



European Commission Time to implement Green Public Procurement

A step-by-step guide

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Overview



- ▶ What is the importance of Green Public Procurement (GPP)?
- ▶ GPP in the UK - from policies to action
- ▶ The European Ecolabel - a useful tool for GPP
- ▶ The GPP Training Toolkit





What is the importance of Green Public Procurement (GPP)?

GPP - a definition



- ▶ Green public procurement = procedure whereby environmental considerations are taken into account within the procurement process



- ▶ GPP is smart procurement – it means improving the efficiency of public procurement and at the same time using public market power to bring about major environmental benefits locally and globally.

Why implement GPP?



GPP ...

-is powerful
-is smart
-tackles local policy goals
-drives innovation
-is popular
-is forward-thinking



GPP... powerful & smart



- ▶ European public authorities spend each year over €1,800 billion on goods & services (*14% -16 % of the GDP*)
- ▶ GPP doesn't mean spending more money:
 - **Life-cycle costing (LCC)**: Critical to consider the costs of a product/service throughout its useful life - purchase price, usage and maintenance costs, disposal costs

GPP... policy goals & innovation



- ▶ Achieve local environmental and health goals:
 - Most local environmental and health concerns are influenced by the products we buy and the way services are carried out - GPP is an effective tool for tackling these at source.

- ▶ Driving innovation:
 - The market for green products is growing rapidly internationally.
 - Providing a market for such products helps European suppliers to develop innovative approaches and improve the international competitiveness of European, national and local industry

GPP... popular & forward-thinking



- ▶ Improving the public image:
 - 85% of EU Citizens feel that policymakers should consider the environment to be as important as economic and social policies

- ▶ Preparing for future legislation:
 - Environmental legislation across Europe is becoming increasingly strict (e.g. emissions/energy-efficiency standards):
 - Compulsory emission standards for vehicles
 - Energy efficiency standards for buildings and energy-consuming products
 - Restricted use of harmful substances



GPP in the UK - from policies to action



► National Action Plans (NAP)

- Sustainable Procurement Action Plan (SPAP) for central government
- Local Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy (LGSPS)
- Sustainable Procurement Action Plan for the Health and Social Care Sector



► National Actions Plans – Support

- New Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) and Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) within the Office of Government Commerce. Will work with central Government Departments to improve their capacity in sustainable development, including procurement. Working with Departments to develop a Sustainability Delivery Plan for central Government.
- Local Government: National Sustainable Procurement Stakeholder Group run by North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. Developing Local Government Delivery Plan for the LGSPS.
- Health: Leadership within the sector from NHS PASA.



► Government Commitments

- UK Government aims to be among the leaders in the EU on Sustainable Procurement by 2009.
- Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets – procurement is a key tool to achieve them.
- Sustainability is now formally included in all Permanent Secretaries' objectives.
- 'Quick Wins' minimum environmental product standards are mandatory for central Government purchasing – the standards cover products such as ICT equipment, paper, cleaning products and electrical goods.



The European Ecolabel - a useful tool for GPP



The European Ecolabel - a useful tool



- ▶ Two key challenges facing procurers in implementing GPP:
 - What environmental requirements should we set?
 - How can we be confident that the products actually meet these requirements?

- ▶ The European Ecolabel helps with both these challenges



The European Ecolabel - how to use it



- ▶ Ecolabels can be used by public procurers in two ways:
 - The criteria underlying the awarding of the ecolabel can be used as technical specifications or award criteria
 - Products carrying the ecolabel can be deemed to comply with these specifications/criteria without the need for further proof

- ▶ European Ecolabel criteria can be used in public procurement, as they meet the standards required within the Public Procurement Directives, which are:
 - Criteria are drawn up and adopted on scientific information
 - The relevant ecolabelling scheme is transparent and criteria are based on full stakeholder consultation
 - The scheme is accessible and available to all interested parties

The European Ecolabel - example



Specification:

“The ecological and packaging requirements for the European Ecolabel for ‘All purpose cleaners’ must be met. Full criteria documents are available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm”

Verification:

“The European Ecolabel will be accepted as proof of compliance, as will any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.”

The European Ecolabel - benefits



- ▶ Trust the Flower - just cut and paste the Ecolabel criteria into your call for tenders and:
 - Save time and money
 - Set a green example
 - Get some of the best performing products of the market
 - Protect the environment



The European Ecolabel - information



- ▶ The European Ecolabel is available for 25 product/service groups (cleaning products, appliances, paper products, outdoor paints, home and garden, clothing, tourism, and lubricants)
- ▶ More information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>





European Commission - GPP Training Toolkit

The GPP Training Toolkit



- ▶ The toolkit consists of 3 independent modules and an introductory presentation, each designed to overcome a specific problem identified as a barrier to the uptake of Green Public Procurement within a public organisation



http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm

The Modules



- ▶ **Module 1** - Provides a simple yet effective methodology to develop an Action plan for gradually introducing Green Public Procurement within an organisation
- ▶ Module 1 also includes a number of factsheets on:
 - GPP and the European Ecolabel
 - Linking the GPP management cycle to EMS
 - Developing a GPP policy
 - Life-cycle costing (LCC)
 - Joint procurement

The Modules



- ▶ **Module 2** - a powerpoint presentation clarifying the legal framework for GPP - i.e. how to introduce GPP within the tendering process:
 - Subject matter
 - Specifications
 - Award criteria/evaluation stage
 - Contract performance clauses

The Modules



- ▶ **Module 3** - A set of actual environmental purchasing criteria for 11 high-priority product groups, which can be “pasted” directly into tendering documents
- ▶ Both “Core” and “Comprehensive” criteria are recommended, depending on the ambition level of the authority



► **Module 3 - Groups covered:**

- Paper
- Cleaning products and services
- Office IT equipment
- Construction
- Transport
- Furniture
- Electricity
- Food and Catering services
- Textiles
- Gardening services
- Equipment used in the health sector

References



- ▶ **For further information please visit:**
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>
- ▶ **My contact: philipp.tepper@iclei.org**
- ▶ **Visit the European Commission stand (No. 12)!**



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