

# Sustainable Procurement

Edition 40 | October 2008

Dear colleagues,

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 (we hope you like its new look HTML format!)

You can also read more about current 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 enjoy publishing priority!

If this newsletter does not display properly, please click here to view it online: <http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=6774>

## In this issue:

### 1| Procura<sup>+</sup> Seminar: Smarter engagement with the market in the pre-procurement phase, 6-7 November 2008

#### 2| Project News:

- Public Affairs: European Observatory on Fair Trade Procurement launched!
- Development of guidance for sustainable procurement of biofuels for transport
- UNEP Greening Events Guide

#### 3| Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign News:

- BIG-Net becomes the Procura<sup>+</sup> Exchange

#### 4| Upcoming Events:

- Contribute to the EcoProcura 2009 conference programme

#### 5| Recent Events:

- Cities present outstanding achievements through sustainable procurement in Expert Forum in Wien
- Working Group meeting on Common Procurement of Sustainable Buses for Public Transport
- IPPC 2008: International focus on procurement

#### 6| Other News:

- European Commission Communication on GPP
- New Project Assistants - Anna Rok and Sarah McCabe

## 1. Procura<sup>+</sup> Seminar: Smarter engagement with the market in the pre-procurement phase, 6-7 November 2008

As part of the Procura<sup>+</sup> Campaign, Birmingham City Council in partnership with ICLEI are organising the next Procura<sup>+</sup> Seminar and Participants Meeting. The European event will take place in



Birmingham (United Kingdom) on the 6-7 November 2008.

Cities engaging with suppliers to purchase highly innovative energy-efficient products is the main focus of this year's event. Participants will hear about the opportunities available during the pre-procurement stage (that is, prior to the start of the tendering process) for cities wishing to purchase highly innovative products.

The successful approaches taken by some of the pioneer cities in sustainable procurement (e.g. in risk management, communicating with suppliers) will be presented. Complementing these, participants will hear from suppliers of so-called "emerging technologies" that have successfully been brought onto the market through sustainable procurement. A selection of innovative product solutions, that are yet to be made widely available on the market, will also be presented and their potential for market penetration explored.

Interested in reducing your city's energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emission bill? The Procura+ Seminar provides an excellent opportunity for local and regional government representatives (and their multipliers) from across Europe to learn and exchange experiences on how to use the pre-procurement phase to make smarter purchasing decisions.

*To participate in the Seminar or for more information on the event, please visit [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org) or contact Amalia Ochoa at [amalia.ochoa@iclei.org](mailto:amalia.ochoa@iclei.org).*

## 2. Project News

### Public Affairs: European Observatory on Fair Trade Procurement launched!



The European Fair Trade Association (EFTA) started its new project earlier this year called Public Affairs. The project aims to mobilise action for procurement of Fair Trade products. Specifically, the project will equip public buyers with the necessary tools to use public procurement as an instrument for reducing poverty by including Fair Trade criteria into their procurement policies and practices. Public Affairs brings together three of EFTA's members - CTM-Altromercato in Italy, IDEAS in Spain and Oxfam Wereldwinkels in Belgium and ICLEI.

The European Observatory, a European wide online information platform, has been set up as part of the project, and is now available for use.

Another activity currently taking place in the project is an assessment of the inclusion of Fair Trade considerations in public procurement actions (i.e. through public tenders) undertaken by public bodies across Europe. This activity will serve to identify examples of good practice which can serve as models for other public authorities to learn from or use. These examples and tender documents will then be made available through the European Observatory.

The assessment of Fair Trade public procurement actions will be done through a short questionnaire available in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Flemish. The questionnaire can be downloaded in English from the Observatory; the other language versions will also soon be available. Alternatively, please contact the Public Affairs project coordinator at EFTA, Sandra Amorim at [fairprocura@eftafairtrade.org](mailto:fairprocura@eftafairtrade.org).

