and human health

than previously used products.

There is now comprehensive support available to all key stakeholders to create non-toxic preschools in Sweden. The support provides relevant GPP criteria, relating to health and environmental standards for: toys, furniture, textiles, as well as cooking and eating utensils for preschools. On our webpage we also have further criteria related to other goods relevant for preschools such as: cleaning products, food, professional kitchens, in- and outdoor lighting, construction and buildings, and white goods. Key stakeholders represent all parts of the procurement of toxic free preschools: from the high level decision makers to the people who are actually using the contracts in preschools. Guidance has also been developed in the form of online training material which are addressed to politicians, decision-makers, procurers and the preschool staff who actually call-off from the contracts. Support is also provided to all stakeholders through a Helpdesk service. Comprehensive support is secured through our chemical team, whose expertise regarding chemical requirements in procurement is highly sought after.

All of our material is available on our [website](#), and while the information is currently available in Swedish only, it will be made available in English over the coming months.

What are the next steps for the programme?

The package is continuously developed and we focus also on communication activities. For example the National Agency for Public Procurement has been invited to several conferences to talk about the Programme, where we will emphasise the importance of various stakeholder groups working together in order to reach our goal of non toxic preschools.

We will continue to cooperate with our key partners – the Swedish Chemicals Agency and the [Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation](#) – by publishing information brochures for preschool staff, for instance.



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Zoom in on... COP 21 events on SPP

The [21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change](#) will be hosted in Paris from 30 November – 11 December 2015. The conference will include events on sustainable public procurement (SPP) on 5 December in the [Cities and Regions Pavilion – TAP 2015](#), with the launch of the [Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement](#) at 16:00 followed by the [10YFP on SPP Programme meeting](#) at 17:30. Both events are open to the public, but prior registration for the TAP Pavilion is encouraged and possible [here](#).



Image: Matty van Sloten, Corvers

Zoom in on... Award winning GPP actions

The procurement of a machine that vaporises waste-water to remove waste particles saw the Federal Procurement Agency of Austria awarded the [Public Procurement of Innovation Award](#) at the first [European Assistance for Innovation Procurement](#) event on 27 October in Paris.

The best GPP practices (tenders, policies and cafeterias) in Italy were also rewarded at the [Compra Verde Forum](#) which took place on 1-2 October in Rome.

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