



A CSR Europe Helpdesk Service for Epson

Sustainable Public Procurement

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Key Findings

- Governments in Europe are increasingly integrating social and environmental criteria into their tenders and contracts
- With a target of 50% Green Public Procurement in the EU by 2010, GPP is more advanced than Socially Responsible Public Procurement, but advances are made also in this area
- The best performing EU member states for GPP, the 'Green 7' (as of 2006) are:
 - Denmark
 - The United Kingdom
 - Austria
 - Finland
 - Germany
 - the Netherlands
 - Sweden
- Office IT is one of ten GPP priority product groups. Of these ten, levels of GPP for office IT are among the highest
- Sustainable Public Procurement is a core priority outlined in the Danish Action Plan for CSR (March 2008)
- The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has outlined a voluntary initiative to increase green public procurement over the next two years.
- The UK government is aiming to be a leader in public procurement given that the combined annual procurement budget of central and local government in the UK is £150bn a year.
- The UK's national Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) sets the goal that the UK should be one of the leaders in SPP within the EU by 2009. The main strategies and action plans that aim to deliver this ambitious goal are the "UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan", the strategy document "Transforming Government Procurement" and the "Sustainable Development Action Plans of individual government departments".

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Objective and Briefing

Epson has requested research into how it can successfully apply to EU and national tenders since it was noticed that when a tender was released, a number of CSR related conditions are requested. In this regard, Epson has specified:

1. Could you assess whether there is a minimum common CSR set of criteria which companies must meet to be able to be considered for an EU and national tender?
- (2) If Epson has not yet reached this min level of CSR conditions, what CSR activities need to be established by Epson?
- (3) In this regard, what kind of support/tools can CSR Europe provide for Epson to achieve this minimum level?

Due to the fact that each National Tender process differs depending on the member state, CSR Europe has agreed to provide an in-depth overview on sustainable public procurement at European Union level and two member states based on an initial research investigation (See Annex 5). Based on this research, CSR Europe identified two top member states in green public procurement to be Denmark and the United Kingdom.

Structure

The report is divided up into 4 chapters. Chapters 1 to 3 provide an in-depth state of the art of Sustainable Public Procurement in Europe, and describe how governments are increasingly making demands upon companies' social and environmental performance in tenders and contracts. Chapter 1 provides an insight into regulation and policy making at European level. Chapters 2 and 3 then go deeper into SPP in Denmark and the United Kingdom. Chapter 4 summarises how CSR Europe membership allows Epson to further enhance its CSR performance.

SPP at European level

Public procurement is the process used by governments, regional and local public authorities or bodies governed by public law (financed, supervised or managed for more than 50% by public authorities) to obtain goods and services with taxpayer money. For many years, the single most important indicator in the practice of public purchasing was the economic factor. Environmental and social factors were seldom if ever taken into account. However, the importance of non-economic factors in public procurement increased significantly with the development of the concept of sustainable development, understood as ***'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'***.

The crucial milestone for the development of Sustainable Public Procurement in Europe was the [Gothenburg European Council](#) (June 2001) and the adoption of the [EU Sustainable Development Strategy](#). The philosophy of this strategy is that economic, social and environmental objectives could be pursued simultaneously adding an environmental dimension to the [Lisbon Process](#), launched in March 2000. (In the Lisbon Strategy, the EU aims to become *'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion'* by 2010.)

The legal basis for public procurement within European Union Directives is in the Procurement Directives [2004/17/EC](#) and [2004/18/EC](#). Detailed rules for public procurement have been established both at national and European level to ensure best value for money, equal treatment of bidders, and transparency of specifications and criteria. 'Best value' in this sense can mean best prize, best quality, best aesthetic value, etc. But it also increasingly includes best environmental and social value.

The three pillars of Sustainable Development



Public Procurement spending amounts to as much as 16% of the EU's gross domestic product, which is a sum equivalent to the GDP of Germany. This purchasing power can have a significant impact on the market by influencing the suppliers and setting an example for private procurements. Through adopting the principles of sustainable development to the public procurement procedures, public authorities can provide the industry with incentives to develop new and better technologies and encourage sustainable patterns of behavior.

Sustainable Public Procurement

Sustainable Public Procurement means that contracting authorities take into account **all three pillars** of sustainable development when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project.

Green Public Procurement

Green Public Procurement means that contracting authorities take into account **environmental elements** when procuring goods, services or works at all stages of the project and within the entire life-cycle of procured goods.

Practical differences

The relevance and practical application of the **environmental** aspects of a public procurement can be demonstrated rather easily. Green requirements can be specified in the technical demands for the production technology and the selection of materials. Performance and quality standards included in the technical specification can be easily defined and introduced at any stage of the procurement process. In most cases, environmental requirements related to the production process or the product itself are relevant to characterise a product and can hence be used to describe it in the tender documents of a public tender.

The relevance and specification of **social and ethical** aspects of sustainable procurement is much more difficult to demonstrate as it is often difficult to demonstrate their effect on the characterization of the final product.

Additional problems arise in terms of objective verification and quantitative benchmarking of effects and benefits that would allow for accurate and fair evaluation of tenders.

Related EU policies

- [Communication on Integrated Product Policy](#) (2003)
- [Environmental Technologies Action Plan \(ETAP\)](#) (2004)
- [Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan](#) (2008)
- [Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (2006)
- [EU eco-label](#) (2000)
- [Eco-Management and Audit Scheme](#) (1995, in revision in 2008)
- [EU regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals / REACH](#) (2007)

1.1 Green Public Procurement

Policies and targets

In its [2008 Green Public Procurement Communication](#), the European Commission defines Green Public Procurement as: "...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." The Communication outlines voluntary government action on GPP, but at the same time it also

invites the Council to support ongoing work aimed at proposing complementary mandatory measures to ensure harmonised development of GPP criteria and targets to maximize political support for GPP. The aforementioned directives [2004/17/EC](#) and [2004/18/EC](#) explain a broad range of issues connected to Green Public Procurement. The respective elements are clarified in detail for public procurers in [Buying green! A Handbook on environmental public procurement](#) (2004).

The [Sustainable Production and Consumption and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan](#) has concluded that to overcome potential market fragmentation as a result of diverging criteria and to further the uptake of energy and environmentally performing products, the Labelling Directive will establish a harmonised base for public procurement and incentives provided by the EU and its Member States. Concerning public procurement, the implementing measures under the Labelling Directive will identify one of the labelling classes as a level below which public authorities would not be allowed to procure. This level will be set according to the outcome of impact assessments for relevant product groups, for which setting such a level would significantly contribute to tapping economies of scale and to encouraging innovation. The level would correspond to the performance class that maximises the potential of public procurement to stimulate the market towards more energy efficient, environmentally friendly products.

The European Commission and member states recognise a number of **benefits related to GPP**:

Environmental benefits

- Achieves environmental targets thanks to the financial power of public authorities
- Sets an example which eventually leads to change in neighbouring communities and among private consumers
- Raises awareness of environmental issues locally

Economic benefits

- Increases competition and reduces prices in the field of environmental technologies
- Provides incentives to industry – especially SMEs – to develop 'green' technologies and promote them in the market place
- Saves money and resources when the life-cycle cost of products is considered

GPP benefits in the 'Green 7'

- An average reduction of CO2 emissions of 25% in 2006/2007
- In the UK, GPP reduced costs of procurement by 5.7%

Source: Significant, Ecofys & PWC - GPP in the EU (Jan '09)

Social / health benefits

- Improves the quality of life – especially for local communities
- Produces widely recognised high quality standards of products and services

Political benefits

- Results in the public endorsement and approval of environmental protection policies and those behind such initiatives

EU leaders adopted a **target for GPP** under the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy in 2006, stating that, by 2010, the average level of GPP should be the same as the level of the best performing Member States at the time (2006). A recent study of GPP performance across EU Member States has provided the Commission with clear indications on current levels of GPP in the best performing Member States, which provides the

The target set for EU member states is **50% Green Public Procurement by 2010.**

'Green 7' - Best performing states (2006):

- Austria
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- the Netherlands
- Sweden
- The UK

baseline for the above target. As a result, the Commission proposes that, by 2010, 50 % of all tendering procedures should be "green". This means they must comply with endorsed common GPP criteria.

The Commission is currently developing a method for **calculating exact levels of GPP**. The target will be measured against both the number and value of green contracts compared to the overall number and value of contracts concluded in the sectors for which common GPP criteria have been identified. The method will be implemented in the best performing Member States. In

2010, a new EU wide survey will be carried out, and Member States are expected to endorse the common GPP criteria that are being developed and to implement these in their national action plans and guidance on Green Public Procurement.

10 priority sectors for GPP have been identified:

1. Construction
2. Food and catering services
3. Transport and transport services
4. Energy
5. Office machinery and computers
6. Clothing, uniforms and other textiles
7. Paper and printing services
8. Furniture
9. Cleaning products and services
10. Equipment used in health sector

GPP criteria for each of these are available online (latest update March '09): http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/toolkit_en.htm. See also annex 1 for an example of GPP criteria for imaging equipment.

The EC favours a **life-cycle approach to GPP**, assessing the whole cost of a contract:

- Purchase and all associated costs (delivery, installation, commissioning, etc)
- Operating costs, including energy, spares, maintenance
- End-of-life costs, such as decommissioning and removal

GPP process step-by-step

I) What is needed? - The 'subject matter' and the technical specifications

1) **'Subject matter'**: definition includes 'green element'.

Example: A contracting authority states in the contract notice that it seeks to buy ecologically grown foodstuff.

2) **Technical specifications**: product, service or work requirements include environmental performance standards/environmentally friendly production methods. These will focus on environmental impacts throughout the life-cycle of a product or service.

Example: Manufacturing might be environmentally sound, while use and disposal might pose environmental problems.

The new Public Procurement Directives explicitly state that performance or functional requirements can be taken from specifications of European, international and national eco-labels, provided a series of conditions are met: the criteria have to be appropriate for defining the characteristics of the product, and the eco-label criteria must have been established through stakeholder consultation and on the basis of scientific information and the schemes have to be accessible to everyone (non discriminatory).

