

## What is GPP?



*“Green Public Procurement (GPP) is 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.”*

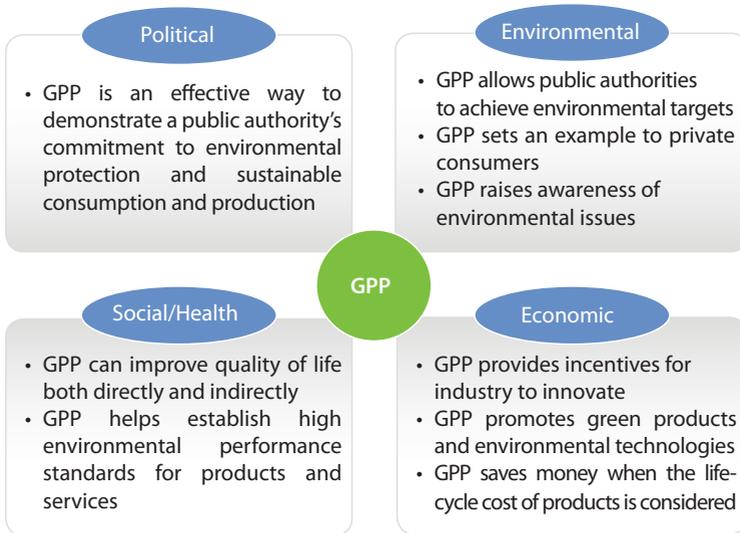
(COM (2008) 400 Public procurement for a better environment)

## Why does it matter?

Public authorities are major consumers in Europe: they spend approximately **2 trillion euros annually, equivalent to some 17% of the EU's gross domestic product**. By using their purchasing power to choose goods and services with lower impacts on the environment, they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production.

Green purchasing is also about influencing the market. By promoting and using GPP, public authorities can provide industry with real incentives for developing green technologies and products. In some sectors, public purchasers command a large share of the market (e.g. public transport, construction, health services and education) and so their decisions have considerable impact.

# Benefits of GPP



## National Action Plans

National Action Plans (NAPs) are the means by which Member States implement GPP. These plans have now been adopted by a majority of the EU-27. They are intended to address the environmental, and in some cases also social, impacts of public procurement. Many countries report that political support is extremely important in driving this area forward.

Many NAPs reflect high levels of stakeholder engagement, including procurers, government representatives, suppliers and trade associations. Identification and prioritisation of product groups is usually performed by considering the level of government spend on a particular product group, together with the level of environmental impact that the product group has.

In many cases NAPs contain ambitious targets and specific measures to promote and implement GPP and give an overview of training, communication, monitoring and other activities undertaken by Member States in the field of GPP.

Further information on Member States' NAPs is available on the GPP website:  
[ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/action\\_plan\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/action_plan_en.htm)

# Common EU GPP criteria

The basic concept of GPP relies on having clear, justifiable, verifiable and ambitious environmental criteria for products, services and works, based on a life-cycle approach and scientific evidence base.

Technical reports are available for each product group, outlining scope; technical characteristics; key environmental impacts during production, use phase and end of life of products; existing technologies; related legislation; market availability and cost considerations. Based on these reports, core and comprehensive criteria are developed for each product/service group. The core criteria can be applied with minimal effect on cost or verification effort, whereas the comprehensive criteria aim for the best environmental performance available. All documents undergo extensive external and internal consultation before the final GPP criteria are adopted.

GPP criteria follow the procurement process. They include definition of the subject matter, minimum technical or functional specifications, selection criteria related to the capacity of bidders to perform the contract, award criteria for the comparison of offers and contract performance clauses. They are translated into all official languages. Procurers are free to use the EU GPP criteria directly in tendering documents.

Criteria have been developed covering 18 product/service groups:



- Copying & graphic paper
- Cleaning products & services
- Office IT equipment
- Construction
- Transport
- Furniture
- Electricity
- Food & Catering services
- Textiles
- Gardening products & services
- Windows, Glazed Doors & Skylights
- Thermal insulation
- Hard floor-coverings
- Wall Panels
- Combine Heat & Power (CHP)
- Road construction & traffic signs
- Street lighting & traffic signals
- Mobile phones

Product sheets, technical reports and the *Buying Green!* handbook are all available on the GPP website: [ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp)

## Resources Available

A number of resources have been developed to assist public authorities in the implementation of GPP:

- Common GPP Criteria and Technical Reports covering 18 product and service groups;
- The *Buying Green!* Handbook on Environmental Public Procurement giving advice to purchasers on legal and practical aspects of GPP;
- A GPP Helpdesk to respond directly to stakeholders' enquiries;
- A News-Alert featuring the most recent news and events on GPP;
- A list of responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs);
- A glossary of key terms and concepts related to GPP;
- The [GPP website](#) with links to these resources plus studies, projects, videos, networks, national links, GPP examples, court cases and legal and policy background, training materials and documents for new criteria development.

## GPP Helpdesk



The purpose of the Helpdesk is to promote and disseminate information about GPP, and to provide timely and accurate answers to stakeholders' questions.

Questions may be submitted in English, French or German by e-mail to [gpp@biois.com](mailto:gpp@biois.com), by telephone to +33 1 53 90 11 75 or by letter to GPP Helpdesk, c/o BIO Intelligence Service, 20-22 Villa Deshayes - 75014 Paris, France

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