

## Baltic GPP project yields fruitful results



The Baltic GPP project is drawing to a close and has succeeded in establishing a wide capacity building programme on GPP across the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Baltic GPP offered an extensive range of training programmes across participating countries. These included a [train-the-trainer programme](#), which reached 340 trainers. The main goal of the programme was to develop a common training methodology in GPP and train relevant people so that they can spread their knowledge of GPP in the BSR.

Baltic GPP also successfully produced a web training toolkit for public procurers, which provides a basic understanding of how and at what stages sustainability may form part of public procurement. Experts from various organisations in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Germany contributed to the development of the web training and the training toolkit which are [now available online](#).

The web training includes four thematic sections which explain in detail how to procure buildings, catering, transport and ICT in a sustainable way.

There are a variety of [success stories](#) available on the Baltic GPP website from the participating BSR countries. The stories, which are in Danish, English and Finnish, range from how an ecolabelled staff restaurant in Finland was established, to how a Danish State organisation procured sustainable furniture.

## Working with the market to reinforce GPP in Rotterdam



*Léon Dijk works within Rotterdam city's Department of Sustainable Urban Infrastructure and Spatial Development. His areas of focus include sustainable procurement, social cost-benefits and LCA.*

**What impact has the Dutch manifest for professional SPP had on its implementation in Rotterdam?** The City committed to 100% sustainable purchases by 2015 and to a more ambitious new Manifest, which focuses on a strategic approach to achieving policy goals for sustainable development and innovation. Rotterdam's aim is to always include both minimum specifications and award criteria in all tenders to achieve sustainable outcomes. Taking total cost of ownership into account is also encouraged within all our purchases.

**How were the minimum emission standards for construction projects developed, implemented and monitored?** The thresholds are set according

to the parameters of the Low Emission Zone in Rotterdam. We implemented these norms after a series of consultations, which began in 2007. They were subsequently made standard clauses in all contracts for construction works and logistics. Contractors must supply documentary evidence for their building and transport equipment and this is monitored as part of contract management.

**How has the City of Rotterdam worked with the private sector to drive GPP?** Where relevant and appropriate the City sets a threshold for environmental management activities as a selection criterion. In order to ensure that all companies, including SMEs, can compete on a level playing field, a tool called "Envirometer" was developed; a practical method used to measure the environmental performance of business activities. Also, Rotterdam recently signed the [Green Deal: Circular Procurement](#).

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

### Zoom in on... New EU GPP criteria adopted



The European Commission has published new [EU GPP criteria for Flushing Toilets and Urinals](#), an area with a potential for substantial reductions in water use and costs for public authorities. Environmental savings also include a decrease in the impacts caused by water pumping and waste water management. The guidance is currently available in English. Translations into all EU languages will be available soon.

### Zoom in on... Horizon2020 calls for proposals



On 11 December, the first calls for proposals under Horizon2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, were published. Horizon2020 is the financial instrument implementing the [Innovation Union](#) aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness by creating new growth and jobs. Secure, clean and efficient energy is just one set of societal challenges addressed by the Programme, with associated calls such as for the public procurement of innovative sustainable energy solutions.

[More information...](#)

## Zoom in on... Requirements for cleantech solutions



The Finnish Government have made a decision to promote "cleantech" solutions by placing requirements on all government purchasing departments. Procurement must now be undertaken with the underlying goal of promoting energy efficiency and reducing material consumption including adverse life cycle environmental impacts. The aim is to incentivise and utilise cleantech solutions in the most economically advantageous way.

[More information...](#)

## Zoom in on... Sustainable timber toolkit



The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) has recently developed a toolkit to help support public sector organisations with developing contracts as well as strategies to procure sustainable timber. It includes sample policy wording, tender questions, contract monitoring guidance and case studies. A short film is also available as part of the toolkit, as well as presentations and a webinar.

[More information...](#)

## GPP examples

### Low environmental impact PCs and monitors, Estonia



This particular procurement process was for a joint framework agreement of personal computers (PCs) and computer monitors involving nine Estonian entities. It was carried out by the Estonian Centre of Registers and Information Systems (RIK) in March/April 2012. The tender requirements included numerous sustainability demands, such as Energy Star 5.0 and TCO'5.0, and a portion of the award criteria were given to lower energy consumption in operating mode.

PCs bought under this contract are estimated to generate energy savings of 20-30% compared to non-green product alternatives. RIK's experiences have so far been positive, with the market being able to deliver the products required based on sustainability demands. Furthermore, the technical market dialogue in the pre-procurement phase has proven to be a good approach for avoiding any future problems in the tendering and award phases of the procurement process.

From 2014, all ICT equipment for all national ministries and government agencies will be procured under a framework contract run by RIK.

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

### Procurement of 100% green electricity in Brandenburg (Germany)



Following a State Parliament resolution in 2011 requesting that purchases of electricity be from 100% renewable energy sources, the State of Brandenburg published a call for tender requiring the supply of green electricity from January 2014 to be based on a Guarantee of Origin scheme. The electricity purchased by the State is used to power all public authorities, institutions, and universities. This includes over 200 properties covering some 1.2 million square metres of floor space. One of the important conditions set in this recent tender was that the origin of the electricity required traceability and certification.

Several companies were able to fulfil the stringent environmental demands, and the final bid chosen did not result in any additional expenditure in terms of price. For future electricity supply tenders, Brandenburg will endeavour to go a step further in their environmental demands and ambitions and trigger the installation of new green electricity generating capacity.

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

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