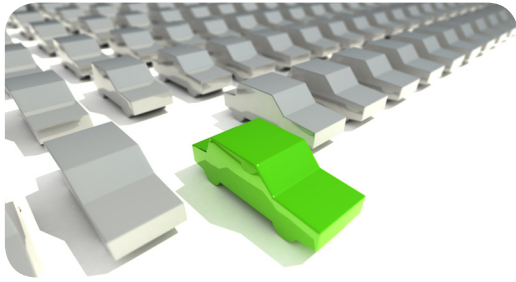


Public authorities in driver's seat for cleaner vehicles



Purchasing vehicles is one area where the public sector can set a clear example and reduce its carbon footprint through its procurement choices.

While some authorities have opted to go electric, for others purchasing conventional or hybrid cars and vans with high levels of environmental performance makes sense.

A number of resources are available to assist in the decision-making process, and authorities should also be aware of EU law which affects vehicle procurement.

The [Clean Vehicles Directive \(2009/33/EC\)](#) introduced a common methodology for calculating the lifetime energy and environmental impact of vehicles. Public purchasers must take these impacts into account – either in the technical specifications or in the award criteria.

A synopsis of the Directive, along with tools and guidance for calculating lifetime cost, are available from [DG Mobility & Transport](#). The deadline for Member States to implement the Directive is 4th December 2010.

Procurers can check the market availability of cars and vans meeting specific environmental performance standards via the [Topten website](#), which also provides sample tender documents.

If you have successfully tendered for lower-impact vehicles, why not share your experience with other authorities? The [GPP Helpdesk](#) is interested in hearing about any smooth rides or potholes along the way.

Mainstreaming sustainable procurement in NE England



Interview with Bill Kirkup, Sustainability Projects Manager, North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NEIEP)

What role does your organisation play in promoting sustainable public procurement (SPP)?

The role of the [NEIEP](#) is primarily to work with our 16 regional partners to improve efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. My job is to identify how best sustainability and efficiency objectives can be reconciled.

What achievements can you identify in your implementation of SPP?

In conjunction with regional partners we have had some significant success with food procurement and more recently with timber based products. My aim however is to move

beyond product or category specific activity and to get SPP mainstreamed. To this end one of the most significant things we have done is to trial and subsequently introduce a new national training course into the region. This has been well received by Heads of Procurement, in large part because it is based on the procurement cycle and is therefore an approach which they recognise and are comfortable with.

What advice would you give to authorities new to SPP?

I would like to see people adopting a more systematic approach to SPP, the starting point for me is defining your objectives, these should be aligned with corporate objectives. Once you have identified your priorities you should then focus on your areas of major impact and opportunity for improvement. We all only have limited time - that time should be focused on where we can deliver the most significant benefits.

Zoom in on...an event

Procura+ Seminar: 11-12 November 2010 Helsinki, Finland

The annual Procura+ Seminar brings together procurers, policy-makers, suppliers and other experts to discuss SPP.



This year's focus is on:

- Sustainable & innovative public sector construction
- Making public contracts more accessible to SMEs
- Supplier engagement through strategic dialogue

Participation in the Seminar is free of charge, prior registration is essential.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on...a country

Czech Republic implements GPP rules



From November 1st, new rules will apply in the Czech Republic for the green procurement of furniture and computer equipment. Central and local government authorities will be required to procure these items in accordance with a defined methodology which takes into account their environmental impact. The aim is to promote the systematic application of environmental requirements in procurement of these product groups.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on...an event



International Green Technology & Purchasing Conference 2010: 15-16 October 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

This event will bring together local and international experts and 1000 participants to discuss the theme 'Green Future: Low Carbon Green Growth.'

The conference will provide a forum for the discussion of eco-products and services and the promotion of green purchasing.

It should be attended by public and private sector procurement officers, heads of departments, senior and middle level management.

[More information...](#)

Zoom in on...a product



Talking Green: Mobile Phones
Many factors come into play when purchasing mobile phones: price, functionality, user preferences and usage patterns.

But how many authorities assess the environmental impact of their mobiles?

The EU GPP Toolkit addressing the main impacts of mobile phones and chargers in terms of energy use, materials, end-of life management and packaging.

Start talking about it!

[More information...](#)

Case studies

Sustainable procurement of wood products in Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona City Council's policy on timber makes it compulsory for municipal departments, districts and agencies to ensure that all wood products purchased stem from sustainable forestry. Since 2004, Barcelona has ensured wide implementation of the policy and a large share of wood products come from sustainably managed forests including wood used in municipal funeral services, street benches and beach stands. Approximately 76% of the timber acquisitions from the various departments involved (2004-2008) presented a sustainable forest certification (FSC or other) or were in the process of certification.

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

Sustainable procurement of workwear in Zürich, Switzerland

The City of Zürich purchases a wide variety of textiles to meet the needs of its police department and other municipal services. A successful pilot in 2009 led to the decision to switch to 100% organic cotton shirts for Zürich's police force. While the raw material costs for organic cotton are higher than non-organic, the overall effect on the price of the finished garments is minimal. To date, 1,000 police officers have benefited from these higher-quality and lower-impact garments.

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

Green and healthy cleaning services in Tuscany, Italy

Tuscany's Environmental Protection Agency (ARPAT) successfully piloted GPP for cleaning services in 2004 for two of its 19 offices. In March 2009, the procedure was replicated on a broader scale to encompass all of its offices. A consortium made up of three cooperative societies was awarded the cleaning services contract. Two of them are ISO 14001 certified and one of them holds the Social Accountability 8000 standard. As a group, the consortium uses 12 different types of cleaning products, nine of which are certified with the European Ecolabel.

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