

Circular procurement 'green deals' taking shape in Flanders



'Circular' purchases are an important lever for moving from a linear to a circular economy, in which raw material cycles are closed. With their enormous purchasing power, governments, companies and other organisations can help boost markets for circular products and services.

Launched by the Flemish Minister for Environment, Joke Schauvliege, on 8 June 2017, the Green Deal for Circular Procurement (GDCP) has begun to take shape in the region of Flanders (Belgium).

Some 130 companies, local authorities and non-profit organisations took part in the [landmark event](#), which is being run by a partnership of four organisations: Circular Flanders, the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VMSG), The Shift (Belgian Corporate Social Responsibility Network) and the Union for a Better Environment (Bond Better Leefmilieu). The Flemish GDCP is based on the [Dutch 'Green Deal'](#), which has been adapted to the Flemish context.

To read the full article click [here](#).



Zoom in on... Green and circular furniture

Did you miss the latest GPP Helpdesk Webinar on Furniture? Or maybe you're just interested to find out more about how the latest guidance on GPP can be used for new furniture purchases, refurbishment and end-of-life services (collection and re-use). Visit the European Commission's (EC) [GPP website](#) for the presentations and a recording of the Webinar. Good practice examples were presented on purchasing 'circular' new furniture, and on reusing and refurbishing old furniture for new offices of the National Health Service in Wales.

Rotterdam, Oslo and Copenhagen identify their most emission intensive procurements from transport



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on sustainable transport solutions in city logistics and focuses on sustainable public procurement (SPP) in the framework of the [BuyZET](#) project.

What is the BuyZET project and what does it aim to achieve?

Launched in November 2016, the EU-funded BuyZET project aims for procurement of innovative solutions for zero emission urban delivery of goods and services. The overall objective of the

project is to develop procurement plans for each core city within the consortium – Rotterdam, Oslo and Copenhagen - for two key procurement areas, which minimise the number, distance and disruptiveness of motorised vehicle trips within the city, and maximise the proportion of these trips made by zero emission vehicles (ZEVs).

In addition to the three core cities, a network of observer cities, which includes Brussels Capital Region, Southampton, Bielefeld, Bologna, Jerusalem, Manchester and Munich, will also replicate the project activities.

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



Zoom in on... Finland going circular

Experimenting and sustainable public procurement (SPP) are among the priorities of Finland's Action Plan for a Circular Economy which was launched on 1 December 2017. A network-based centre of excellence for sustainable and innovative public procurement will be set up in spring 2018, and an 'accelerator' for public procurement, targeting local governments will be launched soon. The latter will speed up the implementation of low-carbon circular economy solutions through public procurement.

[More information](#)



GPP example

Reusing and refurbishing furniture in a new office in Wales (United Kingdom)

When Public Health Wales (PHW) moved offices in 2016, it wanted the successful bidder to use as much of its existing office equipment, furniture and flooring as possible, as well as supplying remanufactured goods from other sources.



The procurement exercise was done with an outcomes-based approach using an 'open procedure', with suppliers invited to provide tenders which would meet the client's functional design and supply needs, without specifying how these should be met, thus leaving room for creativity and innovation.

A supplier 'open day' communicated the key specifications of designing for a collaborative workspace environment and to re-use as much furniture as possible. The winning consortium of social enterprises supplied over 2,500 items, with only 6% from new stock. The circular approach diverted 41 tonnes of waste from landfill with a CO₂ saving of 134 tonnes, whilst creating full time jobs for seven disabled and long-term unemployed people.

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

Procurement of textiles made from recycled fibres for the Dutch defence services

In its procurement of towels, wash cloths and overalls, the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (MODNL) followed a circular policy and explored recycled content in the new textiles.



The textile products purchased were required to contain a minimum of 10% recycled post-consumer textile fibres – proven by way of microscopic tab testing – with two contracts awarded: one for supply of 100,000 towels and 10,000 wash cloths, and one for 53,000 overalls. The MODNL consulted the market and challenged suppliers to source post-consumer textile fibres, with the winning bid creating estimated savings of 233,000,000 litres of water, 69,000 kg CO₂ and 23 MJ of energy.

The contracts were awarded in June 2016, and are worth approximately €430,000 for towels and wash cloths and €1.38 million for overalls.

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

To read more GPP examples, visit the European Commission's GPP [website](#). Previous issues of the GPP News Alert are available [here](#).



Zoom in on... 'How to' procurement videos

The EU-funded [SPP Regions](#) project has released a series of five 'how-to' videos for public procurers. The videos have been produced by Bristol City Council and the University of the West of England, and feature the Project Manager of the [PIPEN Network](#). The series of 8-12 minute videos cover Circular Procurement, Sustainable Procurement, Life Cycle Costing, the use of labels in procurement and Market Engagement.

[More information](#)



Zoom in on... Food procurement

The EU-funded [Strength2Food](#) project recently published the results about a study into making public sector food procurement more sustainable. The small study helps to shed light on this question by investigating the environmental, economic, social and nutritional impacts of two different primary school meals services in County Durham, North East England. The results have been synthesised into a factsheet format.

[More information](#)

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