

New green purchasing criteria for computers and monitors



Public procurement commands a large share of European consumption and thus has a key role in influencing the circular economy. The European Commission is encouraging this through its actions on green public procurement (GPP), by placing special emphasis on aspects relevant for the circular economy, such as durability and reparability, when developing or revising GPP recommendations (specifically, GPP Criteria) for public sector purchasers ([source](#)).

The new EU GPP Criteria for purchases of

Computers and Monitors were published mid-October. Use of the criteria is voluntary. The Criteria were developed through an extensive stakeholder process and address the various procurement and contracting situations which take place on the market, including contracts for renewal of old equipment, and end of life management services. Product lifetime extension through improved durability, upgradeability and reparability has, as a result of life cycle assessment evidence and market analysis, been given specific attention in the newly published criteria. The GPP Criteria for Computers and Monitors complement the existing [GPP Criteria for Imaging Equipment](#) (published in 2014).

The Criteria are available in English, and are accompanied by a Technical Background report which provides the rationale behind the recommendations. Translations into the other official EU languages shall follow soon.



Zoom in on... Webinar on Computers and Monitors

The second EU GPP Helpdesk webinar for 2016 will take place on Monday 14 November (14:30-16:00 CET) and will focus on the newly launched EU GPP Criteria for Computers and Monitors.

Details about the new GPP guidance for these products will be up for discussion, and will be complemented by a selection of good practice experiences. Participation is free of charge. Sign up today by sending an email to gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org.

[More information...](#)

Using green procurement to address waste



Françoise Bonnet has been the Secretary General of the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) since 2013. She is specialised in legal and economic instruments linked to waste/resource policy.

How ACR+ is contributing to a more sustainable development through its activities on waste and circular economy? ACR+ has now been promoting the closing the loop approach for over 20 years, with the aim of raising public awareness and supporting capacity building of local and regional authorities in this field. Highly interesting results regarding sustainable resource management can be found amongst ACR+ members. For example, in Belgium

(with [Flanders and the Material Resource Plan](#), and [Brussels and their Programme on Circular Economy](#)), in Catalonia (Spain), Porto (Portugal), as well as Besançon (France).

What are the biggest obstacles to overcome and how can an effective approach to GPP assist? The biggest obstacle is, of course, the lack of political will, which can be explained by different factors. The main one is that in most of the territories there is no mandatory prevention target set. This might be due to the fact that waste prevention is not an attractive measure since it is difficult to measure. So yes, the lack of indicators in this regard can be an issue.

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



Zoom in on... Sustainable mobility

New guidance on public procurement was realised in September through the European [CIVITAS](#) initiative. It provides local and regional policymakers, and transport practitioners, with policy reflections and practical insights from European public procurement experts.

[The Guide](#) goes into detail about what cities can do prior to procuring vehicles, inviting them to rethink how they could meet their mobility needs, and how their purchasing actions can have broader positive (or negative) impacts on sustainable urban mobility patterns.

[More information...](#)



GPP examples

Reusing workwear in Herning (Denmark)

In 2014, as part of the Rethink Business project, the Municipality of Herning decided to begin trialling circular economy ideas in some of its operations, such as in their purchasing contracts for work clothes and uniforms (workwear). New staff beginning work for Herning's Technical Operations Department used to receive brand new workwear. These were then later discarded regardless of quality once the person resigned (as the person's name was printed on the clothing) or when the textile service contract expired, often creating unnecessary waste.



With this latest contract, Herning has the possibility of purchasing the clothes (which are still qualitatively in order) when contracts end, and are able to continue using them for subsequent workwear servicing contracts. Savings of 6,700 euro (25%) were achieved for a 27,000 euro contract. In addition, a study on the potential economic and ecological impacts of reusing work clothes was conducted. The predicted savings of 1,011 tonnes of CO₂ over a four-year period are solely for the workwear used by Herning's Technical Operations Department, which has roughly 100 employees.

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

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Innovative green solutions for decarbonising Malta's ports

As part of the Port-Photovoltaic Electric Vehicle (PORT-PVEV) project, Malta's transport authority - Transport Malta (TM) - undertook a number of large-scale initiatives to demonstrate the feasibility of using electric mobility in operations associated with ports and port areas.



Through PORT-PVEV, TM deployed 13 full electric vehicles (EVs), to form part of its general fleet, ranging from crew and panel vans, passenger vehicles and micro-cars. The vehicles are used as part of TM's general operations, including enforcement duties, maintenance and courier services. Charging infrastructure was also purchased and installed to support the electric fleet. Furthermore, a photovoltaic plant was installed covering a span of 1,200 square metres on top of the Authority's main building (situated within the Valletta Grand Harbour). This installation sought to test the extent to which carbon neutrality in transport could be achieved by generating solar power on-site, and using said energy to offset the electricity required by the EVs. Three solar car charging stations, located within the port, were also constructed as part of the initiative. Details on the approach taken to purchase the EVs are provided in the full case study.

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

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To read more GPP examples, visit the European Commission's GPP [website](#). Previous issues of the GPP News Alert are available [here](#).



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Zoom in on... Norway commits to zero deforestation

End of May saw the Norwegian parliament pledge that the government's public procurement policy would become deforestation-free, as part of its Action Plan on Nature Diversity. Norway made a joint declaration with Germany and the UK at a [United Nations Climate Summit in 2014](#), which stated the three countries' intention to "promote national commitments that encourage deforestation-free supply chains, including through public procurement policies to sustainably source commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef and timber."

[More information...](#)



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Zoom in on... Waste performance contracting

How can performance contracts be used in the public procurement of waste management services? This report focuses on an economic tool which can improve waste management, in line with the European waste treatment hierarchy, and encourages the move to a circular economy model and greater resource efficiency. The report was prepared for the [European Environmental Bureau \(EEB\)](#) and [ACR+](#).

[More information...](#)

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