*Visit the European Observatory on Fair Trade Procurement [www.european-fair-trade-association.org/observatory](http://www.european-fair-trade-association.org/observatory). For more information on the Public Affairs project contact Peter Defranceschi at [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org).*

### Development of guidance for sustainable procurement of biofuels for transport

The Biofuel Cities European Partnership is currently developing the Guide on Sustainable Biofuel Procurement (the Guide) in the field of transport which is expected to be published later this year.

The Guide has been under development since the 3rd biofuels end-users European Workshop held in June, at ICLEI's European Members Convention in Zaragoza (Spain). The event was used to



bring together local authorities, regional transport companies, as well as researchers that are either already using biofuels, interested in expanding their use, or supporting other end-users in some capacity.

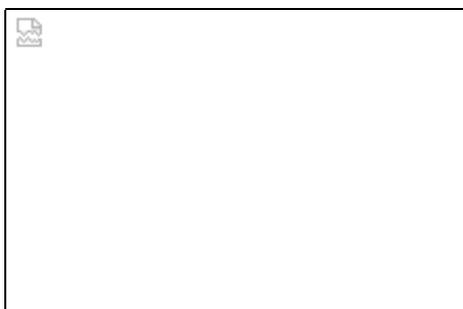


Participants discussed sustainability considerations (e.g. fuel type) and issues concerning costs (e.g. infrastructure and production, availability and affordability of biofuels) which have served to feed into the development of the Guide. The Guide will contain practical information useful for local authorities interested in tendering for biofuels.

The Biofuel Cities project has been launched to develop a Biofuel Cities European Partnership that will demonstrate the broad-scale use of new and innovative biofuel technologies. Biofuel Cities covers the complete chain from feedstock to biofuels production, distribution and utilisation in vehicle fleets. To date, over 1,000 people form part of the European Partnership.

*For more information on the Guide, please contact Peter Defranceschi at [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org). Not a participant in the Biofuel Cities European Partnership yet? Join the Partnership by registering at [www.biofuel-cities.eu/index.php?id=4025](http://www.biofuel-cities.eu/index.php?id=4025).*

### UNEP Greening Events Guide



In 2007 the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) Ban Ki-Moon made a strong commitment to making the operations of the UN sustainable. Each year within the UN system a huge number of small, medium and large meetings and events take place. Such events can have significant environmental impacts including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international travel, the generation of waste, energy and water consumption at the venue and many others.

As part of the SUN (Sustainable United Nations) Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has asked

ICLEI to prepare a Guide on how to make small and medium sized events more sustainable, building on ICLEI's experience in making its own events sustainable. The Guide, due to be finalised in early 2009, will provide detailed practical recommendations relating to aspects such as international and local travel, venue, catering, accommodation, participant materials, etc. It will serve for the organisation of events that cater for up to 200 delegates and should be applicable internationally.

*For further information please contact Simon Clement at [simon.clement@iclei.org](mailto:simon.clement@iclei.org). To find out more about the SUN initiative, visit [www.unep.fr/scp/sun](http://www.unep.fr/scp/sun).*

## 3. Procura+ Campaign News

### BIG-Net becomes the Procura+ Exchange

In early October this year, the BIG-Net (the "Buy it Green"- Network for sustainable procurement professionals in Europe) was renamed the Procura+ Exchange. The BIG-Net has been running since 1996 to provide the latest news and developments on sustainable procurement in Europe and exchanging good practice experiences through an active mailing list.

The change of name will not change the purpose of the mailing list or the information transmitted. The change is intended to simply reflect the central strategic role of the Procura+ Campaign within ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement activities, and to make the link between the Campaign and the mailing list more transparent and explicit, especially to those not so familiar with ICLEI's work.

Currently there are over 200 subscribers to the Procura+ Exchange, which is available in English, French and German. We hope that you will continue to find the Exchange a useful source of information, and use it to inform others of your own sustainable procurement achievements, or to ask questions of the experts subscribed.

