



EU Green Public Procurement Policy

European Commission
Environment Directorate-General
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European NGO Network on
Green Public Procurement

What is GPP?

"...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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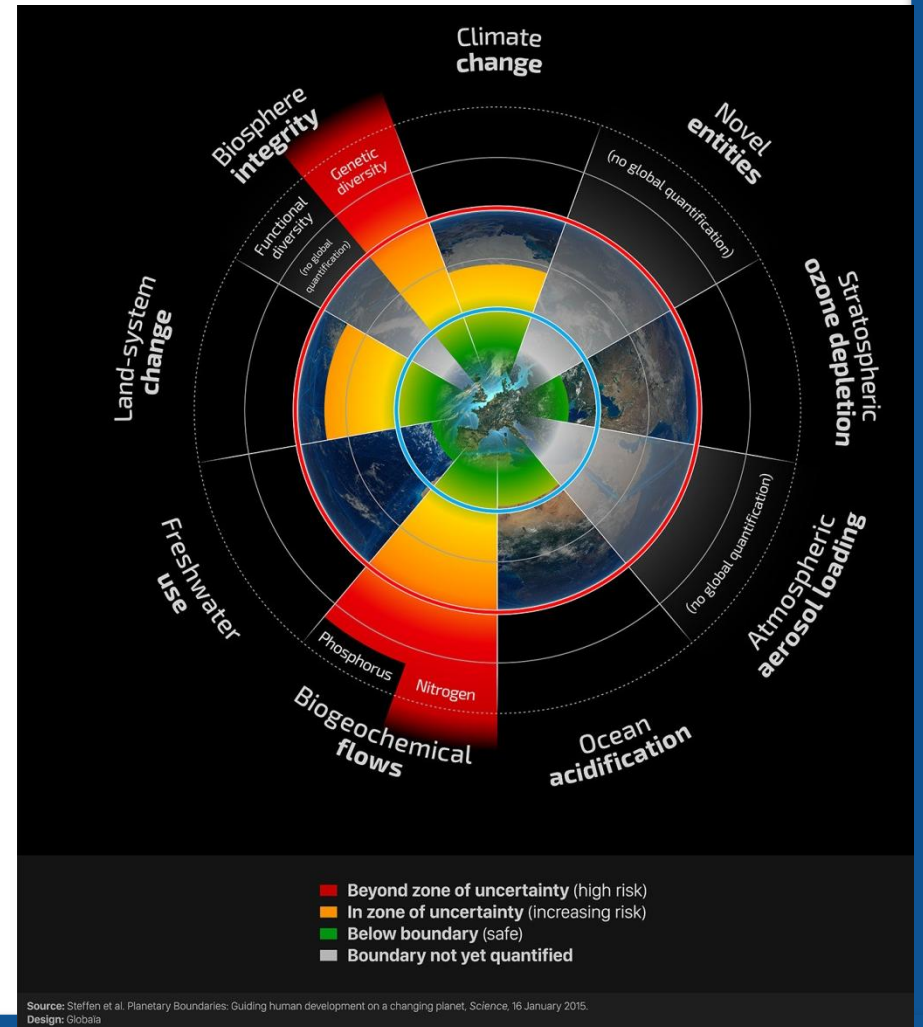
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WHY GPP?

Planetary boundaries define a safe operating space for humanity.

These have been crossed for:

- **Climate change**
- **Biodiversity loss**
- **Nitrogen cycle**





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GPP Benefits

Decreasing GHG and hazardous substances, increasing resource and energy efficiency...

Social

Improving health and well-being...

Environmental

GPP

14% of GDP

Political

Increasing uptake of green technologies and products, supporting innovation...

Economic

Achieving environmental obligations, showing commitment to environment protection and sustainable consumption and production...

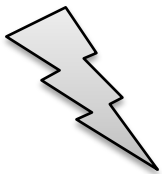


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Obstacles to GPP

- 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 professional workforce + time



Commission support



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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 and services
- Legal/operational **Guidance**
- GPP National Action Plans





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GPP in the Circular Economy Package

Strong political mandate from the *Circular Economy Package* (2015):

“The Commission will take action on Green Public Procurement (GPP), by emphasising circular economy aspects in new or revised criteria, supporting higher uptake of GPP, and leading by example in its own procurement and in EU funding.”



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EU GPP Criteria

- Criteria sets developed for 21 priority product groups since 2008
- 8 currently under revision/development
- Two levels of ambition: "core" and "comprehensive" = light/dark green
- Criteria developed in broad stakeholder process by JRC/IPTS
- Criteria very influential for MS National Action Plans and also used outside of the EU



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20+ EU GPP Criteria



Copying and graphic paper



Cleaning products and services



Computer and Monitors **NEW**



Office Buildings **NEW**



Transport



Furniture



Electricity



Food & 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



Roads **NEW**



Combined Heat & Power



Street lighting and traffic signals



Indoor lighting



Sanitary tapware



Health care sector



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Criteria under revision/development

- Street lighting
- Food and Catering
- Cleaning Services
- Furniture
- Textiles
- Transport
- Paints and Varnishes
- Data Centres





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GPP information sources

GPP Newsletter

Buying Green Handbook NEW April 2016!

DG ENV GPP website

- Full sets of EU GPP criteria and background reports in 20+ languages
- More than 100 GPP Examples
- News and upcoming events

HELP DESK:

In EN, FR, DE [***gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org***](mailto:gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org)





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Is there anything more important than Green Public Procurement?



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Is there anything more important
than Green Public Procurement?

YES!



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Decisive phase before tendering:

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Best environmental outcome is not necessarily buying the greener option
- A good needs assessment can lead to buying nothing, less or something different.
- Questions to be asked before tendering:
 - ✓ Do we really need it? Do we need to own or can we rent?
 - ✓ Do we still have it (maybe in another department)?
 - ✓ Does everybody need his/her own (printer, service car)?
- *Nice side-effect: €€€*



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Questions? Please contact:

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