

# Sustainable Procurement

## Issue 49 | April 2011

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to send you the quarterly Update on Procura<sup>+</sup>, the European Sustainable Procurement Campaign, and ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement activities in Europe.

You can also read more about Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign developments by visiting the Campaign website [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org). You can find more information about ICLEI's projects on Sustainable Procurement at [www.iclei-europe.org/procurement](http://www.iclei-europe.org/procurement)

ICLEI welcomes your contributions. Just send your news to [procurement@iclei.org](mailto:procurement@iclei.org). News from Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign Participants and ICLEI members enjoys publishing priority!

If this newsletter does not display properly, please click here to view it online:  
<http://update.sustainable-procurement.org/index.php?id=8183>

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## 1. Advancing social justice through public procurement

Public procurement policy is increasingly recognised as an important tool for addressing growing concerns about the sustainability of consumer goods and the impact of unsustainable consumption on, among other things, climate change, air and water pollution, deforestation, and global supply chains.



Closing the gap between policy and practice, particularly when it comes to addressing the social pillar of sustainable procurement is one of the principal goals of two new ICLEI-led actions which began in April. The new projects are:

- Sustainable timber action in Europe focusing on awareness raising and capacity building actions for fair and sustainable wood procurement
- The LANDMARK project - on anchoring verification schemes and training programmes in public procurement to purchase fairly traded products, such as work wear, ICT equipment, construction materials and food

Equipping local authorities and other public sector buyers with the know-how on how to include social sustainability requirements into their purchasing policies and practices for a range of commonly purchased goods and services will be one of the key outcomes of the two projects.

A number of opportunities are available for cities and other interested stakeholders to follow or engage in the project activities.

*If you are interested in finding out more, please contact [amalia.chocha@iclei.org](mailto:amalia.chocha@iclei.org) for the sustainable timber project or [philipp.tepper@iclei.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei.org) for the LANDMARK project.*

## 2. Project News

### Alert about GPP?

The latest policy developments from the European Union, guidance, tools or studies carried out relevant for green public procurement (GPP) are now available in an easy to digest format. The information is published on a monthly basis through the European Commission's [GPP News-Alert](#).

Complementing the policy news and tools, each issue features a number of [practical examples](#) – good practice cases – illustrating how public authorities put GPP into practice for various products and services. Examples range from the procurement of recycled paper to constructing a new hospital building, or purchasing new energy efficient IT equipment for office use. 26 examples have been published to date and the idea is to showcase experience from all the EU Member States.



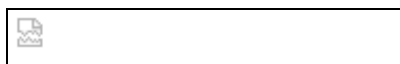
The News-Alerts form part of the service offered through the European Commission's GPP Helpdesk. The Helpdesk serves to promote and disseminate information about GPP, and to provide timely and accurate answers to queries from different stakeholder groups. Queries may be submitted to the Helpdesk in English, French and German to the email address [gpp@biois.com](mailto:gpp@biois.com). ICLEI is working with BIO Intelligence Service to deliver the GPP Helpdesk service offered by the European Commission.

With ten editions published to date, the GPP News-Alerts are available free of charge and enjoy widespread dissemination to over 1,000 recipients across the EU.

[Sign up](#) today to start receiving your copy.

*If you have a story or case study that you would like to see published in the newsletter, please contact [amalia.chocha@iclei.org](mailto:amalia.chocha@iclei.org).*

### Sustainable Construction and Innovation - first round of outputs from the SCI-Network now available



The first round of outputs published by the Sustainable Construction and Innovation Network ([SCI-Network](#)) are now available in the online



**Resource Centre.** This includes reports on different innovative technologies used in construction, descriptions of tools which can be used to assess the environmental impact of renovations, and good practice case studies. A report on financing and contracting opportunities for public authorities wishing to pursue sustainable and innovative construction projects is also online.

These results were presented at a webinar held in March, where some 20 network participants took part. The **presentations** from the webinar are also available in the Resource Centre.

The SCI-Network links public authorities looking to purchase innovative and sustainable solutions within their construction projects. This is done through face-to-face meetings as well as through an online forum and webinars. The next round of workshops is scheduled to take place on 28 June in Torino (Italy). Participation in the Network is open to public authorities and experts in the field of sustainable and innovative construction procurement.

*Interested in providing feedback on the results published? Keen to find out more about the SCI-Network? Visit [www.sci-network.eu](http://www.sci-network.eu), or send an email to [sci-network@iclei.org](mailto:sci-network@iclei.org)*

### 3. Procura+ Campaign News

#### Hannover joins the Procura+ Campaign

The City of Hannover (Germany) is the latest public authority to join the Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign. Hannover - the capital of Germany's federal state Lower Saxony - has a long tradition of working on sustainability issues and is one of ICLEI's founding members.