*Interested in subscribing to the Procura+ Exchange? Register online by visiting [www.procuraplus.org/index.php?id=6657](http://www.procuraplus.org/index.php?id=6657). For further information please visit [www.procuraplus.org](http://www.procuraplus.org) or contact Philipp Tepper at [philipp.tepper@iclei.org](mailto:philipp.tepper@iclei.org).*

## 4. Upcoming Events

### Contribute to the EcoProcura 2009 conference programme

Opportunities to contribute to the exciting programme of the next EcoProcura conference "Climate Neutral through Procurement", to be held in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 25 to 27 March 2009, are still welcome and can be submitted online.

The programme will offer innovative conference elements such as the market lounge, which will provide a structured space for participants to network with product developers, sustainable procurement experts and legal experts - offering practical and strategic advice related to achieving climate neutrality through procurement.



If you are a local government or business representative working towards climate neutral products and services and wish to contribute to any of the sessions highlighted in the programme, please submit your proposal by 30 October 2008.

*To submit your contribution or for more information on the conference, visit [www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009](http://www.iclei.org/ecoprocura2009) or email the organisers at [ecoprocura2009@iclei.org](mailto:ecoprocura2009@iclei.org).*

## 5. Recent Events

### Cities present outstanding achievements through sustainable procurement in Expert Forum in Vienna



The Expert Forum on Socially Responsible Procurement (SRP) took place in Vienna (Austria) on the 17 September 2008. Public procurers and procurement experts from national, regional and local government joined the Forum. ICLEI's Peter Defranceschi also participated in the event presenting the current European legal framework and recent good practice examples on SRP. The event was organised as part of the Austrian project called SO:FAIR, which aims to encourage public authorities in Austria to engage in SRP.

Together with the City of Vienna, the Procura+ participants Barcelona and Zurich showcased their experiences and achievements from carrying out sustainable procurement in their public administrations. The City of Barcelona announced that it had made savings of EUR30,000 through purchasing socially responsible (or fair) workwear for municipal gardeners. The City of Zurich has made yearly savings of approximately EUR100,000 since the installation of new energy-efficient floorlamps. The remarkable achievements of Vienna's Eco-Buy programme - "OekoKauf Wien" - were, however, the highlight of the event. Some of the achievements since the programme started have been: the formation of 17 cross-departmental working groups in the public administration; development of 60 GPP criteria catalogues for different product groups; engagement of some 600 businesses in the GPP activities through the "oekobusiness plan"; and a total of EUR35 million in savings since 2004. To date, OekoKauf Wien has focused on implementation of green procurement actions. SRP is currently being explored through the SO:FAIR project.

The organisers of the Expert Forum hope that the event served to convince those present that SRP is practically possible and evidenced further by increasing number of good practice examples in Europe. ICLEI's presentation on the opportunities for carrying out SRP and tips on how legal issues can be minimised in addition to the experiences from Barcelona and Zurich certainly offer convincing arguments in support of SRP.

*For more information on the SO:FAIR project please contact Sirit Kostron at [kostron@ifz.tugraz.at](mailto:kostron@ifz.tugraz.at). More information on the initiative OekoKauf Wien is available at [www.oekokauf.wien.at](http://www.oekokauf.wien.at). Alternatively, please contact Peter Defranceschi at [peter.defranceschi@iclei.org](mailto:peter.defranceschi@iclei.org).*

### Working Group meeting on Common Procurement of Sustainable Buses for Public Transport

The first meeting of the Common Procurement of Sustainable Buses for Public Transport (COMPRO) working group was held on the 18



September 2008 in Bremen. COMPRO is a European project that aims to contribute to the development of a common European market of "clean" vehicles by taking action on the demand side. Action on the demand side includes working towards homogenising technical requirements and pooling together the procurement power of local authorities to reach a critical mass needed to bring about a significant market development in cleaner vehicles.

The meeting in Bremen served to present an overview of the latest technologies of Hybrid and CNG buses and gave participants an opportunity to explore the mutual interest and needs of cities, operators and manufacturers.

