

Lighting up the potential of public procurement



Image: iStockphoto.com

With almost all public buildings requiring indoor lighting and most municipalities needing some form of street lighting and traffic lights, public bodies have a significant role to play when it comes to procurement in this area.

Lighting can account for half the total electricity consumption in offices and in some buildings can be the largest single electricity user. Also, the heat produced by lighting can significantly increase the need for cooling, which leads to further electricity consumption.

Examples of cities reaping the environmental, financial and economic benefits of purchasing sustainable lighting include [Turku](#), [Kolding](#), [Budapest](#), along with [Gloucestershire](#) and [Cascais](#). Free support with tendering for energy-efficient lighting and other equipment is now available through [Euro Topten Max](#). Topten's database includes the most energy efficient LEDs and CFLs on the market, also considering product life cycles, colour rendering indexes (CRIs) and switching cycles. New procurement guidelines for LEDs will be available this March.

Lighting criteria for GPP are available on the [EU GPP website](#). Revised criteria for light sources are currently under development through the [Eco-Lighting project](#); the first Ad-Hoc Working Group will meet on March 19 in Brussels (register by 4 March with [Chiara Briatore](#)). The group will review Ecolabel and GPP criteria and then establish guidelines on light sources due out in mid-2014.

Increasing awareness on GPP and LCC in Poland



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governments have focused on sustainable energy as part of the [Covenant of Mayors](#) and have developed their own energy efficiency plans. Initiatives include the thermo-modernisation of buildings, improvements in street lighting and more sustainable public transport.

What role does the PPO have in fostering GPP? It is responsible for developing public procurement rules, ensuring their implementation, and promoting GPP at the national level. Since 2007, it has held conferences and training on environmental and social aspects. It has also issued two GPP guides, the [latest](#) focusing on life-cycle costing (LCC), energy efficiency, energy labeling and legal issues. The [NAP for 2013-2016](#) is currently under consultation.

Could you give an overview of GPP in Poland? In 2007 we took a sample of contract notices from all levels of government and only 4% included green criteria. A similar analysis conducted last year indicated an increase to 12%. Many local

What do you perceive as being the main obstacles to GPP in Poland? A lack of specific knowledge as to the environmental features of various products, along with the fact that greener products often have higher initial costs. Of course LCC helps justify this, but when budgets are limited, the range of possibilities is reduced.

How will GPP practices be increased in the future? The PPO believes it is very important to promote LCC, calculation tools and example applications. This will be reflected in future training events targeting public administrations, along with the topic of energy efficiency.

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

Zoom in on... progress of public procurement reform



Image: www.foter.com, European Parliament

On 21 of February 2013, the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee voted in favour of initiating trialogue discussions with the Council of the EU and the European Commission in order to reach a first-reading agreement on the public procurement directives.

The text proposed by the European Commission and the amendments proposed by the European Parliament are outlined in Rapporteur Marc Tarrabella's first reading report dated 11 January 2013.

Read the report [here](#).

Zoom in on... funding for GPP



Image: Flickr, DennisSylvesterHurd

€65 million are available for funding under the 2013 [Intelligent Energy Europe](#) (IEE) call. The IEE programme fosters energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources; supports energy diversification; and promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in transport.

An emphasis on GPP, as a means to support the implementation of actions in local sustainable energy plans, as well as for supporting energy performance contracting are two priorities this year.

The [call](#) closes for most actions on 8 May 2013.

Zoom in on... the health-care sector



The Swedish Environmental Management Council (SEMCo) is developing GPP criteria for [electrical and electronic equipment used in the health care sector](#), in cooperation with DG Environment.

The second Ad-Hoc Working Group meeting to discuss the draft criteria will take place on 16 April in Brussels. Those interested in participating should respond by 6 March.

Click [here](#) for more information on the meeting.

Zoom in on... Lewisham's SPP code of practice



In order to try and enforce sustainable procurement principles throughout its supply chain, Lewisham Council (London) have adopted a new Code of Practice, which will go out with all future tenders and form part of all future contracts. It will be promoted at supplier workshops and internally through team briefings and news bulletins.

The code is accompanied by a guidance document and sets out minimum standards on a range of issues including carbon emissions, waste and fair trade.

Download the Code of Practice [here](#).

GPP examples

Recycled asphalt used for road surfacing in Hamburg, Germany



Using recycled material to refurbish roads usually only applies to the lower layers, using materials such as rubble from demolished buildings. Hamburg's goal in this example was to recycle 100% of all materials during the resurfacing works on the City's main street. The bitumen component therefore had to be recycled as well as aggregate materials.

The City allowed a group of private companies who originally came up with the idea to test its use on roads not used by the public. After a series of tests, the City was reassured about the quality of the 100% recycling process.

A restricted tender procedure was conducted and 5 companies made a bid. The contract was carried out successfully in 36 hours, keeping travel disruption to a minimum. The Municipality saved 30% compared to usual costs for road resurfacing, which equates to approximately €20,000.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Innovative and green bus shelters in Cornwall, United Kingdom



In early 2011, Cornwall Council began a project to improve the quality and sustainability of its transport infrastructure. An open procurement procedure was used for the design of sustainable bus shelters to be used across Cornwall and 10 organisations tendered for this opportunity.

The use of a request for quotations (RFQ) was an innovative process for the council, who asked bidders to give method statements related to sustainability and low carbon design as part of this procedure.

The 6 different bus shelter models designed by the successful bidder included the use of long life, engineered wood with PEFC, FSC and Cradle to Cradle Gold certification for the main structure. Surface coatings which allow the removal of graffiti with water rather than chemicals and the use of energy efficient LED lighting are amongst other green attributes. The manufacture of these shelters will soon be let as a 4-year framework contract.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

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