

## Several sets of European green purchasing criteria expected early 2016



The basic concept of green public procurement (GPP) relies on having clear, verifiable, justifiable and ambitious environmental criteria for products and services, based on a life-cycle approach and scientific evidence. Since 2008, the European Commission (EC) has developed more than 20 sets of common GPP criteria, to assist European public (and semi-public) bodies in reaching their climate and sustainability goals. The [European GPP criteria](#) are essentially practical recommendations for how

public bodies can lessen the burden of a purchase on the natural environment through a public tendering process.

A number of the existing GPP criteria sets are nearing the end of their revision processes and are scheduled for publication by the EC early next year. Recommendations for public purchases associated with the construction and renovation of Office Buildings (previously covered within the GPP criteria set for Construction) will be published in the first quarter of 2016. The same timing, in terms of publication, applies for the updated sets of GPP criteria for Indoor and Outdoor Paints, Varnishes and Road Markings; Textiles (covering clothing and textiles for interior use); Computers and Laptops; and Furniture (for indoor or outdoor use).

For further updates, please consult the [EC's GPP website](#).



Image: Dreamstime

### Zoom in on... Closing the loop

On 2 December, the EC adopted a new Circular Economy Package, which includes revised legislative proposals on waste, as well as a comprehensive [Action Plan](#) setting out a concrete mandate for this Commission's term of office.

On the topic of GPP, the new EU Communication states that "the Commission will take action on GPP, by emphasising circular economy aspects in new or revised criteria, supporting higher uptake of GPP, and leading by example in its own procurement and in EU funding."

[More information...](#)

## Maximising the impact of public sector procurement of green electricity

EU public authorities are important energy consumers, accounting for around 6-7% of total electricity consumption in Europe, thus offering the potential to drive the development of additional renewable energy generation capacity, especially if their efforts are coordinated. The current [EU GPP criteria for electricity](#), as well as many other schemes, rely on Guarantees of Origin to verify consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources. This is the most commonly used approach by public authorities today, despite other approaches being permissible. In practice, the approach has not provided sufficient incentives to producers of green electricity to invest in additional renewable energy production capacity.

In this light, the EC launched the preparatory work for the revision of the European GPP criteria for electricity in October 2015, through an online survey aimed at collecting experiences from public procurers in this area. The results of the survey, along with further research and investigation, will be synthesised into a technical background report, which should form the basis for the envisaged updated set of GPP recommendations for this purchasing category. The new material (due out in July 2016) will contribute to the tools that European public authorities need to effectively drive the increased production of green electricity through their purchasing power.



Image: Dreamstime

### Zoom in on... Consultation on energy efficiency

A public [consultation process](#) is currently taking place in view of the review of the [EU Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (EED), foreseen for the second half of 2016. One of the main focuses of the consultation is to examine progress made by public authorities through their purchasing practices of energy efficient buildings, goods and services (article 6 of EED). Public authorities, Member State authorities, SMEs, private organisations, industry associations, and other relevant stakeholders, are invited to provide their feedback. [Contributions](#) can be submitted up until 29 January 2016.



## GPP examples

### Collection, transportation and disposal of hospital waste in Emilia-Romagna (Italy)

Intercent-ER (IER) is the central purchasing body for all public administrations in the northern Italian region of Emilia-Romagna. The purchasing body decided to establish a joint procurement initiative upon realising that the main health institutions in the region needed a new solution to manage their hospital's waste. An open tender was published in December 2013.

The winning suppliers were required to report on the assessment of the environmental impacts of their services using a life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology, for each healthcare institution involved. The reliability of the LCA results will be attested through a formal evaluation by a third party. IER will then provide suppliers with ideas for improvement. The results will also be used to improve the technical requirements of upcoming tenders.

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

### Refurbishment of redundant ICT equipment in Durham (UK)

In 2012, Durham County Council put a framework contract into place to deal with redundant computer equipment. In terms of GPP, the main objective was to ensure that redundant computer equipment was re-used or recycled to the greatest extent possible and thus minimising environmental impacts by diverting waste from landfill. In addition, it was hoped that further social value would be delivered by making refurbished computer equipment available for community projects.

As a result, refurbished computer equipment is available, at low cost, to local community groups. In terms of savings, the new contract generates annual returns of approximately £30,000, which were previously not realised. As of September 2015, 13 charitable organisations have purchased refurbished ICT equipment through the scheme and over 5,000 individual items of ICT equipment have been collected for recycling or refurbishment.

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

### Creating an energy sufficient hospital in Galicia (Spain)

The Galician Public Healthcare Services (SERGAS) provides medical services to more than 95% of the population of Galicia in north-western Spain. The primary challenge of this particular project was to optimise the energy consumption of the new Ourense University Hospital. This was approached by launching two complementary tenders, focused on both improving the energy installations of the hospital and the software controlling the energy management system. SERGAS opted for functional specifications in their procurement procedures which included the following environmental goals: Generating all energy needed for sanitary water and heating from a biomass boiler and heat motor recovery, resulting in zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; generating 50% of the energy required for air conditioning from an absorption machine, fuelled by heat recovery from other processes; and generating 70% electricity from an Otto engine (a co-generation engine with an electrical generator and exhaust gas heat recovery for pre-heating water) and Organic Rankine Cycle.

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

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



#### Zoom in on... Recommendations for cleaner vehicles

Earlier this year, the [Clean Fleets project](#) published a number of recommendations, developed for European and national policy makers and based on the findings and expertise of the partners in the Clean Fleets project, in co-operation with Polis. The recommendations are aimed at facilitating the greater uptake of alternative fuel vehicles within Europe's publicly owned or controlled vehicle fleets, and were used as part of the [EU's Clean Vehicles Directive](#) review process.

[More information...](#)



#### Zoom in on... Sustainable Energy Action Plans

The [Green ProcA](#) (Green Public Procurement in Action) project recently published a [Green Public Procurement in Sustainable Energy Action Plans \(SEAPs\) Guide](#). The guide is aimed at municipalities and local governments which are planning a SEAP, and outlines how they can incorporate sustainable public procurement into these plans. The guide is available in English, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Slovakian and German, with Bulgarian and Hungarian versions to follow in the coming months.

[More information...](#)

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