

Power of NGOs in supporting green procurement actions

Between April 2016 and April 2019, [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#), the [Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe](#) (REC) and the [European Environmental Bureau](#) (EEB), facilitated the establishment of a European Commission-funded network on GPP for non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The aim of the European NGO Network on GPP was to support the promotion of GPP policies and practice, and provide NGOs with the capacities and knowledge required to act as local ‘change agents’ and encourage GPP among public authorities in their own country.

With members from 16 different EU countries, the activities of the NGO Network clearly demonstrated that NGOs have a powerful role in fostering GPP across Europe. They can inspire and motivate the shift to GPP by promoting good practice and encouraging procurers at a local or national level to leave their ‘comfort zone’. NGOs can also act as a watchdog, supporting the verification of procurement criteria and guarding against greenwashing. Some can also provide technical assistance on a variety of topics where procurers may lack expertise



and knowledge. Finally, they can play an intermediary role between local or regional governments and the private sector and citizens, by demonstrating the relevance of GPP, encouraging innovation, and balancing green supply and demand.

The reported benefits for NGOs of participating in the EU NGO Network included increased legitimacy

when dealing with governmental institutions, a chance to share and learn good practice for approaching and convincing procurers to act as well as expansion of the work portfolio on GPP.

For more dedicated resources on NGOs and GPP, including a GPP Guide for NGOs, webinars, and training resources, please visit the EU NGO Network website [here](#).