

Supporting green purchasing through a European Network of NGOs



Despite the power that public bodies have in preferring 'green' goods and services through the purchases they make, much of this remains untapped, with many countries in the EU reporting that less than 20% of their purchases are 'green'. An effort to reach out and engage other organisations to help support green public procurement (GPP) actions could be very valuable. And this is precisely how the idea of establishing a European Network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for GPP was born. The Network is financed by the European Commission (EC).

The idea behind the Network is to reach out to public bodies through NGOs as 'change agents' and thereby raise awareness, provide information and training to procuring entities. NGOs working in the environmental sector, in particular, have the know-how about the environmental issues in question, such as waste management, energy efficiency; however few of them are involved in supporting GPP.

So far, 28 NGOs from 16 countries have committed to join the Network and will take part in the activities that will commence next year, beginning with a Capacity Building Workshop on GPP, in January 2017, to also help get the Network underway. January's Workshop will enable members to meet and get to know each other, provide for a common understanding of the Network's planned actions and make resources on GPP more readily available. For more information or to join the Network, contact procurement@iclei.org.



Zoom in on... Webinar on Computers and Monitors

The presentations and a recording of the second Webinar for 2016, organised as part of the [EU GPP Helpdesk](#) service, are now available online. The practical guidance published by the EC (in October) on GPP of monitors and computers was presented in detail during the online event. The guidance was complemented by the [Austrian Federal Procurement Agency's](#) recent experience in encouraging the re-use of IT appliances. A lively debate followed, which informed the material and experiences presented further.

[More information...](#)

Collaborating on Responsible Procurement in London



Natalie Evans is the Responsible Procurement Manager for the City of London Corporation, and co-Chairs the London Responsible Procurement Network (LRPN). The City Corporation is a unique organisation with a diverse range of roles and responsibilities and a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including Square Mile residents, visitors and workers, City-based businesses (small and large), and London and UK policy makers.

How significant is green procurement within your organisation?

Green procurement is tackled on a strategic as well as an operational level within the City Corporation. For the last three years, City Corporation staff have been required to dedicate 10% of quality criteria in public tenders of over approximately €280,000 (£250,000) to aspects related to either green procurement or social/community benefit.

In October 2015, it was made a requirement for officers to adhere to the [Government Buying Standards](#) (the UK's adaptation of the [EU GPP Criteria](#)) in all specifications, as part of the City's Procurement Code.

Subsequently, after six months of extensive consultation, the City Corporation's [Responsible Procurement \(RP\) Strategy](#) went live (in July 2016). Along with social value, and ethical sourcing, environmental sustainability is one of three areas of focus within the RP Strategy. Green procurement aspects transcend localised social value objectives in terms of mitigating air pollution and protecting urban biodiversity as well as environmental sustainability objectives, which cover impacts up and down the supply chain, including waste, climate change and animal welfare.

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



Zoom in on... Clean energy transition

On 30 November, the EC published its legislative proposals for [Clean Energy for All Europeans](#) covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, design of the electricity market, security of electricity supply, governance rules for the Energy Union, as well as eco-design, and a strategy for connected and automated mobility. Concerning energy efficiency, reviews of the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) and of the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) have also been made. Regarding the latter, the rules for public procurement remain unchanged.



GPP examples

Reducing emissions produced through construction in Oslo (Norway)

Today, construction machinery accounts for 24% of Oslo's traffic emissions. In addition, heating (or drying) and traffic to and from construction sites are contributing both to local emissions as well as to climate gas emissions.

In February 2016, the Municipal Undertaking for Social Housing from the City of Oslo (Omsorgsbygg) kicked-off a dialogue with the market to obtain feedback on the type of solutions that could be required in order to reduce emissions from construction sites in the city of Oslo. In June 2016, Omsorgsbygg published tender documents for the construction of four new kindergartens, requiring contractors to operate construction sites 100% free of fossil fuel emissions, through, for example, the use of electrical construction machinery. The deadline for submitting offers was September (2016) with construction work due to be carried out in 2017.

The responses received from potential suppliers and contractors was so positive that the City Government decided to make fossil free construction sites a minimum requirement in all of Oslo's public procurement actions from 2017 onwards. Pre-procurement dialogue with the market is fundamental for setting the right requirements into a public purchasing process.

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



Zoom in on... Inspiring procurement rewarded

Procurers from the Municipality of Copenhagen, Transport for London and the Dutch Government (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment) took home the 2016 [Procura+](#) Awards at a ceremony at the [Sustainable City Development conference in Malmö](#) (Sweden) on 30 November. The awards recognise the most outstanding procurement activities carried out in Europe in three categories: sustainability, innovation and tendering procedure. The Procura+ Awards are held as part of The European Network on Sustainable Procurement, Procura+.

[More information about the winners...](#)

Procurement of energy and resource efficient computers in Austria

Austria's [Federal Procurement Agency](#) (BBG) is responsible for providing central procurement services for the public sector. In March 2016, BBG published an open call for tender to set up a three-year framework contract for use by Austrian public contracting bodies (e.g. ministries, cities, hospitals, etc.). Specifically, 55,400 new desktop computers were made available from the framework contract - worth a total of approximately 36 million euro.

While the [Austrian Action Plan for Sustainable Public Procurement](#) already includes environmental requirements for the procurement of IT appliances, BBG went beyond these in this tender by requiring energy efficient power supplies in computers, and including low thermal design power as part of the award criteria - as just a couple of examples.

Savings of greenhouse gas emissions and energy were calculated by comparing the emissions and energy consumption of the tender issued in 2016 with the emissions and energy consumption of the previous contract (from 2013). Total savings from the purchase for the projected contractual period are estimated to come to 999 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents.

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



Zoom in on... Heating and cooling

An [overview](#) of the EU's support activities and projects on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the heating and cooling sector was published in mid-November, following the adoption earlier this year of the [EU's Heating and Cooling Strategy](#). Accounting for 50% of final energy consumption, this is the EU's most energy intensive sector - with 75% of fuel coming from fossil sources. GPP guidance in this area is available for [Office Buildings, Combined Heat and Power, and Water-based heaters](#).

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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](#).