Example: A purchasing authority needs to buy copying paper and makes use of the technical specifications for copying paper established for the European eco-labelling scheme [EU Flower](#).

The purchasing authority can decide to recognise the corresponding eco-label as proof of compliance, but it also has to accept other means of proof of compliance with the specifications, such as, for instance, a technical dossier of the manufacturer. Authorities can therefore never require tenderers to be registered under an eco-labeling scheme, because that would be discriminatory.

II) How are suitable tenderers selected? - GPP exclusion and selection criteria

The grounds for exclusion relate to the person of the bidder and not to the performance of the contract: they concern for instance its compliance with tax and social security legislation, its good (non criminal) behavior and so forth. These exclusion criteria offer few possibilities for including an environmental element. Where national law contains provisions to that effect, a purchasing officer could mention that it will exclude bidders who have been convicted by a final judgment (or a decision having equivalent effect) for non compliance with environmental legislation when exercising their profession.

The proper selection criteria on the other hand, which are aimed at assessing the financial and technical capacity of bidders, can also include requirements related to the capacity to execute a contract which includes consideration of certain environmental requirements.

Example: Authorities awarding a waste treatment contract can insist that bidders demonstrate their capacity to use environmentally sound waste treatment methods.

In certain service or works contracts, the contracting authority can even ask from bidders that they demonstrate their capacity to apply **environmental management measures** for the

duration of a service contract. In such cases, registration under the **EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)**, or under a comparable environmental management scheme (for example **ISO 14001**), should be recognized as sufficient proof of compliance. However, registration under an environmental management schemes is not the only possible means of proof, contracting authorities shall also accept other evidence of equivalent environmental management measures from economic operators.

However, **this possibility does not exist for supply contracts**, because for supply contracts, the performance of the contract is limited to the supply of the goods, which in principle does not involve any environmental management measures. Registration under an environmental management scheme may say something about the general environmental performance of the company, but not necessarily about the environmentally sound characteristics of the products that are the subject of the tender.

III) Selecting the bid offering the 'best value for money' - The award criteria

Either a purchasing officer can choose the bid offering the lowest price, or he can choose 'the economically most advantageous offer'. In the latter case, he will apply a series of award criteria, including the price, which will allow him to choose the bid offering best value for money. The criteria against which the value will be measured may contain **environmental sub-criteria**. This enables contracting authorities to integrate environmental aspects even in this last stage of the procurement process.

Award criteria have to be clear and objectively verifiable. This precondition enables bidders to present balanced offers and allows contracting authorities to verify and compare bids on an objective basis.

Example: A contracting authority purchasing electricity may award extra points to a bidder who is able to prove that 20 % of the electricity supplied is from renewable energy sources.

IV) Ensuring an environmentally sound execution of the contract - Performance clauses

Performance clauses of a contract may also include environmental considerations. Acceptable environmental clauses must be non-discriminatory, objectively verifiable, and must not be disguised technical specifications or selection criteria. They also have to be known to bidders from the beginning of the procurement procedure, and all bidders should in principle be able to comply with them after conclusion of the contract.

Bad example: It would not be permissible to ask the successful bidder to be registered under an environmental management scheme, because such registration would take a very long time. Not all bidders would, at the time of the offer and conclusion of the contract, be able to comply with that requirement.

Good example: One possible environmental contract clause might be to ask that the successful bidder transports the goods supplied by rail and not by truck.

More information: [Buying green!](#) A Handbook on environmental public procurement (2004)

Imaging equipment awarding criteria (printers, copiers, MFDs, scanners)

Core criteria:

- Requirement for a duplexing function (criteria based on Nordic Swan and Blue Angel ecolabels)
- Energy consumption (criteria based on ENERGY STAR or Blue Angel requirements)
- Availability of spare parts

Comprehensive criteria:

- Noise emissions
- Disassembly of equipment
- Use of flame retardants with certain risk-phrases (carcinogenic, mutagenic, or harmful to reproduction) in plastic parts

(Both Nordic Swan and Blue Angel labels may be used to prove compliance with the comprehensive criteria)

Of the ten GPP product groups, **levels of GPP are highest for office IT, electricity and furniture.**

Source: Significant, Ecofys & PWC - GPP in the EU (Jan '09)

Valuing award criteria:

Contracting authorities are advised in the GPP Guide to indicate in the contract notice and tender documents how many additional points will be awarded for each award criterion. Environmental award criteria should, altogether, account for at least 10 to 15% of the total points available for the tender to count as GPP.

See annex 1 for more detailed information on GPP for imaging equipment.

1.2 Socially Responsible Public Procurement

In addition to green criteria, the European Commission also stresses how governments can set an example and positively influence the marketplace by promoting socially responsible public procurement (SRPP). The EC has commissioned a study on proposed elements for the incorporation of [Social Considerations in Public Procurement in the EU](#). The study serves as a draft for a '**Guide for public authorities to taking into account of social considerations in public procurement**', following the example of the GPP Handbook (2004). The Guide is to be launched late summer/autumn 2009 and is currently under review by selected stakeholders, among which also CSR Europe.

The study, published in July 2008, defines Socially Responsible Public Procurement (SRPP) as *"operations that take into consideration, inter alia, the promotion of employment opportunities, build-in safeguards with respect to the standards of working conditions, strive to support social inclusion (including persons with disabilities), social economy and SMEs, promote equal opportunities and "accessibility and design for all", take into account Fair and Ethical Trade issues as well as human and labor rights and seek to achieve wider voluntary adherence to CSR while observing the principles of the EU treaty and the EU Procurement Directives."*

In October 2009, CSR Europe and DG Employment & Social Affairs will organise an **SPP workshop for public and private procurers.**

More information: contact cd@csreurope.org

Contracting authorities can award contracts to the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT). MEAT criteria as per the 2004 Public Procurement Directives include: quality, price, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, social characteristics, running costs, cost-effectiveness, after-sales service and technical assistance, delivery date and delivery period, and period of completion. For example it would be possible to include accessibility criteria in the purchase of goods and services so that they can be used by a larger part of the population, as this is more economical than having to provide alternative assistive solutions for persons with disabilities. Various weighting techniques are applied to determine the best offer.

Examples of advised social considerations advised for awarding contracts:

- Promoting "Employment Opportunities":
 - promotion of youth employment
 - promotion of gender balance
 - promotion of employment of persons from disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities, religious groups, gay and lesbian people)
 - promotion of employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed
 - promotion of employment for old-age unemployed (older workers)
 - promotion of on the job skill development programs including for persons with disabilities
 - promotion of inclusive and accessible work environments.

- Promoting "Decent Work":
 - Respect of Core Labor Standards (ILO conventions)
 - Decent Pay
 - Occupational Safety and Health
 - Social dialogue
 - Access to training
 - Access to basic social protection
 - Gender Equality

- Supporting Social Inclusion through Promoting Social Economy Organizations, e.g.:
 - Equal access to procurement opportunities of firms owned by or employing persons from ethnic/minority groups, for example from cooperatives, social enterprises, and non-profit organizations
 - **For large organizations, require them to address supplier diversity by providing equality of opportunity to diverse suppliers as subcontractors, and by promoting equality and diversity practices.**
 - access to employment for persons with special needs to enhance their employability to secure decent work
 - promoting supportive employment for persons with disabilities

- Promoting “Accessibility and Design for All”, e.g.:
 - Mandatory provisions in technical specifications to ensure access by persons with disabilities to, e.g. public services, public buildings, public transport, public information, ICT goods and services including web based applications. The key issue is to buy goods and services that are accessible to all.

As governments start to include social elements in their contract award criteria, the draft guide advises them to adopt a step-by-step approach, starting with e.g. 1) a specific social problem such as fair wages/health and safety, and/or 2) specific products (e.g. fleets) or services (i.e. cleaning services) that have a high use of vulnerable workers (from ethnic minorities and women).

Four approaches to SRPP

As per the guide, governmental authorities may apply four different (and at times complementary) approaches to SRPP:

- 1) Including **social criteria in the subject matter of the contract itself**.

Examples

- Require compliance with certain ergonomic characteristics for products, in order to ensure access for all categories of users, including disabled people
- Requiring, in a contract for works, measures to avoid accident at work and specific conditions for storage of dangerous products in order to preserve the health and safety of workers
- In order to e.g. exclude products of exploitative child labour from procurement, an authority **cannot** require that products carry a specific certification, seal or label. However, it can incorporate sustainability criteria in the technical specifications, and suggest a certain type of certification (i.e. a Transfair Seal) which would be accepted as proof of compliance with the criteria, as long as other means of proof of compliance are also allowed.
- Asking potential bidders to submit socially responsible variants, along with a neutral offer (with identical technical specifications)

- 2) Prohibiting government contracts if there has been **previous wrongdoing**

Examples

- Exclusion on the grounds of previous failure to comply with national legislation prohibiting the employment of clandestine workers or with national rules regarding security at work.

- 3) Get tenderers to **commit to social standards**
- 4) Focus on stage after the contract is awarded: requiring whoever wins the contract to **comply with certain conditions in carrying out the contract.**

Examples

- Contracts may contain a clause obliging contractors to follow certain conventions when executing the contract, e.g. ILO or UN conventions, and to report/verify that goods and products used in the performance of the contract have been produced in a safe environment according to the rules in the conventions mentioned (supply chain & sub contractors). A penalty could be payable for any breach of these social obligations by the contractor.
- Social considerations in contract performance clauses can include:
 - Favouring on-site vocational training
 - Employment of people experiencing particular difficulty in achieving integration
 - Recruiting/training long-term job seekers, young people, handicapped people
 - Compliance with ILO core conventions

2 Sustainable Public Procurement in Denmark

The Danish public sector buys goods totally DKK 140bn. every year¹. As like most countries, Denmark sees this as an opportunity to promote sustainable public procurement, which would take into account both the social and environmental risks associated with the production, selling and distribution of products through the entire supply chain.

