

## The European Commission's Clean Vehicles Monitoring report



A progress report on the application of the Clean Vehicles Directive (CVD) was recently published by DG MOVE. The report provides an overview of the progress of the public procurement of clean vehicles throughout Europe after the launch of the Directive.

The aim of the CVD is to stimulate the market for clean and energy-efficient vehicles. It requires that public procurers take into account the energy use and environmental impacts linked to the operation of vehicles over their whole lifetime. The report emphasizes the difficulty related to the assessment of the impact of the Directive (e.g. in Member States where GPP requirements for such vehicles already

existed), as well as the low level of clean vehicle procurement since implementation started.

However, the report also listed some notable achievements since the launch of the Directive:

- Full transposition of the Directive in all Member States (with the exception of Latvia);
- The launch of the [Clean Vehicle Portal](#), which provides support local authorities in implementing the Directive, and assists them with the procurement of clean and energy-efficient vehicles;
- The launch of [European Electro-mobility Observatory \(EEO\)](#) in December 2012, which also provides information on how public procurement at the local level influences the development of the clean vehicles market in Europe.

You can read the report [here](#)

### Zoom in on... Consultation on plastic waste



A three-month [public consultation on plastic waste](#) has been launched by the European Commission on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The aim of the consultation is to tackle the public policy challenges posed by plastic waste. One pillar of the future legislation would be to avoid the proliferation of single-use and short-lived plastic products. Green public procurement and/or financial instruments (such as environmental taxes) could be a means to achieve this goal.

View the consultation [here](#)

## GPP Example

### Sustainable procurement at the Natural History Museum of London, UK



The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), established as a UK independent not-for-profit company in 2000, has been working since 2010 with the Environment Agency (UK government agency responsible for protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development) on the LIFE+ funded programme [European Pathway to Zero Waste \(EPOW\)](#). The programme was developed to test different ways to cut waste in the South East of England. One of these projects has involved working with the Natural History Museum in London to improve sustainable procurement practices through targeting new contracts.

Over a period of six months, the EPOW project helped embed sustainability considerations within the Museum's procurement documents and processes. Procurement consultants worked with the Museum's team to consistently articulate the Museum's objectives through the policy and guidance information. Expert advice was also provided to improve a range of contracts and embed sustainability issues within future procurements. One of these contracts was the waste and recycling contract, which is for the effective management and disposal of a range of waste from the Museum's public galleries, offices and laboratories, in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Museum is in the process of appointing a new waste and recycling contractor to manage removal of waste. Inclusion of the sustainability recommendations in the waste and recycling contract procedures will allow the Museum to select a service provider that can help the Museum meet the waste and recycling targets set out in its Environmental Management System.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

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

### Zoom in on... GPP criteria updated work plan



The work plan for the development of GPP/Ecolabel criteria for different product groups was recently updated. Of the GPP product group categories currently under preparation, criteria for Waste Water Infrastructures, Imaging equipment, Taps and showerheads, Windows and doors, and Toilets could be expected by Mid-2013, while criteria for Office Buildings, Heating systems and Medical Electrical Equipment will be completed by the end of 2013. For 2014, the development/revision of criteria for Indoor/outdoor paints and varnishes, Office lighting, Roads, Textiles, Computer and Laptops, and Furniture are foreseen.

See the updated programme [here](#)

## Zoom in on... Green Week



The 2013 edition of Green Week, the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 4 to 7 June, and will focus this year on air quality. Together with the Green Week sessions and workshops, there will be an exhibition with around 40 stands displaying green business solutions, NGO activities, local and regional authorities, European and international bodies, and much more.

