

Webinar – GPP of Furniture, including refurbishment and end-of-life services

Purpose & framework

As well as being an important part of our daily lives, furniture makes up a high proportion of public spending and represents an important part of Europe's manufacturing sector. Although under pressure from cheaper manufacturers elsewhere, the European sector is regarded as being innovative and responsive to new consumer demands, and public procurement can play a major role in supporting and shaping the sustainability of this sector.

The majority of the environmental impacts of furniture (80-90%) are linked to the choice of materials and components. These impacts include loss of biodiversity and soil erosion due to the unsustainable use of natural products, the [embodied energy](#) of materials (particularly plastic and metals), as well as chemical risks to human and environmental health (source: [European Commission](#)). In addition, the typical lifetime of furniture is often much shorter than it needs to be, being disposed of due to decisions to relocate or redecorate as opposed to loss of functionality. As such, a greater focus is now being placed on refurbishing existing furniture, which in addition to being green is also often cheaper and can create local economic opportunities.

In August 2017 the European Commission published [revised EU GPP Criteria for furniture](#). The main difference to the previous Criteria is that the new Criteria are now divided into three broad sections, depending on whether the procurer is looking to refurbish existing used furniture, procure new items, or procure end-of-life services. This more 'circular' approach to furniture procurement is relatively new, but good practice examples already exist in Europe. This Webinar will provide an introduction to how the newly revised EU GPP Criteria can be used, as well as introduce first-hand experiences of sustainable furniture procurement in action.

This is the second of two Webinars organised during 2017. The Webinars form part of the service provided through the European Commission's [Helpdesk on GPP](#). They provide a forum to inform stakeholders working in the field of public sector procurement about important new developments in the resources available and legislative context for GPP, and provide an opportunity for discussion.

Date & time

Wednesday 29 November 2017, 14:30 - 16:00 (Brussels time)

Language

English

Organisers [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#), on behalf of the European Commission ([DG Environment](#))

Topics & format The Webinar will feature three presentations from experts working on green (or sustainable) procurement of furniture. These will address the following:

- Main results from updating the GPP criteria for this product group: what has changed?
- Provide practical insights from public sector purchasers on how to overcome some of the biggest challenges of implementing green procurement policies for furniture, such as in the purchase of new furniture. Initiatives which involve procurement, which serve to extend the life of furniture will also be presented, such as in the procurement of refurbishment services.
- Experts in the field will talk about their opinion regarding the revised criteria and what the next steps are for this sector.

Opportunities for questions and comments from those taking part in the online event will be also provided.

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- Featured speakers**
- *Introduction*, Robert Kaukewitsch, GPP Policy Officer, European Commission, Directorate General for Environment (confirmed)
 - *What's new in the EU GPP Criteria for Furniture*, Shane Donatello, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (confirmed)
 - [*Award winning procurement: Reusing and refurbishing furniture in a new office*](#), Sally Attwood and Amanda Davies, Public Health Wales (United Kingdom) (confirmed)
 - [*Working with the market to purchase new furniture meeting circular economy principles in Wageningen*](#) (the Netherlands), Rene de Klerk, Renemit (Procurement Adviser for the City of Wageningen) (confirmed)

Target audience

- Public procurement authorities, public purchasers and policy-makers from public and semi-public entities
- Private sector representatives including SMEs, manufacturers and suppliers
- European policy-makers
- Multipliers (for example, NGOs, environment agencies, scientific institutions, international organisations)

Registration

Participation is free of charge.

Prior registration is essential, however. You will be sent more information upon registering.

Register by visiting: <http://bit.ly/2xCPILe>