As you can see from the historical timeline, Denmark has primarily focused on the promotion of green public procurement. As part of the Danish Finance Act for 2007, DKK 2 million were earmarked in each of the years 2008 and 2009 to reinforce efforts to enhance green public procurement. As a result, The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has prepared a comprehensive Action Plan to be achieved by the end of 2009.

However, Denmark sees the creation of a true sustainable public procurement policy, which combines the green environmental policy guidelines with the social and ethical aspects of public procurement as a worthwhile challenge. As part of the **Danish Action Plan for CSR released in May 2008**

(http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2008_06_11/Action_plan_CSR.pdf), the Danish government has committed to include CSR within its state procurement policy. The Danish government has already made progress with the guide created by the government in 2000, which provides examples and case studies on how social clauses can be written into the actual contract in connection with public procurement. Additionally the Danish government participates in the European Public Procurement Network and as part of an informal sustainable public procurement working group organized by the Dutch government to better understand the activities, interests and challenges of Europe's leading green public procurement countries.

Denmark's Green Public Procurement Timeline

<u>1991</u>	Danish Law on environmental protection
<u>1994</u>	Action Plan on green public procurement
<u>1995</u>	Departmental Circular on Environmental and Energy Considerations in relation to Public Procurement
<u>1998</u>	Voluntary agreement with counties and municipalities
<u>2003</u>	Panel for professional environment-conscious buyers
<u>2005</u>	Departmental Circular on Energy Efficiency in State Institutions
<u>2006</u>	Partnership with three largest municipalities
<u>2007</u>	Danish Finance Act requirements for 2008/09
<u>2008/09</u>	Danish Environmental Protection Agency new Action Plan for green public procurement

2.1 Green Public Procurement in Denmark

Danish Environmental Protection Agency Action Plan

Through a voluntary initiative to increase green public procurement over the next two years, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency has prioritized several initiatives that can be classified under the following seven themes ²:

1. Partnership for green public procurement, including green procurement by the central government

¹ "Strengthened efforts to enhance green procurement in 2008-2009", Reference: J.no. MST-103-00080, received in an email dated April 29, 2009 from Line Bech, Miljøministeriet

² "Strengthened efforts to enhance green procurement in 2008-2009", Reference: J.no. MST-103-00080, received in an email dated April 29, 2009 from Line Bech, Miljøministeriet

2. Communication and awareness
3. Tools for green procurement
4. Enhancement of private professional procurement
5. Innovation-promoting procurement
6. Green procurement by hospitals
7. European and Nordic cooperation on green procurement

The readers feel that Epson is most likely interested in the themes numbering 2, 4 and 5 which have been included below for your reference. For further information or to get involved, please contact the Environmental Protection Agency (see Annex 4)

#2 Communication and awareness

Eco-labels - a shortcut to green procurement

Together with the organisation Ecolabelling Denmark, the Environmental Protection Agency will help disseminate knowledge on how the Flower and Swan eco-labels can be used by professional buyers as a shortcut to green procurement. In the private sector in particular, it is likely that there are unutilised potentials for the demand for eco-labelled products and environmental requirements in connection with procurement.

#4 Strengthening of private professional procurement

Dialogue with private enterprises on environmental requirements

The Ministry of the Environment wants to support green procurement in the private sector, primarily within product groups similar to those procured by the public sector, the so-called operational procurement such as IT equipment, paper, office equipment and detergents. There is a need to disseminate knowledge about the tools developed for public buyers, but which may be appropriate for private buyers.

In cooperation with relevant players, the Environmental Protection Agency will indicate relevant efforts aimed at private professional buyers (business-to-business procurement). These efforts build further on the dialogue the Ministry of the Environment has had with the financial sector in connection with the sustainability strategy.

#5 Procurement - an engine for green product development

Innovation-promoting procurement

The philosophy behind "Innovation-promoting procurement" (also called "Teknik-upphandling" in the Nordic countries) is that buyers and producers work together to develop products or technologies which do not yet exist, but for which buyers/users of the product sense there is a demand. In this way buyers' knowledge and networks are involved as input for user-driven product innovation.

The Environmental Protection Agency's goal is to initiate further examination of the area. The goal is to gain experience of how users and buyers can work together on product innovation across the product chain and develop the environmental aspects of products.

“Green IT” Action Plan”

Focus area 1: Greener IT use³

Initiative 1: Corporate IT use must become greener

In the future, environmental consideration will become an integrated aspect of the social responsibility of private companies to a far greater extent than is presently the case. Green IT can therefore counteract red figures on the bottom line. In order to support this development, a catalogue is being compiled that will consist of best practices and good advice about greener IT solutions for companies.

Initiative 2: Green IT information campaign

Children and young people are frequent users of new technology and the consumers of the future. It is therefore important to ensure the spreading of knowledge about the significance of ‘energy-correct’ technology and behavior. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will launch an information campaign for children and young people about Green IT in order to set focus on Green IT use.

Initiative 3: Guidelines for Green IT for public authorities

The Danish Electricity Saving Trust (Elsparefonden) assesses that DKK 4 million can be saved daily if the public sector adopts more resource-conscious electricity consumption.² In cooperation with the other ministries, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will develop guidelines to help the ministries to establish requirements for Green IT-solutions.

Initiative 4: Knowledge base for energy- and CO₂ calculation

An overview of calculators for energy consumption and CO₂ emissions from the use of IT will be compiled, which will enable everyone – ordinary citizens, companies and authorities alike – to easily gain access to information about the extent of their IT-related energy consumption and thereby how much CO₂ is produced as a result of IT use. The overview will be made available via the Internet.

IT is simultaneously part of the solution. The Action Plan includes the following initiatives, which are to contribute to **strengthening the development and use of innovative IT solutions for the reduction of energy consumption.**

Focus area 2: IT solutions for a sustainable future

Initiative 5: Green IT research funding

There is a need for research projects promoting the development of energy-friendly IT solutions capable of helping solve problems with total CO₂ emissions. In 2008, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has allocated DKK 36 million for research in Green IT, pervasive computing and eGovernment.

³ (April 10, 2009) http://www.itst.dk/filer/Publications/Action_plan_for_Green_IT_in_Denmark/index.htm

Initiative 6: Export of Green IT know-how and technology

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation is establishing an export campaign for expertise and technology related to Green IT. This initiative is being developed in collaboration with the IT sector and Danish innovation centers abroad. It will particularly focus on opportunities for the export of green technology to the new growth centers in Asia.

Initiative 7: International conference on Green IT

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will place Green IT on the agenda. In the first half of 2009, an international conference on Green IT will therefore be arranged. The conference is aimed at contributing to the setting of the agenda and promoting the sharing of knowledge about relevant opinions and initiatives.

Green IT is very much a question of **changing one's own behavior**. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will take the lead and set greener IT solutions on the agenda in all aspects of the ministerial activities.

Initiative 8: Green IT in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

Through a number of concrete measures, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation will be a pioneering authority in Green IT. The initiative is to help the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation reduce its consumption of electricity by at least 10 per cent.

2.2 Green Public Procurement - Tender Example and Tools

Office Machine Tender Example – National Procurement Ltd. (SKI)

National Procurement Ltd. (SKI) (<http://www.ski.dk/Sider/default.aspx>) supplied us with the latest tender that they have carried out on Information Technology (IT) equipment (as of April 27th, 2009). The tender contains the latest environmental minimum requirements and award criteria. An example of the provided tender (in Danish) and an unofficial translated version (in English) can be found in Annex 2.

Some **highlights from the tender criteria** include:

1. The machines energy consumption must comply with the *Elsparefondens* buying guide or the **Energy Star label** – this counts for all machines on the contract.
2. Bidder must be part of the registered **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)** system.
4. Packaging must be **free of PVC**.
3. The machine must be **easily recyclable**, which means it is built up of modules that can be **dismantled easily** and **without special tools** (gluing and welding of different types of materials is avoided).
5. If the supplier meets the **eco-label options** (Nordic Swan, Blue Angel or the Eco-Mark Program), then this is the **only Award Criteria** necessary.

Ecotools quick guide

Elsparefondens Buying Guide (<http://www.elsparefonden.dk/>)

Energy Star Label (<http://www.energystar.gov/>)

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/weee/index_en.htm)

EU legislation restricting the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electric equipment and promoting the collection and recycling of such equipment practices

Nordic Eco-label "The Swan" (<http://www.svanen.nu/Default.aspx?tabName=applying&menuItemID=7077>)

(1989) The Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a common, official environmental label, which is known as "The Swan"

Japan's Eco-label "The Eco-Mark Program" (<http://www.ecomark.jp/english/nintei.html>)

This program, which the Japan Environment Association undertakes, is managed in accordance with the standard and principle (ISO 14020 - An environmental label and declaration, a general principle, ISO 14024 - An environmental label and declaration, a type I environmental-label display, a principle and procedure) of International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

Germany's Eco-label "The Blue Angel" (http://www.blauer-engel.de/en/products_brands/search_products/search_for_products.php)

(1978) The German Federal Minister of the Interior created the Blue Angel, which is the first and oldest environment-related label for products and services in the world.

European Union's Eco-label "The Flower" (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm)

The EU Eco-label "The Flower" is an official European recognition of the ecological quality of a product.

Office Supply Tender Example – Green Tender Tool

Denmark has created a **Green Tender Tool** (in Danish) available at: <http://www.gronindkobsportal.dk>, that helps you **formulate requirements specifications and environmental criteria** as well as any environmental clauses in a contract business. This tool currently offers **twelve product groups** that each contain environmental considerations and contract text that could be included directly in a tender and are taken from the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental guidelines, where there is a detailed justification for these environmental concerns.

Example: Environmental considerations for the purchase of office supplies

There are two sets of proposals - with and without absolute environmental requirements. In both examples, there are proposals to set environmental criteria. There are several brands that would fulfill the most stringent proposal with the absolute environmental requirements. If the government chooses not to set environmental requirements specification, it means that there is no absolute requirement that bidders must certify that they can meet. Tenderers may instead compete in the environment for the bid submission.

