

Awards in London and Dublin honour GPP achievements



Award ceremonies held in Dublin and London have honoured achievements in the fields of green and sustainable procurement. In London, the [Mayor's Responsible Procurement Awards](#) were held on 6 December.

The winners in the Environmental Sustainability category were both involved in projects which aim to reduce London's carbon footprint through the retrofitting of buildings. In the staff category, the award went to the team working on the [RE:NEW](#) project, which brings together all current retrofit programmes for homes into one consistent best practice model. RE:NEW will deliver around 10% of the Mayor's target to reduce London's CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2025.

In the supply category, facilities management and energy services provider [MITIE](#) was recognised

for its work with the London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police Service to deliver guaranteed carbon savings at their sites through a performance based model.

Ireland's inaugural [National Procurement Awards](#)



were held on 16 November and attended by over 350 professionals active in the field. Awards for Green Procurement by both public and private sector purchasers were among

those given to 13 winners selected by a panel of judges drawn from business, public sector and academia.

The award for Green Public Sector Procurement went to the Furniture Division of the Office of Public Works for its commitment to reduce the environmental impact of furniture purchased on behalf of state offices and departments.

Further information can be found in this issue's [GPP in practice](#) examples from the London Fire Brigade and Ireland's Office of Public Works.

Zoom in on...a GPP report



The European Commission (DG Environment) has just published a report "*Assessment and Comparison of National Green and Sustainable Public Procurement Criteria and Underlying Schemes in Ten Countries.*" The study was carried out by AEA Technology.

A complete review was undertaken of the product groups covered, scope of requirements and criteria used in each of the ten countries. The report concludes that there are strong similarities between the ten national schemes, and between the national and EU GPP schemes.

Download the report [here](#)

Implementing Austria's National Action Plan on SPP



Interview with Dr. Michael Fruhmann, Austrian Federal Chancellor

The [Austrian Action Plan on Sustainable Public Procurement](#), adopted in July 2010, aims to embed SPP practices amongst purchasing authorities by removing barriers and setting out core principles to be observed.

What factors do you see as key in promoting effective SPP?

Practical guidance on how to implement SPP in the different phases of the procurement process as well as in-depth training are success factors for promoting SPP.

How does the Action Plan address the question of monitoring?

The monitoring process is based on the principle of voluntary participation and will be directed by the Ministry of Environment. All procuring entities are encouraged to report on a yearly basis their rate of compliance with the core principles of the Action Plan when procuring goods and services.

Can you share any experiences of the Plan's implementation to date?

All Ministries have already ordered the observance of the core principles as mandatory. The central purchasing agency on the federal level (the "BBG") has been asked to provide framework agreements which are (at least) in conformity with the core principles of the Action Plan. The overwhelming number of procurement procedures at federal level are expected to respect the core principles of the Action Plan by 2011.

Zoom in on...on a policy



Changes to RoHS and WEEE

Procurers of electrical and electronic equipment should be aware of planned changes to the Directives on restriction of hazardous substances and disposal of waste products.

Agreement has been reached on the changes – which do not introduce new 'blacklisted' substances, but extend the scope of RoHS to cover all electrical and electronic equipment – unless specifically exempted. New targets will be set for collection and recycling of waste equipment.

New procedures have also been agreed for future updates.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on...an event



Procura⁺ Seminar Helsinki

Over 90 procurers, policy makers and experts met in Helsinki for the annual Procura⁺ Seminar on 10-11 November.

The focus of this year's seminar was on how innovation could be fostered through procurement, with special sessions addressing sustainable construction, the role of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and supplier engagement.

Workshops held on the second day also looked in more detail at the ways in which public authorities can practise socially responsible public procurement.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on...a policy

Energy 2020 Communication

November saw the European Commission adopt the "Energy 2020 - A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy" Communication.

The strategy sets out the priorities and actions for EU energy policy over the next ten years. The inclusion of criteria addressing energy efficiency, renewables and smart networking in all public procurement of works, services and supplies is one of the actions identified.

Heads of State will meet on 4 February 2011 at the first EU Summit on Energy to discuss these actions.

[More information...](#)

GPP in practice

Building a Greener London Fire Brigade (UK)

The new Harold Hill fire station in London, which opened in January 2010, showcases a sustainable approach to building construction. The station was built by converting three existing structures on an industrial site. Amongst other technologies, it is fitted with grey water technology which recycles rain water, energy saving boilers, Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and solar heating. The project led to new criteria being developed for the procurement of fire station buildings, which can be applied to other UK developments.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Purchasing energy-efficient outdoor lighting in Cascais (Portugal)

The Cascais Local Energy Agency is reforming the criteria used to purchase public lighting technology. The Municipality of Cascais undertook a market engagement process, in which 11 suppliers of light emitting diodes (LEDs) participated. These companies were able to shed light on environmental product characteristics and the opportunities available for increased sustainable product innovation. The tender is in the process of being launched and has a total contract value of 50,000 Euros.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Ireland Makes Sustainable Furniture Purchasing Work

Ireland's Office of Public Works was recognised at the recent Irish Procurement Awards for its work in implementing GPP through its furniture tenders. The Furniture Division has concluded approximately 200 contracts in the years 2007-2010, valued at up to 10 million Euros a year. By progressively introducing criteria addressing the legality and sustainability of wood and reducing the environmental impact associated with other materials, a shift in supplier behaviour has been achieved. Contractors themselves have also proposed ways to reduce the environmental impact of purchases.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Procuring passive housing in Finland

Providing social housing which meets cost and resident expectations while achieving high environmental standards is a challenge for many public authorities. In order to meet this challenge, one social housing body in southwest Finland (VASO) has adopted an innovative approach to procurement. In addition to choosing the competitive dialogue procedure, VASO has engaged in a series of workshops with expert designers, suppliers and other stakeholders to plan the construction of 30 houses meeting the Finnish passive house standard.

Download the GPP example [here](#).