Since the early nineties, both the city administration and its politicians are working on including environmental considerations in public procurement and management processes. Hannover also recently linked their social responsibility and fair trade agenda to their purchasing decisions. Joining the Campaign will give the city the possibility to promote its achievements in this area, as well as the opportunity to exchange experiences (problems, opportunities) with other public authorities internationally.

Hannover is actively encouraging its various city departments to exchange on best approaches to implement sustainable public procurement (SPP). The city began a training programme for municipal procurers following their participation in a training series on GPP in 2009, and an additional tailor-made training session on socially-responsible procurement in 2010.

*For more information on the Procura+ Campaign, please visit [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org) or contact [philipp.tepper@iclei.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei.org).*

#### Mainstreaming GPP in the Province of Torino



The Province of Torino, together with the regional environmental protection agency in Piemonte (Arpa Piemonte), started the "APE" project in 2003 to encourage and drive implementation of GPP in everyday procurement practices. Since then, the number of organisations taking part in the project has continued to increase, now reaching 40 partners.

Within the project, a working group drawn from the environment- and procurement- departments of each participating organisation has been trained in GPP and developed environmental criteria for a range of products that are shared among all organisations. In 2009, more than

two thirds of buses and 80 percent of computers purchased by the province included the **Procura+ Criteria**. Systems have also been set up to monitor the targets set allowing for transparency and verification, and to assess environmental and economic impacts.

For political backing, an official document outlining the commitment to GPP practices was adopted in 2004 by all organisations involved. This enables and provides encouragement to those responsible for procurement procedures.

Nationally, the Province of Torino is involved in the development of the Italian GPP National Action Plan.

More information on the Province of Torino's GPP activities is available here (in Italian):  
[www.provincia.torino.it/ambiente/agenda21/acquisti\\_ecologici/](http://www.provincia.torino.it/ambiente/agenda21/acquisti_ecologici/)

#### Procura+ Information leaflet now available in five languages

If you are after information on the Procura+ Campaign in a summarised format then you will be interested in knowing that the Campaign leaflet has not only been updated but also translated into several languages.

The leaflet is now available in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. The goals and benefits of participating in the Campaign are explained, as are some of the achievements so far.

Download your copy here: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Spanish](#) and [Italian](#). If you would like a printed copy of the leaflet, please contact [franziska.singer@iclei.org](mailto:franziska.singer@iclei.org)



#### 4. Upcoming Events

##### Register now: Smart Procurement – Reducing Costs and Saving Energy Conference, 29 June, Brussels



Bringing together public sector policy makers, purchasers, sustainability managers and representatives from companies and EU institutions, the Smart Procurement – Reducing Costs and Saving Energy Conference, generously hosted by the [Basque Country EU-Office](#), will be held on June 29 in Brussels.

ICLEI invites you to this interactive event which focuses on the mutually beneficial relationship that exists between manufacturers and local governments in the supply and procurement of innovative, low-carbon, energy efficient products. The event will show that mitigating and adapting to climate change does require the development of new and innovative low carbon emission solutions and technologies for lighting, vehicles, heating and cooling systems, information and communication technologies (ICT) and electricity production. The large demand from public authorities plays an important role in the development of new sustainable technologies.

The conference will begin with a [Breakfast at Sustainability's](#) programme element for the morning session of the one day long programme. This session will feature the opinions from the European Parliament, the Commission, suppliers and manufacturers of innovative technologies and public purchasers of how public purchasing can be used as an instrument for boosting innovation and sustainability. Following a networking lunch, the afternoon will be dedicated to hands-on training and practical workshops for public sector representatives on using life-cycle costing to evaluate bids, for instance. The event will conclude with a Partner Café - an open informal forum for dialogue and networking among potential project partners.

To register for the event and see the latest updated programme, please visit [www.smart-spp.eu/conference](http://www.smart-spp.eu/conference) or contact [thomas.arbouet@iclei.org](mailto:thomas.arbouet@iclei.org) for more information.

##### Cities in Europe 2020 - Enhance sustainability now! 12-14 September, Brussels

ICLEI's European Convention 2011 will discuss the implementation of sustainability measures at the local level across Europe, with a particular focus on the EU 2020 Strategy. The Convention, which will partly be hosted by various ICLEI Member-City offices throughout Brussels, will address local government interests as well as the interests of the broader business community. The dates of the Convention coincide with the ["train of ideas"](#), stopping in Brussels, which the City of Hamburg has organised as part of its European Green Capital 2011 activities.