Some **highlights from the tender criteria** include:

Product Groups

1. Detergents
2. Laundry Service
3. Desktops
4. Nappies
5. Cars
6. Office supplies
7. Light sources
8. Paints
9. White
10. Beds
11. Textiles and mattresses
12. Working Kitler
13. Other

1. Offered binders, binders and magazine packs of plastic must be free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

2. Have the requirements for **Nordic Swan** eco-label or **the Flower** (see box above) requirements been met?

- Can pens and fountain pens be refilled?
- Is the ink in the ink and mark free of chlorinated compounds?
- Is the ink in the ink and mark free of aromatic compounds?
- Are office supplies free of nickel?

3. Any documentation relating to eco-labeling can be formulated as follows:

Evidence of the responses on the Flower and Swan will be done by evidence obtained Flower eco-label and / or Swan, or equivalent documentation in the form of test results from agencies accredited under the standards of EN 45 000 series or equivalent international standards (to be used the same test methods as required in the eco-label criteria).

2.3 Social Public Procurement in Denmark

As part of Denmark's Action Plan for CSR, the government wants to integrate social considerations into the state public procurement policy. The government has outlined three initiatives aimed at integrating and adopting CSR into its public procurement policy, which include:

1. Ensure that in future joint state supply contracts will systematically embed requirements for social responsibility as articulated in the conventions that provide the foundation for the UN Global Compact.
2. Ensure that all state procurement officers can access the guidelines for embedding social responsibility
3. Open up dialogue with local authorities and regions with a view to disseminating experience in embedding social responsibility in their areas

What does that practically mean for Epson?

The conventions that provided the foundation for the UN Global Compact include the basic (eight) ILO conventions and human rights agreement. Epson should identify how its corporate strategy and work ethic comply with these conventions.

Fundamental ILO Conventions

(http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/InternationalLabourStandards/Introduction/ConventionsandRecommendations/lang--en/index.htm)

Eight ILO Conventions have been identified by the ILO's Governing Body as being fundamental to the rights of people at work, irrespective of levels of development of individual member states. They include:

1. [Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#)
2. [Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 \(No. 98\)](#)
3. [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#)
4. [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#)
5. [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#)
6. [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#)
7. [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#)
8. [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#)
9. [Table of ratifications of the fundamental conventions](#)

Having signed the UN Global Compact on July 16th, 2007, Seiko Epson Corporation could potentially use its mandatory yearly Communication on Progress to fulfill this requirement (http://www.unglobalcompact.org/ParticipantsAndStakeholders/search_participant.html?detail=Seiko+Epson+Corporation). To access further information on the UN Global Compact's ten principles: (<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>).

2.4 Social Public Procurement – Examples and Tools

In 2000, the Danish government created a guide on how social clauses can be written into the actual contract in connection with public procurement. This publication was a result of reviewing both the restrictions and conditions of both Danish and EU law. The guide is designed for those who produce the actual contract documents, but Epson can use this guide to find out how the Social clauses concrete can be described in a tender. The guide, which can be accessed here: <http://www.em.dk/publikationer/html/socklausuler/download/total.pdf> consists of three main sections:

1. Highly compressed version of the legal memorandum on social clauses, which underlies the proposed guidelines and examples
2. The Two main types of social clauses, their specific purposes and characteristics.

- Type I is aimed at integrating persons outside the labor market.
- Type II is to maintain people in employment and prevent degradation.

3. Eight examples, including concrete formulations of various types of social clauses.

The eight examples provide Epson with an example of how the Danish government can eventually impose social clauses into their tenders. They include:

Social Clause Examples

1. Requirement to recruit a number / proportion of employees on special terms.
2. Requirements to hire staff on special terms.
3. Requirement to recruit a number / proportion of workers with some unemployment period.
4. Requirement to recruit a number / proportion of employees from particular groups.
5. Requirement of a Racial Equality Policy.
6. Requirements on staff.
7. Requiring a health and safety policy.
8. Requiring that the company fills in parts of the Social Index.

Requirement #1 - Recruit a number / proportion of employees on special terms

Summary: The supplier must ensure [seek] to less than x per cent. of the posts / x positions are used to fulfill this contract filled by staff employed on special terms. For employees on special terms means anyone under 65 years with permanent restrictions on work that cannot gain or retain employment under normal conditions in the labor market.

Requirement #2 - To hire staff on special terms

Summary: The supplier undertakes to hire staff on special terms of the offered job. For employees on special terms means anyone under 65 years with permanent restrictions on work that cannot gain or retain employment under normal conditions in the labor market. The potential for rehabilitation to employment under normal conditions must be exhausted. Employees with special conditions are also workers from other EU countries which belong to a group of people who correspond to the above.

Requirement #3 - To recruit a number / proportion of workers with some unemployment period

Summary: The supplier must ensure [seek] to less than x per cent. of the posts / x positions are used to fulfill this contract, filled with workers who have been unemployed for more than x months in the last y years.

Requirement #4 - To recruit a number / proportion of employees from particular groups

Summary: The supplier must ensure [seek] to less than x per cent. of the posts / x positions are used to fulfill this contract, filled with people from specific groups. When staff from particular groups are workers who have been unemployed for more than x months in the last y years, and only difficult to obtain employment under normal terms and conditions agreed have limitations

in work or have experienced changes in their circumstances, e.g. in the form of illness, unemployment or marital termination, which means that they are unable to obtain the necessary for its own or family income.

Requirement #5 – Require a Racial Equality Policy

Summary: The supplier shall notify the supplier of the employees on the job offer has or will establish a [written] formulated policy to assimilate people of different ethnic origin. Gender policies should include hiring, firing, transfers, training, promotion, and wages and working conditions. It must at least cover the period of time it takes to perform the offered job. The supplier shall at originator's request, inform the entity of gender policy and its implementation.

Requirement #6 - Requirements on staff

Summary: The supplier must make to have or to adopt a personnel policy formulated for the recruitment of the offered job. Staff to promote inclusion and retention of these employees in the company. It must at least cover the period of time it takes to perform the offered job. The supplier shall at originator's request, inform the entity of staff and its implementation.

Requirement #7 – Require a health and safety policy

Summary: The supplier must make to have or to adopt a working formulated policies for the recruitment of the offered job. Safety and health policy must promote the working of the company. It must at least cover the period of time it takes to perform the offered job. The supplier shall at originator's request, inform the entity of OSH policy and its implementation.

Requirement #8 – Social Index compliance

Summary: The supplier shall, within x months of the start of the offered work with the staff of the task implementation process of answering questions 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 6.4, 6.5, 9.3, 10.5, 14.1, 15 (answered regarding job training, job and sheltered jobs) and 19.8 in the Social Index. The Social Index is a self-assessment tool for measuring a company's degree of social responsibility, focusing on employment and social inclusion policies. Managers as well as employees are presented with a number of statements with regard to CSR performance. The parties involved have then to agree on the company's score (the result is a number between 0 and 100). Repeating the process gives the company an opportunity to monitor the progress. The Danish Social Index can be obtained in Social Security.

2.5 Major players in Denmark's Green and Social Public Procurement Plans

Ministry of Finance (<http://uk.fm.dk/>)

Provide the Minister for Finance and the Government with the best possible decision-making basis upon which to implement sound economic decisions. Is currently working with the Ministry of Environment to establish environmental requirements in common procurement agreements for the central government

Ministry of Environment (<http://www.mim.dk/eng/>)

The Ministry of the Environment is in charge of administrative and research tasks in the area of environmental protection and planning. In Denmark the administration at state level is managed by the Ministry of the Environment.

Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (<http://en.vtu.dk/>)

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation is responsible for the following areas: Research, Information technology (IT), Innovation, Telecommunications, University educations. The Ministry handles tasks related to policies, administration, operation, coordination and interaction etc. in and between these areas.

Ministry of Trade (<http://www.ski.dk/Sider/default.aspx>)

Established the "Danish Public Procurement Portal on Social Clauses"

Danish Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.mst.dk/English/>)

The Danish EPA contributes to strategies for waste, environmental factors and health, and action plans on chemicals and eco-technology. The Danish EPA prepares the decision basis for the Minister for the Environment and executes the political decisions of the government and parliament

National Procurement Ltd. (SKI) (<http://www.ski.dk/Sider/default.aspx>)

SKI is jointly owned by the Local Government, an interest group for all local authorities and the Danish government via the Ministry of Finance. The main purpose of the organization is to gain economies of scale through carrying out public procurement through its members.

Danish Competition Authority (<http://www.ks.dk/en/>)

The Danish Competition Authority is responsible for the implementation and administration of the EU directives on public procurement. The Authority handles complaints and gives guidance in principal cases.

Elsparefonden (<http://www.elsparefonden.dk/>)

Elsparefonden is an independent state institution with its own Board under the Climate and Energy Ministry. Its mission is to generate electricity saving in Denmark.

The Public Procurement Network (PPN) (<http://www.publicprocurementnetwork.org/index.htm>)

The European PPN is a co-operation network of public procurement expert officials, dedicated to European companies taking part in procurement procedures in other countries of the network than theirs.

Ecolabeling Denmark (<http://www.ecolabel.dk/inenglish>)

Responsible for the two officially approved ecolabels in Denmark: The Nordic Eco-label and the Flower (European Eco Label)

Nordic Ecolabel (<http://www.svanen.nu/Default.aspx?tabName=StartPage&menuItemID=7055>)

The Nordic Ecolabel is the official ecolabel for the Nordic countries, introduced by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Nordic Ecolabelling has the comission to promote a more sustainable consumerism with the goal of creating a sustainable society.

National IT and Telecom (<http://en.itst.dk/>)

The National IT and Telecom Agency gathers and disseminates knowledge and shares experience in digital

administration. Has a "Green IT" action plan

3 Sustainable Public Procurement in the United Kingdom

The core standards to be met by public procurers are considered 'Quick Wins' but there are further Government's commitments and also the SOGE targets that do not affect to potential procurers such as Epson but do affect government's offices and departments alike.

