

A new Green Deal for Europe



The European Commission has published a new [Green Deal for Europe](#), which presents its package of measures to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

One of the focuses of the Green Deal will be mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy. It recognises that between 1970 and 2017 ([source](#)), the annual global extraction of materials tripled and continues to grow, and actions are needed straight away, if we are going to achieve a climate neutral and circular economy by 2050.

The Green Deal calls on public authorities, including the EU institutions, to lead by example and ensure that all their procurement is green. It also states that the Commission will propose further legislation and guidance on green public purchasing – watch this space.

The GPP News Alert will continue to report on these exciting developments as they arise. For more information on the Green Deal, visit the European Commission's [website](#).

Introducing Austria's Sustainable Public Procurement Platform



Gerhard Weiner, Head of the Austrian Sustainable Procurement Platform, has been working at [Federal Public Procurement Agency \(BBG\)](#) for over one year and was initially

responsible for the creation of the concept papers and logic model of Austria's Sustainable Public Procurement Platform ([naBe Platform](#)).

What is Austria's Sustainable Public Procurement Platform (naBe), and why was it created?

The naBe Platform is the current result of an ongoing process to foster sustainable public procurement in Austria... The naBe Platform has the task to further develop SPP in Austria and establish sustainability as a core principle for public procurement. We therefore engage with procurers to include sustainability criteria in public tenders. We also organise events and workshops to raise awareness and train people about the benefits of SPP.

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



Zoom in on... Life Cycle Costing tools for public procurers

The European Commission has developed a series of [LCC calculation tools and guidance](#) to support procurers in five sectors: outdoor lighting, indoor lighting, computers and monitors, imaging equipment and vending machines. A webinar introducing the tools was also held in December 2019, which you can catch-up with [here](#).



Zoom in on... Procura+ Awards 2020 open for applications

The [Procura+ Awards](#) are open for applications. Prizes are available for public authorities in the following categories: Sustainable Procurement of the Year, Innovation Procurement of the Year, Outstanding Procurement of ICT, and Procurement Initiative of the Year. The Procura+ Awards are an initiative of ICLEI, in co-operation with the EU-funded [Procure2Innovate](#) project. The deadline for applications is 31st March 2020.

[More information](#)



GPP good practice

Framework contract for sustainable office materials based on “Cradle to Cradle” principles (Ludwigsburg, Germany)

The [City of Ludwigsburg](#) is a mid-sized city with 90,000 inhabitants located in the South West of Germany. The City has a [sustainable development strategy](#) that includes the use of procurement to achieve its sustainability goals. In 2017 the City government instructed all public procurement departments to follow “Cradle to Cradle” principles - a design concept that requires products to declare all substances used during the production and in the final product as well as their environmental impact.



Image: Unsplash / Tim Gouw

In 2018, the City applied these principles to its framework agreement for office stationary and office equipment, to supply all public administration departments as well as all schools, day care centers, and public companies. First, it defined a product list, containing 38 product groups and 295 individual products, and researched the currently available sustainable alternatives. It translated this research into demanding technical specifications for each type of product, including: paper-based products, plastics, wood and rubber, and solvent-free products.

In addition, award criteria also requested bidders to consider the circularity and whole lifecycle impacts of their products, through ‘Cradle to Cradle’ based criteria declarations, in addition to awarding points for packaging and delivery, transport, recycling and social responsibility.

Bidders found the sustainability criteria challenging to fulfil with their own product range and have included new products specifically for this tender. The winning supplier even commissioned the development of a new product that adhered to higher sustainability standards (a sticky note cube that complies with “Blauer Engel” certification).

The City of Ludwigsburg concludes that the additional work invested in researching and applying ambitious sustainability criteria has paid off and has not resulted in higher costs, thanks to a lean product range and high order volumes.

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](#).



Image: ICLEI / Gerard Verschooten

Zoom in on... free support for market engagement actives

Do you have an upcoming procurement and would like to engage with the market? The European Innovation Council (EIC) can connect public buyers with innovation needs with the community of more than 5000 top innovative SMEs and start-ups. If you are interested in finding out more about organising a webinar or meeting with relevant suppliers, contact rafael.hirt@iclei.org



Image: Unsplash / Helloquence

Zoom in on... new study on GPP practices published

A recent study in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, which analysed almost 1000 calls for tender from the Valencia region of Spain, found that environmental criteria are still only appearing in around 20% of tenders. The average number of points allocated to environmental criteria are also low (4.1 out of 100). The result was a call for more plans from Valencian administrations to implement GPP. [More information](#)

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