One of the specific challenges the meeting focused on was undertaking cross-national common procurement. Philipp Tepper from ICLEI's European Secretariat presented the approaches and experiences from previous European joint procurement actions undertaken and the strategic links between joint procurement and pre-commercial procurement, an upcoming topic to bring innovative technologies onto the market.

*For more information on the COMPRO project, visit [www.compro-eu.org](http://www.compro-eu.org).*

### **IPPC 2008: International focus on procurement**

270 participants from 43 countries gathered on 27-30 August 2008 in Amsterdam for the biennial International Public Procurement Conference (IPPC). Scientists, academics and people working in practical settings discussed various procurement issues. The third IPPC was organised by several Dutch organisations, namely: the Professional and Innovative Procurement Network (PIANOo), National Association for Procurement Professionals (NEVI) and the Dutch national government, Department of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

Sustainable procurement and innovation featured strongly in this year's event, which included a well-received presentation from ICLEI's Mark Hidson on "Driving sustainability through procurement, the Procura+ Campaign".

*More information on the conference can be found by visiting [www.nevi.nl/ippc2008](http://www.nevi.nl/ippc2008).*

## **6. Other News**

### **European Commission Communication on GPP**

On 16 July 2008 the European Commission (EC) launched a Communication on green public procurement (GPP) entitled "Public procurement for a better environment" setting out the EC's proposed strategy for tapping the full potential of GPP across Europe.

The Communication highlights the importance of developing a uniform set of GPP criteria, applicable across Europe, to avoid market distortions and ease administrative burdens for suppliers and public authorities, a move strongly supported by ICLEI. It indicates that the development of such criteria would go hand-in-hand with other relevant EU instruments, in particular the European Ecolabel, and relevant Directives and Regulations on eco-design and product labelling. A multi-stakeholder process for developing criteria, including official endorsement from all EU Member States is proposed. This will include inviting the Member States to formally endorse the criteria already published within the EC's [GPP Training Toolkit](#) developed by ICLEI.

The Communication further proposes an ambitious GPP target, that 50% of all tendering procedures in the EU should be "green" by 2010. Green is defined as compliant with endorsed Core GPP criteria (the EC's Toolkit presents both "Core" and more advanced "Comprehensive" criteria sets). It also indicates that there will likely be future mandatory GPP requirements for certain products, linked to future standards developed within product labelling directives. The EC has also committed to applying the GPP criteria developed within its own procurement actions where appropriate.

*The full communication is available at [ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/com\\_2008\\_400.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/com_2008_400.pdf).  
For more information or guidance on GPP from the EC, visit [ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp).*

### **New Project Assistants - Anna Rok and Sarah McCabe**

Two new Project Assistants started work in ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement team at the start of September this year - Anna Rok and Sarah McCabe.

Anna previously worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Warsaw as Assistant to Head of Office and UN Coordination Support. As a co-founder of eFTe association she has been also involved in a number of awareness raising and research projects on ethical consumption, development issues and social economy. Anna holds a Masters degree in Sociology from Warsaw University.

Anna will be working on the Procura+ Seminar in Birmingham, the Public Affairs project and activities on sustainable procurement in Poland.

Sarah was previously employed at ICLEI's Oceania Secretariat in Australia primarily working on the Water Campaign, a capacity building programme designed to assist local governments reduce their water use and improve water quality. Prior to that she worked at the Western Australian Local Government Association on waste management policy issues. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science from Murdoch University (Australia).

Sarah will be working on the UNEP sustainable procurement Guidelines, further developing the Procura+ Campaign and project acquisition work.

Subscribe? Feedback? Questions? Please let us know!

If you would like to Subscribe to the Sustainable Procurement Update, 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 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: Amalia Ochoa (responsible) and Marta Anglada.

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 900 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+ Campaign and programmes.



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.

Copyright 2008 ICLEI European Secretariat GmbH, Freiburg, Germany. All rights reserved.

[www.iclei-europe.org/procurement](http://www.iclei-europe.org/procurement)