The Sustainable Procurement Task Force' National Action Plan, launched 12 June 2006, was a report delivered to the UK Government. It gave recommendations on how the UK Government could successfully meet its target of being recognized as amongst the leaders in sustainable procurement across EU Member States by 2009. The National Action Plan on sustainable procurement endorsed by government on 5 March 2007 <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070305b.htm>

UK's Sustainable Public Procurement Timeline

- 2003 Sustainable Procurement Group created the Quick Wins
- 2005 Sustainable Development Strategy (Objectives to be met by 2009)
- 2006 Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan: 'Procuring the Future' Recommendations by the Sustainable Procurement Task Force (SPTF) + SOGE targets
- 2007 Sustainable Procurement Action Plan

Government departments are required to develop sustainable procurement strategies.

Guidelines: GPP Guidance at <http://www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk>. Information such as the regulatory framework, standards and timelines can be found on this website)

Local Initiatives & Websites: National Procurement Strategy for local governments sets a target for local government to practice sustainable procurement Commodity Sustainability Briefing Documents (Jan 03) by the Environment Agency DEFRA initiative including practical advice for buyers with over 40 product categories covered Sustainable Construction: practical guidance for planners and developers

The UK government is aiming to be a sustainability leader in public procurement. Given that the combined annual procurement budget of central and local government in the UK is £150bn a year, UK's responsibility towards sustainable development is high on the agenda. The European Union (EU) Procurement Directives, and the Regulations that implement them in the UK, set out the law on public procurement. The current Regulations came into force on 31 January 2006 to implement new procurement Directives. These Regulations (and Directives) clarify, simplify and update the previous regime and introduce a number of new provisions, detailed in paragraph 4 of the "Introduction of the EU Procurement Guidance" (updated March 2008. See Annex 3).

The Regulations can be viewed at Office of Government Commerce (OGC)'s website:

- Public authorities (the State, regional and local authorities and other public bodies) *The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No.5)*
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20060005_en.pdf
- Utilities (i.e. certain operators in the water, energy, transport sectors) *The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No.6)*
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/uksi_20060006_en.pdf

The UK has in place a comprehensive strategic framework on SPP. The UK's national Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) sets the goal that the UK should be one of the leaders in SPP within the EU by 2009. The main strategies and action plans that aim to deliver this ambitious goal are the "UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan", the strategy document "Transforming Government Procurement" and the SD Action Plans of individual government departments.

Informed by a report by the business-led Sustainable Procurement Task Force (Procuring the Future: Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan) and responding to the European Commission's communication on integrated production policy, the "UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan" (SPAP) was issued in March 2007. It is an overarching action plan which describes actions to be undertaken collectively by the central government and its departments. The SPAP is the key tool to assure that the UK will lead in SPP by 2009.

The strategy document "Transforming Government Procurement", issued by HM Treasury, focuses on building capacity and capability among procurement professionals and must be seen in close context of the SPAP. The document comprises two parts: Part one on 'setting the scene' offers an overview of general public procurement and the challenges to include SD as well as mapping out new structures for the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). Part two outlines how the SPP vision can be delivered through increased capacities.

The UK's national SD strategy also included the commitment that each government department will draw up its own departmental SD action plan by the end of 2005. These action plans specify what individual departments are to do in order to deliver the national SD strategy, including efforts for SPP.

The UK government efforts are directed to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of everything the Government does as pressures on the environment and the impacts of climate change are becoming clearer. In this regard, the implementation by HM Treasury of the recommendations of the Gershon Review of public sector efficiency set significant saving targets for central and local government of £20bn annual efficiency gains in 2007-08.

The Action Plan on Sustainable Procurement (April 2006), which is the UK's roadmap to the implementation of objectives set within the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, is meant to act as a real driver for action within central and local government by incorporating sustainability into procurement.

The **Environment Agency** or the **London Borough of Camden** already have very high standards of sustainable procurement in place and would like to do more, particularly when taking into account social issues.

The DEFRA Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate now sets requirements for departments on procurement but there is very little guidance available on how exactly to meet these requirements.

3.1 Green Public Procurement in the UK

In the UK where Government runs some of the world's largest computer systems they are aware of the essential element those are in the delivery of public services. However, the UK Government is also aware that progress comes with a price as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a major user of natural resources. As Britain's largest purchaser of ICT they

believe it is their responsibility to set an example by ensuring that the systems that facilitate the lives of millions of people do not also have a negative impact on the environment.

Therefore, UK Government has set ambitious goals and it is on an ongoing process of developing their Strategy to exceed the standards set by the European Union, the World Trade Organization and the ILO alike.

The **two overarching targets** are as follows:

Firstly, that the energy consumption of Government ICT on the office estate will be Carbon Neutral by 2012 (Targets on cutting greenhouse gas emissions – by 26% by 2020 and at least 60% by 2050). And that, by 2020, Government ICT will be carbon neutral across its lifecycle.

Alongside this, they have developed a list of actions they expect CIOs to implement within organizations. And a series of tools to help them keep track is being piloted across departments, and the results shared.

Regarding ICT, UK government is committed to allocating funds progressively as they believe the benefits green ICT can bring require great initial investments nor to mention a lifestyle change.

Greening Government ICT Strategy

The Government has launched **Greening Government ICT: Efficient, Sustainable, Responsible**. The UK is the first country in the world to set out a strategy for reducing the environmental impact of its computer systems. (http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/greening_government_ict.aspx)

The strategy sets the following objectives:

- By January 2009 all departments are to address and consider the impact on carbon emissions of all new ICT purchases, building on existing **mandatory "Quick Wins"** standards for certain aspects of sustainable ICT purchasing across government.
- The **SOGE targets** (Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate) state that Central Government's office estate will be Carbon Neutral by 2012. This will be supported by Government ICT in lowering the power consumption of equipment used, including outsourced contracts and services. ICT will also support the wider sustainability agenda and the SOGE targets, for example reducing emissions through changes in business processes and working practices, minimising transport and reducing waste through minimising paper use.
- By 2020 **Government is committed** to comply with and where possible lead and go beyond global best practice for sustainability across the whole ICT lifecycle. This will cover carbon neutrality and sustainable processes for use of materials, water, accommodation and transport, in the manufacture, use and disposal of ICT.
- Off-setting to be seen as a last resort and only through an accredited scheme in line with Defra's code of best practice.

The UK Government aims to achieve its goal of being amongst the EU leaders in sustainable procurement. Therefore new updated specifications are now **mandatory** for Information Communication Technology (ICT)-including monitors and desktops -. These are the so-called 'Quick Wins' which were established as a set of new criteria to support the **Cabinet Office Greening ICT Strategy**. Those requirements were signed off by the CESP (Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement) which will monitor compliance.

The Greening Government ICT strategy has been designed to set out the first steps for the UK Government to take to reduce its carbon footprint and therefore to reduce its environmental impact.

In general terms, UK Government has set a target for the central government office estate to achieve carbon neutrality by 2012. Work is ongoing with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to define Carbon Neutrality and how this can be delivered. The UK has an overarching target to reduce greenhouse gases by 26% or more by 2020 and by at least 60% by 2050. The current Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets were announced by the Prime Minister in 2006. They cover all central government departments and their executive agencies, including buildings and managed land. A summary can be found in Appendix A (see link below). In addition to the SOGE targets Government currently has sustainable operational commitments for its different departments.

Furthermore, the UK Government is planning on creating a new Director General post of Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO).

Also, find attach the link to the Cabinet Office Greening ICT Strategy to find out more on Greening Government ICT (the strategy) & Sustainable Procurement Action Plan by clicking on here: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/greening_government_ict.aspx

Greening ICT

Green ICT Strategic Objectives:

By January 2009 all departments are to consider the impact on carbon emissions of all new ICT purchases. Power consumption of equipment used will be lowered, including outsourced contracts and services. Emissions will also be reduced through changes in business processes and working practices, minimizing transport and minimizing paper use.

By 2020 Government aims to comply with and where possible lead global best practice for sustainability across the whole ICT lifecycle, covering carbon neutrality and sustainable use of materials, water, accommodation and transport in the manufacture, use and disposal of ICT.

Off-setting to be seen as a last resort.

This will be delivered by implementing actions such as:

- Extend the lifecycle of all ICT purchases to their natural demise caused by failure, inability to support business objectives, excessive maintenance costs or carbon footprint and energy consumption
- Reduce the overall number of PCs and laptops
- Implement active device power management
- Reduce the overall number of printers and replace with multifunction devices and use green printing defaults such as double-sided and multiple pages printing
- Increase average server capacity utilisation to achieve a minimum of 50% where possible.

By January 2009 all departments are to address and consider the impact on carbon emissions of all new ICT purchases, building on existing mandatory "Quick Wins⁴" standards for certain aspects of sustainable ICT purchasing across government.

As well as continuing adherence to the "Quick Wins" criteria, by January 2009 all procurement documentation must specify environmental criteria for ICT in line with advice being developed by the OGC Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement.

The 'Quick Wins' have been gathered by the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and are specifically designed for procurers. They are a set of sustainable specifications for a range of commonly-purchased products, such as IT equipment. The products assessed were chosen for their environmental / financial impact, scope for environmental improvement and political or example-setting function. 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' are comprised of both a set of **mandatory minimum standards** at the market average level **and best practice specifications**. 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' can assist providers of office machinery (such as Workstations, desktop computers, printers, scanners,...) to meet the targets set by governmental institutions.

Further guidance on this can be found on:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/index.htm>

<http://online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/bcm/sustainableolutions/quickwins/>

Progress to Date in the implementation of the Greening Government ICT strategy:

A Green ICT Delivery group has been established by the CIO Council to increase awareness of best practice for improving green ICT and to provide support and advice to departments in its implementation.

A Green ICT Scorecard that benchmarks organizational behavior, policy, governance, procurement, energy efficiency, labeling and disposals, in both internal and out-source structures is being piloted. This is one of a number of tools available for use, and a list of those available will be produced.

A CIO Green ICT SOGE map that shows where greening ICT can help meet SOGE targets has been developed.

A list of immediate steps has been developed to encourage the early implementation of some simple but high impact actions (Appendix B of the Greening Government ICT Strategy: Areas for ICT Carbon Reduction).

