



EU Green Public Procurement Policy

**European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
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15 Years Eco-Buy Conference



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Why GPP?

- Legitimate expectation of citizens
- Strategic use of procurement:
 - purchasing cleaner buses helps achieving clean air targets
 - purchasing renewables helps achieving CO₂ emission reduction targets
 - purchasing organic produce helps reducing waste water treatment costs



Reduce the need for additional projects





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What's the role of the European Commission?

- GPP is voluntary
- Legal framework provided by the Public Procurement Directives
- DG ENV's goal is to support public authorities to go green and to push the market towards more sustainable production



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Communication (2008) Public Procurement for a Better Environment

- Political target: 50% of tendering procedures to be green by 2010
- Common EU GPP criteria for priority products/services
- Legal/operational guidance
- GPP National Action Plans





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20+ EU GPP Criteria

1. Construction
2. Electricity
3. Cleaning products and services
4. Textiles
5. Food and catering services
6. Furniture
7. Office IT equipment
8. Copying and graphic paper
9. Gardening products and services
10. Transport
11. Electric and electronic equipment in the health care sector
12. Thermal insulation
13. Wall panels
14. Hard floor-coverings
15. Combined Heat and Power
16. Street lighting and traffic signals
17. Indoor lighting
18. Waste water infrastructures,
19. Sanitary tapware
20. Toilets and Urinals
21. Imaging Equipment





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Criteria under development/revision

Revisions

- Roads
- Office Buildings
- Lighting (office and street lighting)
- Food and Catering
- Computers and laptops
- Cleaning Services
- Furniture
- Textiles

New Developments

- Heating Systems
- Paints and Varnishes





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GPP is voluntary...with some exceptions

- **Energy Star Regulation (2008)**
- **Clean Vehicles Directive (2009)**
- **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010)**
- **Energy Efficiency Directive (2012)**





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How much GPP is being done in the EU?

- 2008 study: 50% target more or less achieved in the 7 most advanced Member States for priority product and service groups
- And today? GPP is on everybody's agenda, but...
- *2011 Study: 50% target not met across the whole of the EU (26%), but more than 50% of public authorities are doing some sort of green procurement*
- Some Member States are far ahead:


Netherlands 2011: 99.8% of public procurement at national level in 2010 was green (target: 100%), provinces: 96% (target: 50%), municipalities 86 to 90% (target: 75%)

- **Data to be read with caution**



The City of Barcelona (2013) adopted mandatory green criteria for vehicles, electricity, food and catering services





City of Reykjavik used green criteria in all tenders for cleaning services. The city's demand resulted in a boom of companies applying for certification and environmental management systems in Iceland

Kolding has changed virtually 100% of its purchasing practices to include environmental considerations.





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Strategic approach in Ghent

- Procurement Team working directly with Mayor's office
- Cost reductions: Slimming down procurement processes, reducing purchased articles, LCC
- Integrating sustainability elements into all stages of a purchase: needs' assessment, early market engagement, integration of criteria in tender, control of contract
- Cost savings allow higher expenses where politically wanted (e.g. organic food)





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Influence of EU GPP policies on Member States

- Almost all have National Action Plans in place
- MS often refer to EU GPP criteria in their national policies: 53% of procurers and 50% of policy makers use or recommend criteria which are the same or very similar to the EU GPP criteria (public consultation in 2012)
- High interest in the GPP Website



Site visits: 2011 - 51,000
2012 - 157,000
2013 - 447,000

Page views: 2011 - 120,000
2012 - 264,000
2013 - 1,041,000



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Some promising developments in different Member States

More:

- Support structures are created (competence centres, helpdesks, trainings)
- Obligations and targets set
- Working together (joint procurement, or common verification structures)
- Monitoring structures put into place
- Life cycle thinking
- ***BUT: Everywhere strong budgetary constraints***



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Future EU GPP developments

- Set up more solid GPP monitoring system
- Evaluate options for further sector specific legislation
- Promote networking of public procurers
- Guidance e.g. for LCC
- Last, but not least: the PP Reform



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New SPP Elements in PP Reform

- Use of Procurement for strategic goals clearly identified
- Explicit mentioning of social and fair trading issues
- Clarification on production processes
- Supply Chain Management Capacity as selection criterion
- New formulations on labels
- Explicit new rules on LCC

But still, implementation will depend on the individual authority

Which brings us too...

15 Years Eco-Buy Vienna



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Some words of appreciation

- Internationally recognized for spearhead role (awards and invitations)
- Influence on other authorities
- Political will
- Dedicated resources for professional team
- Evaluation of outcomes with economic and environmental benefits
- Communication of successes

The forerunner countries

Forerunner countries are usually characterised by:

- Long tradition in GPP
- Targets for achieving certain GPP levels
- Existence of hard or soft obligations
- Developed and institutionalised, proactive capacity-building efforts





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GPP information sources

HELP DESK:

In EN, FR, DE gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org

Newsletter (please sign up!)

GPP website of the European Commission:

- Buying Green Handbook
- Full sets of EU GPP criteria and background reports in 20+ languages
- GPP Examples
- Information on National Action Plans for GPP
- News and upcoming events

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>





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Thank you!

Questions? Please contact:

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GPP webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>