Overview and program at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/>

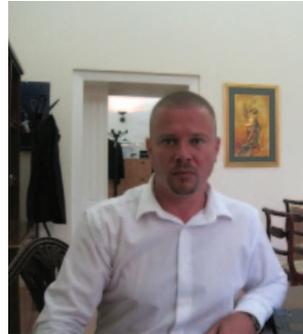
## Zoom in on... Promoting SME participation in public contracts



The Irish Ministry of State for the Office of Public Works and Public Sector Reform recently published a best practice guide to address the issues that inhibit SME participation in public sector procurement. This EU-funded project aims to improve SME access to the public procurement markets in both Ireland and the UK (which have an estimated value of €190 billion a year). The guide encourages public procurers to alleviate the administrative burden placed on SMEs, and to make sure a decision is not based solely on lowest cost criteria.

Read the [guide](#)

## Improving stakeholders' awareness key for success in Malta



*Since December 2010, Sergei Golovkin has been responsible for overseeing revision, adoption and implementation of Malta's second National GPP Action Plan within the Ministry responsible for the environment. An inter-ministerial task force was set up which embarked on a broad consultation drive to engage with a wide variety of stakeholders. One year after establishing the NAP the level of GPP uptake has increased significantly.*

### What has been Malta's recipe for successfully implementing GPP?

A good recipe for a tasty and nutritious dish would seek to strike the right balance between the key ingredients. In Malta's case the three most important ingredients of success have been a combination of political will, awareness of the benefits of GPP (amongst procurers and suppliers), and an administrative process and structure enabling GPP to happen.

Political will was manifested in the approval of the NAP by the national government, which effectively secured the support and participation of all ministries and departments.

In addition, we established an administrative procedure to ensure that all public sector tenders are screened for compliance with GPP criteria. In practice, this required engaging a full time GPP Officer, creating a GPP Helpdesk facility and issuing a circular to all contracting authorities to explain the new procedure.

Perhaps the most important ingredient was the need to secure acceptance and support for GPP amongst a broad range of stakeholders. This support could only have been achieved through improved awareness. This is why we have conducted around 16 information sessions and training seminars targeting over 600 stakeholders. These seminars helped raise the general level of awareness of the benefits of GPP to a whole new level.

By the end of the first quarter of 2013, these three main actions have resulted in reaching a level of GPP uptake of 57% of the tenders falling within the scope of GPP product groups, and of these 88% of tenders in terms of value being compliant with [Malta's national GPP criteria](#). The result is particularly impressive given that the process was initiated only a short while ago whereby both uptake and awareness of GPP were very low (less than 20% uptake as per the European Commission's GPP survey from 2011).

### How are tenders deemed as being 'green'?

Malta now has an administrative procedure which requires all contracting authorities to refer their tenders to mandatory screening for compliance with the national GPP criteria. The criteria are modelled on the EU common criteria for 18 product groups. Tenders are screened by a GPP Officer who determines whether any given tender would fall under the product group for which the NAP sets a GPP target, and whether the tender is compliant with the corresponding national criteria. Some product groups, such as paper, IT equipment or textiles have mandatory GPP targets, whilst other product groups have voluntary targets. Upon completing the screening process, a confirmation of compliance or otherwise is given – the former is required in order for the tender to be published.

### What are the most important lessons learned from Malta's recent experiences?

Confucius taught that by three methods we may learn wisdom: first, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest. In Malta's case, we have learned by a combination of all three methods.

It was crucial for Malta, which began with extremely low levels of GPP uptake in 2011, to reflect on the experiences of other EU Member States, which has helped us to adapt the [EU common GPP criteria](#) to Malta's specific needs.

Due to the relatively low volume of tenders and the number of contracting authorities in Malta, it was possible to completely centralise the GPP process at the national level. This would have certainly been much more challenging in a larger country, but perhaps may be replicable at a regional or municipal level.

The most important lessons were learned through experience. We have learned to be proactive, and to reach out to stakeholders with information on the benefits of GPP. We have developed an efficient way of screening tenders for compliance with green criteria, which has been critical for ensuring that contracting authorities do not perceive GPP as an added bureaucratic burden.

Above all, we have developed cooperative relationships with procurers and with industry representatives, which have helped us propel GPP forward in a genuine atmosphere of cooperation.