Other office ICT Equipment

8. Apply timer switches to non-networked technology and printers

- Not all ICT equipment can be networked and/or automatically shut down or put into standby mode – typically fax machines, printers and even legacy computers aren't networked. Neither do all such devices have automatic facilities to switch to a standby mode after a re-set time.

- Timer switches can be used to turn off such equipment automatically outside office hours saving up to 2/3rds of its daily energy consumption if currently left on 24hours a day.

9. Set default green printing including duplex and grey scale

- By reducing the amount you print you will save paper and energy.
- Further savings can be made by presetting duplex, booklet and grayscale defaults and using a "Print on collect" facility if provided.

10. Optimize power-saving sleep mode on printers

- Printers are only active for 263 hours/yr or 12 calendar days; so if on permanently they waste energy 97% of the time.
- If power saving is already in place – reduce the amount of time before sleep activated.

11. Printer consolidation

- Reducing the number of printers and replacing those left with networked multi-function devices (MFDs) e.g. combined printers/copiers, can significantly reduce energy consumption.
- Fewer printers may also lower maintenance and management costs.

12. Device consolidation

- Reducing the number of electronic devices an individual has will reduce in-direct energy requirements e.g. less support and maintenance.
- Move from using PC to laptop or Thin Client and remote access services on a home or other non-work device connected to the internet to access email.
- Rather than a mobile phone and a PDA (e.g. Blackberry), use a single integrated device and "follow-me" services
- Rather than having separate video conferencing equipment consolidating it into desktop devices may reduce energy consumption

Green Public Procurement: examples and tools

The 'Quick Wins' have been gathered by the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and are specifically designed for procurers. They are a set of sustainable specifications for a range of commonly-purchased products, such as IT equipment. The products assessed were chosen for their environmental / financial impact, scope for environmental improvement and political or example-setting function. 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' are comprised of both a set of mandatory minimum standards at the market average level and best practice specifications. 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' can assist providers of office machinery (such as Workstations, desktop computers, printers, scanners,...) to meet the targets set by governmental institutions. Further guidance on this can be found on:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/what/priority/consumption-production/quickWins/index.htm>

Example of Sustainable procurement criteria given by the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC) on requirements to be met when providing Central Governments Departments and executive agencies with office machinery such as printers and scanners can be found in Annex 3.

Quick Wins in Brief

3.1.1 What are Quick Wins?

'Quick Wins' originated from the Sustainable Procurement Group (SPG) report of April 2003. The list contains a number of categories across a wide range of commonly purchased products and identifies minimum environmental standards for each. If public sector procurers buy to these specifications, it is a 'Quick Win' in helping Departments meet these standards and produce savings for the environment.

Updated annually, and approved by Ministers, in order to become part of the Quick Wins list, a product needs to satisfy two main criteria:

- *it must reach, or exceed, a minimum environmental specification (identified through DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme)*
- *it must have proven value for money.*

3.1.2 Are they mandatory?

The initial 2003 Quick Wins were adopted by ministers as mandatory on all central government departments. Additional Quick Wins become mandatory as they are adopted.

3.1.3 Where can I find out more about what they are and how I can use them?

The Quick Wins are published annually on the UK Government's [Sustainable Development](#) web pages. The 2008 Quick Win standards may be accessed [here](#).

3.1.4 OGC Buying Solutions

[OGCbuying.solutions](#) is committed to:

- *Promoting the adopted Quick Wins Specifications*
- *Promoting the developing Quick Wins Specifications (QW'07, QW'08, etc)*
- *Providing easy direction to public procurers in obtaining the Quick Win products.*

[OGCbuying.solutions](#)'s role is to make things easier for public sector procurers to meet the Government commitment to Quick Wins. This was achieved by adding a 'where to find' indicator to the Quick Wins listing, pointing out a route to obtaining these products through a value for money process that had already been undertaken, signposting to contracts that already existed in the market place. Greenticks have been added to the website - making it easier for purchasers to identify and buy Quick Win compliant products.

The Buying Solutions Greenticks initiative was launched in 2009. A Greentick next to a product is the supplier's declaration that their product meets the specification set out in Buy Sustainable – Quick Wins. A list of Greentick products can be found on the Buying Solutions [website](#). Buying Solutions provide this function for suppliers to assist customers' buying decisions, and does not verify the correctness of Greenticks. Purchasers may wish to seek further evidence that the listed product complies with the relevant specification. More information on different types of environmental claims and labels can be found on Defra's [website](#).

3.2 Social Public Procurement in the UK:

The Office of Government Commerce created in 2008 the guide '*Buy and Make a Difference: How to Address Social issues in Public Procurement*'. The Guide states UK government interest in further integrate social considerations in their public purchases and can be accessed here:

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Public_Procurement.pdf

The Government is committed to improving the lives and work prospects of citizens and to taking actions on many fronts to support this commitment. For example, they want to create equality of opportunity for all and to work towards a world-class skills base by 2020.

This short guide, with examples, shows how social issues can be legitimately addressed within the policy and legal framework governing public procurement, information on which is at the end of the guide. The guide illustrates the positive steps that procurers can take at the various stages of the process.

For more detailed guidance, please refer to *Social Issues in Purchasing*:
http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Purchasing.pdf

For an overview of public procurement, see *Introduction to Public Procurement*:
http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Introduction_to_Public_Procurement.pdf

Public procurers must ensure that their procurement activities meet legal obligations under the public sector equality duties (relating to disability, gender and race equality). A separate practical guide on what these duties mean for public procurement will be published in due course.

Central Government has agreed a *Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting*, with trade unions and private and third sector employer organizations. Specific guidance on the implications of the Joint Statement for public procurers is currently being prepared.

The government is uniquely placed to drive innovation through the use of public procurement. Innovative approaches and solutions through public procurement can also be used to achieve social outcomes and objectives. For more information, please consult the OGC / DIUS publication *Finding and Procuring Innovative Solutions*.

Social considerations can be included in specifications where they are directly relevant to the subject matter of the contract.

Core requirements are essential parts of a contract, reflected in both the specifications and in the conditions of the contract. A social issue can be a core requirement and reflected in the specifications provided it is central to the subject of the procurement and consistent with the public procurement Regulations.

3.3 Social Public Procurement in the UK: examples and tools

The guide '*Buy and Make a Difference: How to Address Social issues in Public Procurement*' highlights a number of examples of how UK government departments integrate social issues in public procurement:

Example: Sustainable Procurement Policy

Contracting authority A has introduced a procurement policy which signals its commitment, among other things, to addressing diversity and fair employment practices through procurement, by taking appropriate action at each of the stages. Such policies have to be consistent with the legal framework governing public procurement, including relevance to individual procurements, as covered in detail in *Social Issues in Purchasing*.

Example: Workforce skills as a selection criterion

At selection stage, in assessing contractors' capability to deliver its contracts, public sector transport authority F uses skills criteria relevant to the subject of each contract, case by case. Potential suppliers who can't demonstrate the adequacy of their recruitment and training, which are relevant to the suppliers' technical or professional ability to deliver a contract in question, are excluded.

Example: Promoting contract opportunities across the business community

Contracting authority B engages with all sections of the business community pre-procurement. It advertises its contracting opportunities widely and circulates them to community groups to encourage participation, including from those businesses providing employment to significant numbers of women and BAME groups.

Example: Procuring an employment agency contract that requires measures to attract women

A local fire and emergency service procures an external agency to promote employment with the service and to carry out the initial stages of recruitment. Women are significantly under-represented at every level within the service. The specification requires the contractor to take various steps permitted under the Sex Discrimination Act to increase the proportion of applications from women.

3.4 Major Players in the UK's Green & Social Public Procurement Plans

The Office of Government Commerce (www.ogc.gov.uk)

The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) is an independent office of HM Treasury, established to help Government deliver best value from its spending and to assist government estate to deliver sustainable procurement and operations.

Buying Solutions (<http://online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/categories/ICT/>)

Buying Solutions is an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in the Treasury.

BERR Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (www.berr.gov.uk/)

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform sets the public sector's Sustainable Procurement Strategy. It is committed to ensuring that sustainability through procurement becomes embedded within the departmental culture.

The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport (<http://www.ciltuk.org.uk/pages/home>)

The institute formulates research and shares academic & professional views on the role of procurement in the supply-chain

Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) (<http://www.cips.org/>)

The Institute provides a programme of improvement in professional standards and raises awareness of the contribution that purchasing and supply makes to prosperity.

HM Treasury (<http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk>)

The Treasury is the United Kingdom's economics and finance ministry. It is responsible for formulating and implementing the Government's financial and economic policy. Its aim is to raise the rate of sustainable growth, and achieve rising prosperity and a better quality of life with economic and employment opportunities for all. Guide to Suppliers HM Treasury 's Terms & Conditions of Contracts: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_procurement_index.htm

Sustainable Procurement Information Network (SPIN) (<http://www.s-p-i-n.co.uk/index.asp>)

SPIN is the first and only website dedicated to supporting local authorities in their efforts to procure sustainably, and provides a 'one-stop' website containing the very best information relating to the sustainable procurement agenda.

Procurement Information Site of the Scottish Executive

(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/Procurement/current-tenders/contract-opportunities>)

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (www.defra.gov.uk)

Defra is a Government Department in the UK. The UK government's executive agency primarily responsible for ensuring environmental protection and sustainable development.

