Monitoring and evaluating GPP programmes

The approach used to monitor and track implementation of GPP programmes can vary considerably depending on the programme’s objectives. For example, the objective could be to increase the institutionalisation of GPP or to purchase more green products, or the programme may focus on long-term results such as reducing environmental impacts or accelerating market transformation for sustainable products. The Guide uses examples from around the world to show the advantages, limitations, and possibilities associated with different systems.

The Guide is one of several resources produced under the SEAD Initiative to support policymakers as they develop and implement procurement programmes that will reduce energy demand and CO$_2$ emissions. Download the Guide here.

A webinar on M&E GPP will take place on 25 September 2013. Write to procurement@superefficient.org if you would like to participate.

‘Business case’ critical for taking GPP forward

How will Buy Smart+ contribute to GPP in the EU? Buy Smart+ aims to consolidate and mainstream GPP practices and to transfer knowledge from countries that have been involved in the forerunner project Buy Smart (Germany, Latvia, Italy, Sweden, Austria, France, Czech Republic and Slovenia) to new partners in Member States (MS) where GPP is at its early stages: Cyprus, Hungary, Romania, Lithuania, Greece, Croatia, and Bulgaria. GPP national helpdesks have been set up in all of the 15 participating countries. A wider uptake of GPP actions will be achieved through direct consultation and training of purchasers. Assistance will also be provided for piloting activities on GPP so that a critical mass of successful experiences will be achieved which will then be disseminated nationally and internationally.

What are the main hurdles for GPP in the partnering countries? One of the main barriers is that greener products are often expected to entail higher purchase costs (for instance, in construction or in street lighting projects), even though certain costs can be saved over product lifetimes. As investment budgets are limited in most of the MS, green criteria tend to be easily discarded. This issue becomes more significant in a day-to-day situation, where purchasing departments usually don’t profit from any cost savings achieved through the use or operation of products bought. Such circumstances don’t provide enough economic incentives to spend more in the beginning for acquiring a greener product. Budget rules should better reflect the financial benefits of such investments so that savings are then distributed more adequately.

To view the interview in full, click here.
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GPP examples

Green stationery supplies for the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium)

The idea behind this stationery framework contract was to allow all departments and agencies in the Brussels-Capital Region to access what they needed through an in-house store, which includes the supply of green products. The in-house store has 150 items that are kept permanently on stock; other items can be ordered via the framework contract using a catalogue. A 40% discount on the listed price is given to all orders made from organisations participating in the framework contract.

Numerous green criteria were incorporated into the tendering process – this included the subject matter, technical specifications and award criteria (40 percent weighting was given to environmental quality).

Following ten months of operation, the store has 27 associated organisations (including regional and municipal bodies) using it, out of a possible 57 organisations. The store has sold €190,000 worth of stationery until now and 56 percent of the items sold were green.

Download the full case study here.

Low carbon waste collection services in Bristol (UK)

The City of Bristol has recently been awarded the European Green Capital Award 2015 for a number of measures including consistently reducing CO₂ emissions since 2005. In 2011, Bristol let a service contract for the collection of municipal waste and winter road maintenance around the City including the provision of vehicles, staff and depots, road and footpath gritting, snow ploughing and communication with the public.

The market changed considerably throughout the previous ten year contract, so it was considered important to use the tender to drive economic and environmental improvements. Pre-qualified bidders participated in a competitive dialogue procedure to identify the best of a variety of approaches to improving recycling rates and reducing transport related emissions.

One aim of the contract was to reduce emissions by 720 tonnes per annum. The winning bidder offered CO₂ reduction of 32%, exceeding the Council’s target of 25%. Best estimates for carbon savings are currently 12% for the first year of the contract. Another objective was to increase recycling rates and the 50% target set by the City has been achieved a year ahead of schedule.

Download the full case study here.

To read more GPP examples, visit the GPP website. Previous News Alerts are available here.