



# EU Green Public Procurement Policy

**European Commission  
Environment Directorate-General  
Robert Kaukewitsch**



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## What is Green Public Procurement?

"...a process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured."





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## Why GPP?

- Legitimate expectation of citizens
- Strategic use of procurement:
  - purchasing cleaner buses helps achieving clean air targets
  - purchasing renewables, you buy electricity and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - purchasing organic produce, you buy food and reduce pollution and improve animal welfare



**Reduce the need for additional projects**





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## GPP benefits

### Environmental

- ✓ Decrease of greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Decrease of hazardous substances
- ✓ Increase energy efficiency
- ✓ Sustainable use of natural resources

### Economical

- ✓ Incentive to innovation
- ✓ Reduction of prices of green technologies and products
- ✓ Potential financial savings



### Political

- ✓ Demonstrate public sector's commitment to environmental protection and to sustainable consumption and production

### Social

- ✓ Improve quality standards



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## So why don't we all do it? Obstacles to GPP

- Lack of political support
- Green products are perceived to cost more
- Lack of knowledge on how to verify green criteria
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of green products
- Lack of legal expertise



**Commission support**



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## What's the role of the 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



Copying and graphic paper



Cleaning products and services



Office IT equipment



Construction



Transport



Furniture



Electricity



Food and catering services



Textiles



Gardening products and services



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## 20+ EU GPP Criteria



Wall panels



Water based heaters



Waste water infrastructures



Flushing Toilets & Urinals



Imaging Equipment



Combined Heat & Power



Street lighting and traffic signals



Indoor lighting



Sanitary tapware



EEE Health care sector

## Criteria under development/revision

### *Revision:*

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

### *Development*

- Paints and Varnishes
- Data Centres





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## Two levels of criteria

### Core criteria:

- Aim at addressing the key environmental impacts
- Require minimum additional verification effort or cost increases.

### Comprehensive criteria:

- Aim at purchasing the best environmental products available on the market
- possibly requiring additional verification efforts or a slight increase in cost compared to other products with the same functionality.



*GPP criteria are largely based on standard Type I ecolabels. It is however not allowed to ask for products to have a specific label.*



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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)





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Thank you!

*Questions? Please contact:*

*robert.kaukewitsch@ec.europa.eu*

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