Exchange with peers events on GPP

Image: ICLEI

The first ever Nordic Green Procurement Week will take place this November with events scheduled in each of the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden - from 2 - 6 November.

The Danish Forum for Sustainable Procurement and its Nordic partners are hosting the event, which is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. A diverse range of events will provide food for thought on a variety of issues, such as "The Environmental Revolution in Public Procurement" (in Norway), which will address how the new EU public procurement directives will potentially impact GPP, to the presentation of the Green Procurement Award in Denmark, and a discussion on eco-labelling in Iceland. The Swedish game Procura, which involves procurers, technical experts and politicians going through a GPP process together, will also see its premiere.

The Nordic Green Procurement Week is one of a number of events taking place on green purchasing in Europe this year. Other events include a three day training workshop on sustainable procurement organised by the United Nations in Copenhagen, Denmark from 19 – 21 October; and the European Procura+ Seminar in Barcelona, Spain on 11 November which will see a day of lively interaction on designing procurement for a low carbon future.

Image: Dreamstime

Zoom in on… Green electricity

The EU GPP criteria for electricity are currently under review, with a first stage survey of public authorities' practices in this area due to open online in mid October. The survey will look at how much electricity is currently being purchased from renewable sources, the procurement procedures used and what is stopping public procurers from purchasing green electricity. It is aimed at local authorities who are already purchasing green electricity to some degree. Those interested in finding out more or participating should contact caroline.chandler@iclei.org

Using procurement to improve the sustainability of healthcare

Anja Leetz is the Executive Director of Health Care Without Harm Europe, a non-profit organisation working to transform the healthcare sector worldwide to become more ecologically sustainable.

What initiatives are Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) embarking on when it comes to sustainable procurement?
HCWH Europe has been working on the review of the European public procurement directives (specifically Directive 2014/24/EU) together with the Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP). To influence first the development and then the transposition of the Public Procurement (PP) Directive, HCWH Europe organised three workshops and produced a guiding document targeting, in particular, the health sector to explain how the Directive should be transposed at the national level to achieve the best outcome in terms of both green and ethical procurement.

Do you feel that action in this area is on the increase?
We do see an increase in green procurement, but feel it is patchy and by far not ambitious enough to lead to new innovative products saving energy, using less, and/or safer recyclable material. However, a good example is the one from Sweden, where all Swedish Councils have agreed on a code of conduct ensuring green and ethical procurement that suppliers have to sign, before entering into a procurement contract with the councils.

To view the interview in full, click here.

Photo on Flickr by 'mmmmayor', licensed under CC BY 2.0

Zoom in on… Dutch procurement agency

The Dutch Public Procurement Agency (PIANOo) recently launched an English version of their website on sustainable public procurement (SPP). The website provides comprehensive guidance on SPP and outlines, for example, how procurers can minimise the impact of procurement on the environment, and explains key procurement concepts. The website covers topics varying from circular procurement, to opportunities for SMEs.

More information…

environment

GPP examples

Procurement of energy efficient street lighting in Croatia

Image: Dreamstime

In 2014, the Municipality of Župa Dubrovnik (situated on the Mediterranean coast in the south-east of Croatia) acknowledged the need to improve the quality of its street lighting and decided to publish an open tender requesting the replacement of existing street light fixtures and high pressure mercury lamps, with a new and more sustainable solution.
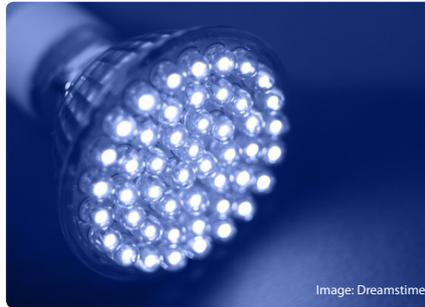
The Municipality published a tender in May 2014, and has since then calculated the energy and CO_2 emissions saved by the new system using the GPP 2020 methodology with an assumed lifetime of 25 years. This calculation was based on the 686 newly installed LED lamps and showed that in comparison to the old system, which consumed 330,000 kWh and emitted an average of 100 tonnes of CO_2 a year, the new LED lighting solution has reduced the CO_2 emissions (from street lighting) by 36%, as it consumes only 210,000 kWh per year and will save the equivalent of 900 tonnes of CO_2 over a 25 year period. The procurement was the first of its kind for the Municipality, which proved far from problematic for the market, and thus sets a good precedent for similar future action.

Download the full case study here.

Low carbon healthcare catering solution, United Kingdom

Image: Dreamstime

As part of the EU-funded EcoQUIP project, a public procurement process was initiated in 2012 to bring about a step-change in the quality of catering provided to patients, visitors and staff at Rotherham Hospital. The cross-departmental project team set up at the hospital designed an output based specification to define their unmet need and engaged the market in a pre-procurement dialogue. A new contract offering a forward commitment to the catering provider of up to 10 years was awarded earlier this year. Financial savings of just over one million euro (or 800,000 British pounds) in the first five years are expected to be achieved.

In terms of sustainability, the new service will provide progressive carbon reductions over the life of the contract in both the on-site catering provision and the wider supply chain; a reduction in food plate and food preparation waste; and a step-change in the environmental sustainability of catering services. Rotherham's approach offers a model, specifications and evaluation criteria to stimulate the supply and wider uptake of innovative and environmentally friendly catering services.

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… PPI in the waste sector

Image: Dreamstime

The PPI4Waste (Public Procurement on Innovation for Resource Efficiency and Waste Treatment) project website was launched in September, with the first project event scheduled for October 29 in Brussels. In attendance at the workshop will be waste management experts from across Europe, as well as public purchasers, project partners and representatives from public waste management service providers. The projects' Interest Group and Purchasing Community will be officially launched at the event.

More information…

Zoom in on… Sweden targets 50% organic food by 2020

Image: Dreamstime

In 2014 the Swedish Organic Food Centre (Ekomatcentrum) carried out the 13th national Swedish market study on organic food in the public sector. The study showed that in 2014, on average, 27% of all food purchased by the Swedish public sector was organic. This year, Ekomatcentrum set the target for 50% organic by 2020. As Sweden offers lunches in all public schools, preschools, elderly homes and state hospitals, reaching this target would have a significant impact on the environment and public health.