4 How CSR Europe can help

The previous chapters have highlighted the priority given by governments and the EU to sustainable development and the responsibility and accountability of businesses. Environmental and social performance and CSR is high on the agenda of both companies and policy makers. CSR Europe can assist Epson in the further development of its CSR policies and programmes:

Improve your CSR performance

Through CSR Europe membership, Epson has access to a number of working groups, tools, reports and expertise within a network of 75 multinational enterprises. Colleagues from Epson's national subsidiaries and various departments within the company have the opportunity to benefit from CSR Europe services, e.g. CSR, Public Affairs, Communications, HR, Environmental Affairs, Procurement, H&S, Investor Relations, etc. Epson has access to a range of services to further enhance its CSR expertise and performance:

- **Dedicated account manager** to support and advise you and **connect you with peers from other companies** within our network of 75 corporate members and 25 national partner organisations
- **Individual advisory services** – 2 days helpdesk credit annually for CSR report feedback, benchmark studies, trainings, etc.
- **Participate in working groups** – practical cooperation between companies (and stakeholders and policy makers) on specific CSR topics, e.g. CSR & the media, Wellbeing in the Workplace, Responsible Supply Chain, and many more.
www.csreurope.org/laboratories
www.csreurope.org/b2b
- **Get equipped with CSR Europe's Toolbox** – a collection of tools resulting from 20 CSR Laboratories, brought to members through:
 - The European Toolbox Roadshow: National workshops in cooperation with 25 national partner organisations throughout Europe. www.csreurope.org/toolbox
 - Toolbox Tuesday conference calls and webinars

- *Over 75% of members participating in Laboratories are very satisfied/satisfied with their engagement in Laboratories*
- *More than 40 helpdesk services delivered annually*
- *50 national Toolbox workshops across Europe in 2009*

Participate in the European policy debate on CSR

CSR Europe is a key partner for dialogue for the European institutions. For example, CSR Europe was asked to provide input into the EC's Draft Guide for Socially Responsible Public Procurement. It is also represented on the Steering Committee for the follow up of the European Multi-stakeholder Forum meeting of February 2009.

- CSR Europe is a key partner in the **European Alliance for CSR**: www.csreurope.org/alliance. As such, it secures spaces for its member companies in the bi-annual **European Multistakeholder Forum on CSR**
- CSR Europe helps members **engage directly with EU institutions**, through meetings with European Commissioners and Director Generals: e.g. DG Employment and Social Affairs, DG Enterprise, DG Education, DG Regio, DG

- *260 companies, business networks and business associations support the European Alliance for CSR*
- *80% of members are very satisfied or satisfied with the dial-in update sessions*

Development, DG Sanco, DG Environment relating to respective thematic areas of work.

- CSR Europe's network of National Partners helps members reach out to **national governments on their CSR policies**
- Regular **dial-in update sessions** are organised to inform members on latest and upcoming EU policy initiatives
- CSR Europe members have the opportunity to contribute and participate to **Responsible Enterprise 2020**, defining a concept and framework for CSR development that supports companies' move from risk to opportunity. 2020

Profile Epson's CSR engagement

- Present your company's key CSR initiatives at **CSR Europe MarketPlace events** www.csreurope.org/marketplace
- CSR Europe offers its members **speaking opportunities** at key events in Europe and beyond
- Receive the bi-weekly **Newsbundle** and profile your company's CSR activities to an audience of over 1,200 CSR practitioners and key stakeholders
- CSR Europe's **website**: access to **CSR best practices** and a range of **reports and publications** available for members
- Benefit from CSR Europe's members-only '**CSR Awards report**' (launch June '09): an overview of CSR Awards in Europe, complete with application procedures and deadlines

- 20,000 unique visitors every month at www.csreurope.org
- Over 600 participants at the third European MarketPlace event
- Over 20 reports available online for members only
- Over 85% of members are very satisfied or satisfied with CSR Europe's website and Newsbundle

Engage with key stakeholders

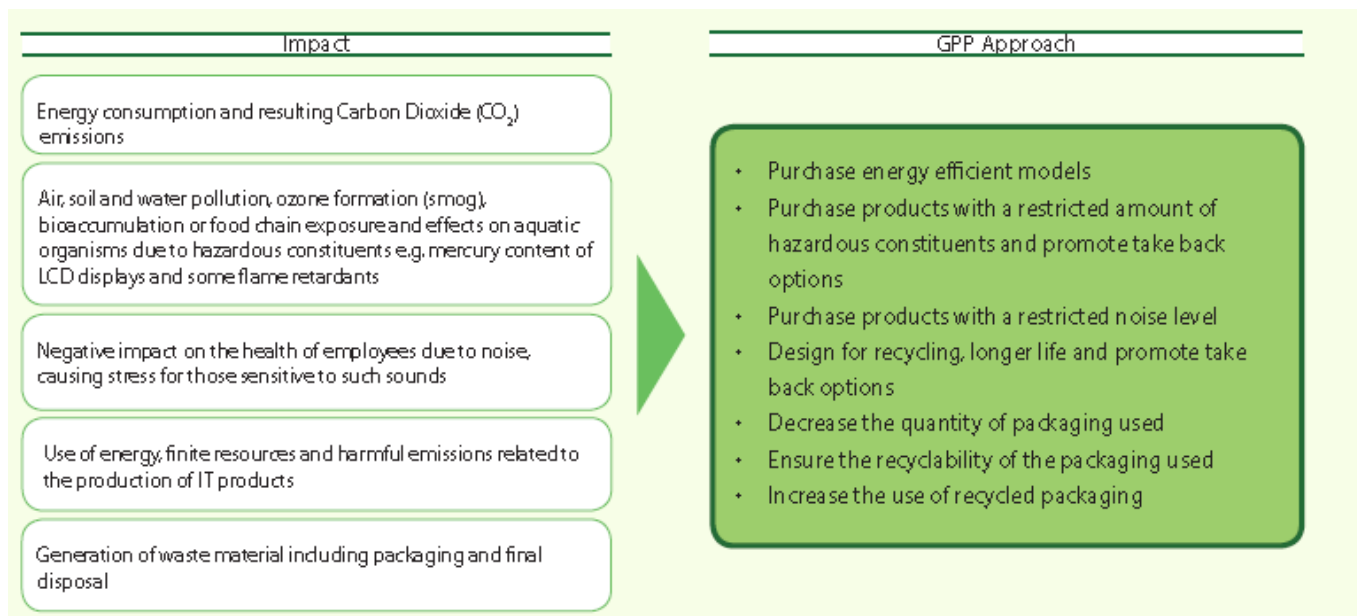
Beyond its ongoing engagement with representatives from European institutions, CSR Europe helps members engage with a wide range of stakeholders:

- Access to CSR Europe's broad network of contacts at European level and in various countries in Europe – from NGOs, Academia, policy makers, etc
- CSR Europe supports members in the organization of stakeholder dialogue sessions – establishing a trust-based and quality focused dialogue with stakeholders of key concern to your business
- Practical tools to enhance your stakeholder relationships, e.g. the Guide for Pro-active stakeholder engagement, and a range of CSR solutions on the topic.

Annex 1 – EU GPP Criteria for imaging equipment

From the EC's GPP Online Training Toolkit:

- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/toolkit/office_IT_equipment_GPP_product_sheet.pdf
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/toolkit/office_IT_equipment_GPP_background_report.pdf
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/toolkit/office_IT_equipment_GPP_product_sheet.ppt



4 Imaging equipment - GPP criteria

4.1 Imaging equipment - Core GPP criteria

Subject matter

Purchase of energy efficient [printers, copiers, MFDs, scanners].

Specifications

1. Appliances [with a printing function] with a maximum operating speed of more than 45 sheets per minute for A4 size paper must be equipped with automatic double-sided copying (a duplex-unit). All other devices with a lower maximum operating speed must at least offer a manual option (copiers) or an extra software-based option (printers, multifunction devices) for double-sided printing on A4 size paper.
2. All products must meet either the latest ENERGY STAR (available at www.eu-energystar.org) standards for energy performance.
Verification:
All products carrying the ENERGY STAR, will be deemed to comply. Any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met will also be accepted.

Contract performance clauses

For notebooks the availability of compatible batteries and power supplies and of the keyboard and its parts shall be guaranteed for at least 3 years from the time that production ceases.

Verification:

All products carrying the EU Ecolabel will be deemed to comply. Alternatively the bidder must provide a written guarantee that this criterion will be met.

Imaging devices - Comprehensive GPP criteria

Subject matter

Purchase of [printers, copiers, MFDs, scanners] with low environmental impacts throughout the lifecycle.

Specifications

1. Appliances [with a printing function] with a maximum operating speed of more than 45 sheets per minute for A4 size paper must be equipped with automatic double-sided copying (a duplex-unit). All other devices with a lower maximum operating speed must at least offer a manual option (copiers) or an extra software-based option (printers, multifunction devices) for double-sided printing on A4 size paper.

Office IT Equipment - GPP Product Sheet

Specifications

2. All products must meet either the latest ENERGY STAR (available at www.eu-energystar.org) standards for energy performance.
Verification:
All products carrying the ENERGY STAR will be deemed to comply. Any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met will also be accepted.
3. For devices with a printing function the 'Declared A-weighted Sound Level' (LWAd) according to ISO 9296, measured in accordance with ISO 7779, shall not exceed the limits set by the following formula:
LWAd: $0.035 \times \text{CPM} + 5.9$ (B)
Where CPM = Copies per minute.
The devices shall additionally not exceed 7.5 (B) LWAd except for devices with a CPM >71.
Verification:
All products carrying any type I ecolabel fulfilling this criterion will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof will also be accepted.

Award criteria

Additional points will be awarded for:

1. Ease of disassembly:
 - Plastic parts heavier than 25g shall have a permanent marking identifying the material, in conformity with ISO 11469: 2000.
 - Plastic parts shall be of one polymer or compatible polymers, except for casings.**Verification:**
All products carrying any type I ecolabel fulfilling this criterion will be deemed to comply. Alternatively the bidder must provide a written guarantee that this criterion will be met.
2. Substances in plastic parts hazardous to health:
Plastic parts heavier than 25g do not contain flame retardant substances or preparations that are assigned any of the following risk phrases as defined in Council Directive 67/548/EEC:
 - R45 (may cause cancer).
 - R46 (may cause heritable genetic damage).
 - R60 (may impair fertility).
 - R61 (may cause harm to the unborn child).**Verification:**
All products carrying any type I ecolabel fulfilling this criterion will be deemed to comply. Other appropriate means of proof will also be accepted.

Contract performance clauses

The bidder must guarantee the availability of spare parts for at least 3 years from the time that production ceases.

Verification: All products carrying any type I ecolabel fulfilling this criterion will be deemed to comply. Alternatively the bidder must provide a written guarantee that this criterion will be met.