Sustainable procurement, as one of several tools used for spurring urban sustainability, will form part of a couple of parallel sessions taking place on day two of the Convention. Three sessions - on Energy, Buildings and Biodiversity – will include inspiring presentations on how public purchasing can contribute to sustainability



goals and targets.

Sustainable public procurement will be explicitly addressed in the sessions on biodiversity and ecosystem services, where the impacts of timber production and the role of purchasing authorities are in focus.

For more information, please visit [convention2011.iclei-europe.org](http://convention2011.iclei-europe.org) or contact [convention.europe@iclei.org](mailto:convention.europe@iclei.org).

## 5. Past Events

### Euro Topten+ at European Sustainable Energy Week



On Wednesday April 13, a workshop at the [EU Sustainable Energy Week](#) in Brussels presented the Topten approach to energy-efficient procurement. Topten provides detailed information on the most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly appliances and cars available across Europe. Through a network of national websites, independent and transparent information on a range of energy-using products is made available to consumers, public procurers and large private buyers.

The workshop in Brussels focused on the resources which are available to public procurers through the [www.topten.eu](http://www.topten.eu) website – including guidance, criteria and sample tender documents. Speakers from the European Commission, the French national energy agency (ADEME) and ICLEI highlighted the importance of procurement as part of the EU's Energy Efficiency Plan. The potential role of the upcoming revision of the EU Public Procurement Directives in promoting higher standards of energy-efficiency and life-cycle costing in public procurement was also discussed.

To find out more, please visit [www.topten.eu/pro](http://www.topten.eu/pro) or contact [abby.semples@iclei.org](mailto:abby.semples@iclei.org). Topten criteria and guidance are now also available in Spanish at [www.eurotopten.es](http://www.eurotopten.es)

## 6. Other News

### Guide on how to organise sustainable meetings and events in Brussels

With around 66,000 registered meetings a year, Brussels is indeed one of Europe's hot meeting spots. What better city to encourage greener meetings and events!

Forming part of ICLEI's greening events agenda, a new guide on [how to organise sustainable meetings and events in Brussels](#) was published by ICLEI's Brussels Office this month. Generously supported by the [Brussels-Europe Liaison Office](#) (BELO), the guide provides very practical advice (including tips on local providers) for event organisers on how to reduce the environmental impact of small scale events - from ten to 100 delegates.



For more information, please contact [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org)

### Greening the blue – UNEP publishes procurement guidelines for food and catering, and vehicles



UNEP have published new sets of guidelines for sustainable procurement as part of the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) and the Greening the Blue initiative. The guidelines cover cafeterias, food and kitchen equipment, and vehicles.

The guidelines aim to support UN procurers and requisitioners with the procurement actions, and provide detailed information on the sustainability impacts for certain products and services, explaining



how these can be addressed through the UN procurement process.

A number of good practice examples on sustainable procurement by UN institutions are also available – visit: [www.greeningtheblue.org/resources/procurement/bestpractice](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/resources/procurement/bestpractice). The sustainable procurement guidelines are available at [www.greeningtheblue.org/resources/procurement](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/resources/procurement)

## 7. Internal News

### New project assistant joins ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team

Thomas Arbouet joined ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team in Freiburg earlier this year. Before ICLEI, Thomas worked for the Consulate General of France in Edinburgh (Scotland). More recently, he worked for the Assembly of European Regions (AER) based in Strasbourg, where he was the executive assistant to the Secretary General and helped coordinate the AER General Assembly dedicated to sustainable development. Thomas holds a Master degree in International and European Affairs with special focus on local and regional authorities and studied foreign languages in France and Sweden.

*Thomas can be contacted on [procurement@iclei.org](mailto:procurement@iclei.org)*

Subscribe? Feedback? Questions? Please let us know!

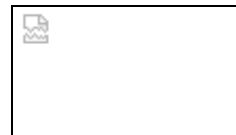
If you would like to subscribe to the Sustainable Procurement Update, please send an email stating so to [procurement@iclei.org](mailto:procurement@iclei.org) including in it your contact details.

If you have any further questions, would like to give feedback on ICLEI's work in Sustainable Procurement, or would like to be taken off this mailing list, please also contact us at [procurement@iclei.org](mailto:procurement@iclei.org)

The Sustainable Procurement Update is produced by the European Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Editors: Franziska Singer, Amalia Ochoa (responsible).

ICLEI is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

More than 1,200 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns, such as the Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign.



The Procura+ Sustainable Procurement Campaign is an initiative designed to help support public authorities across Europe in implementing Sustainable Procurement and help promote their achievements. The Campaign was established in 2004 to help drive the mainstreaming of sustainable public procurement throughout Europe. Through participating in the Campaign, public authorities can contribute to a growing international movement and help bring about real change on the market.

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