Annex 2 – Green Tender Tools: 3 examples from Denmark

1) Office Machines Tender Example (original & translation)

Danish original (see below for English translation)

Miljøhensyn – Kopi/print

Kravspecifikation (minimum requirements)

Maskinen skal være fremstillet uden brug af CFC, HCFC, 1.1.1-trikloretan eller tetraklormetan

Maskinen skal overholde Bekendtgørelse om begrænsning af import og salg af elektrisk og elektronisk udstyr, der indeholder visse farlige stoffer. BEK nr. 873 af 11/08/2006 (RoHS-bekendtgørelsen)

Batterier må højst indeholde 5 ppm kviksølv, 20 ppm cadmium og 100 ppm bly i forhold til batteriets vægt.

Maskinen skal overholde de **gældende krav til energieffektivitet** i Elsparefondens indkøbsvejledning - www.elsparefonden.dk – og/eller Energy Star mærket - <http://www.energystar.gov> til printere/MFM - jf. Cirkulære om energieffektivisering i statens institutioner Cir. nr. 27 af 19/4 2005 og Aftale mellem KL og transport- og energiministeren om realisering af energibesparelser i kommunerne - <http://www.kl.dk/bin/305e02a7-b9a4-4e65-aa76-9048814dc3e6.pdf>

Leverandøren skal have etableret et tilbagetagningssystem – individuelt eller kollektivt – der overholder reglerne om producentansvar for elektroniskrot, jf. lov nr. 1757 af 22/12/2006 om miljøbeskyttelse (Producentansvar for elektroniskrot mv.) og bekendtgørelse nr. 664 af 27. juni 2005 om håndtering af affald af elektrisk og elektronisk udstyr (Elskrotbekendtgørelsen) 1)/NREF/FN501/1)/ med senere ændringer. Herunder skal tilbudsgiver være tilmeldt WEEE-systemet.

Plastkomponenter der vejer over 25 g skal være forsynet med en varig mærkning af materialets art i overensstemmelse med ISO 11469 med henblik på genanvendelse.

Genanvendelse - Maskinen skal være opbygget af moduler, således at forskellige materialer let og uden brug af specialværktøj kan demonteres ved genanvendelse (limning og svejsning af forskellige materialetyper er undgået).

Leverandøren skal kunne tilbyde kunden et retursystem for brugt toner og/eller kunne vejlede kunden om den miljømæssigt set bedste håndtering af brugt toner.

Emballage skal være fri for PVC.

Tildelingskriterier (award criteria)

Miljømærker

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om det tilbudte produkt lever op til kriterierne for tildeling af et miljømærke i det nordiske miljømærke Svanen, det tyske miljømærke Den blå engel og/eller det japanske miljømærke Eco Mark. Kriterier for tildeling af miljømærker til printere/MFM/kopimaskiner er de samme under alle tre nævnte ordninger:

- Ja
- Nej

Hvis ja, henvises til kontraktens punkt 5.19 vedrørende dokumentation.

HVIS DER ER SVARET JA TIL DETTE SPØRGSMÅL – BEHØVER MAN IKKE AT BESVARE DE EFTERFØLGENDE SPØRGSMÅL!

Kloreret plast

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om plastdele over 25 g er fri for klorerede polymerer, som fx PVC:

- Ja
- Nej

Udslip - Støj

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om det tilbudte produkt lever op til de støjkrav, der er gældende for kopimaskiner/printere/MFM i det nordiske miljømærke Svanen, det tyske miljømærke Den blå engel og/eller det japanske miljømærke Eco Mark. Kriterier for tildeling af miljømærker til printer/MFM/kopimaskiner er de samme under alle tre nævnte ordninger:

- Ja
- Nej

Udslip - Støv

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om det tilbudte produkt lever op til de krav vedr. støv, der er gældende for kopimaskiner/printere/MFM i det nordiske miljømærke Svanen, det tyske miljømærke Den blå engel og/eller det japanske miljømærke Eco Mark. Kriterier for tildeling af miljømærker til printer/MFM/kopimaskiner er de samme under alle tre nævnte ordninger:

- Ja
- Nej

Udslip - Ozon.

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om det tilbudte produkt lever op til de krav vedr. ozon, der er gældende for kopimaskiner/printere/MFM i det nordiske miljømærke Svanen, det tyske miljømærke Den blå engel og/eller det japanske miljømærke Eco Mark. Kriterier for tildeling af miljømærker til printer/MFM/kopimaskiner er de samme under alle tre nævnte ordninger:

- Ja
- Nej

Tonerpulver – miljøfarlighed

Anfør – ved ja/nej – om det tilbudte tonerpulver lever op til de krav, der er gældende for tonerpulver i det nordiske miljømærke Svanen, det tyske miljømærke Den blå engel og/eller det japanske miljømærke Eco Mark. Kriterier for tildeling af miljømærker til printer/MFM/kopimaskiner er de samme under alle tre nævnte ordninger:

- Ja
- Nej

English translation

**** IMPORTANT NOTE: This is NOT an official translation document. Google translation software was used to produce these results. The writers of this report do not accept responsibility for mis-translated information.**

Environmental - copy / print

Requirements Specification (minimum requirements)

The machine must be manufactured without the use of CFCs, HCFCs, 1.1.1-trikloretan or tetraklor methane

The machine must comply with the Notice of restriction on import and sale of electrical and electronic equipment containing certain hazardous substances. BEK No 873 of 11/08/2006 (RoHS Regulations)

Batteries shall not contain more than 5 ppm mercury, 20 ppm of cadmium and 100 ppm lead by weight of the battery.

The machine must comply with the applicable requirements for energy Elsparefondens buying guide - www.elsparefondens.dk - and / or the Energy Star label - <http://www.energystar.gov> for printers / MFM - see Circular on energy efficiency in state institutions Cir. No 27, 19 / 4 2005 and the Agreement between KL and the transport and energy minister on achieving energy savings in the municipalities - <http://www.kl.dk/bin/305e02a7-b9a4-4e65-aa76-9048814dc3e6.pdf>

The supplier must have a tilbagetagningsystem - individually or collectively - to comply with the rules on producer responsibility for elektroniskrot, see Act No. 1757 of 22/12/2006 on environmental protection (Producer for elektroniskrot etc..) And Order No. 664 of 27 June 2005 on the management of waste electrical and electronic equipment (Elskrot Order) 1) / NREF/FN501/1) / as amended. Including bidder must be registered WEEE system.

Plastic components weighing more than 25 grams must bear a permanent marking identifying the material, in accordance with ISO 11469 for recycling.

Recycling - The machine must be built up of modules so that different materials easily and without special tools, dismantled by recycling (gluing and welding of different types of materials is avoided).

The supplier must be able to offer customers a return system for used toner and / or to guide the customer on the environmentally best management of spent toner.

Packaging must be free of PVC.

Award criteria (award criteria)

Eco-labels

Give - by yes / no - whether the offered product meets the criteria for the award of an ecolabel in the Nordic Swan label, the German Blue Angel eco-label and / or the Japanese Eco Mark label. Criteria for allocation of labels to print / MFM / copiers are the same under all three schemes:

Yes

No.

If yes, see Section 5.19 on the contract documentation.

IF THE ANSWER IS YES TO THIS QUESTION - NEED NOT TO REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW!

Chlorinated plastics

Give - by yes / no - whether the plastic parts over 25g are free of chlorinated polymers such as PVC:

Yes

No.

Release - Noise

Give - by yes / no - whether the product offered meets the noise requirements that are applicable to copiers / printers / MFM in the Nordic Swan label, the German Blue Angel eco-label and / or the Japanese Eco Mark label. Criteria for allocation of labels to print / MFM / copiers are the same under all three schemes:

Yes

No.

Emissions - Dust

Give - by yes / no - whether the product offered meets the requirements vedr. dust, which is valid for copiers / printers / MFM in the Nordic Swan label, the German Blue Angel eco-label and / or the Japanese Eco Mark label. Criteria for allocation of labels to print / MFM / copiers are the same under all three schemes:

Yes

No.

Release - Ozone.

Give - by yes / no - whether the product offered meets the requirements vedr. ozone, that are valid for copiers / printers / MFM in the Nordic Swan label, the German Blue Angel eco-label and / or the Japanese Eco Mark label. Criteria for allocation of labels to print / MFM / copiers are the same under all three schemes:

Yes

No.

Toner Powder - environmental hazard

Give - by yes / no - whether the tendered toner meets the requirements that are applicable to the toner powder in the Nordic Swan label, the German Blue Angel eco-label and / or the Japanese Eco Mark label. Criteria for allocation of labels to print / MFM / copiers are the same

under all three schemes:

Yes

No.

2) Green Tender Tool Example: Environmental considerations for the purchase of office supplies - The proposal of absolute environmental standards

NOTE: The following text was taken directly from Denmark's Green Tender Tool (<http://www.gronindkobsportal.dk/Default.asp?ID=421>) and was unofficially translated into English using Google's free web-based translation service.

Draft environmental concerns through the provision of office supplies - with the absolute requirement

Requirements Specifications

Offered binders, binders and magazine packs of plastic must be free of PVC
With this requirement specification, it is indicated that only desired offerings binders, binders and magazine cartridges, which are free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). There are a wide range of PVC-free binder, binder and journal tapes to the Danish and European markets. There is thus no risk of the above requirements specification will prevent achieving competition in supply.

Award criteria

Liver offered writing implements with the requirements 4.1-4.6 in the Nordic Swan eco-label (version 057/2.2, 15 December 2004)?

Liver offered glue up to the requirements 4.1-4.8 in the Nordic Swan eco-label (version 024/3.1, 18 February 2004)?

Can pens and fountain pens refilled?

Is the ink in the ink and mark free of chlorinated compounds?

Is the ink in the ink and mark free of aromatic compounds?

Are office supplies free of nickel?

Flower's and Svanen criteria can be downloaded at Ecolabel Secretariat website

Any documentation relating to eco-labeling can be formulated as follows:

Evidence of the responses on the Flower and Swan will be done by evidence obtained Flower eco-label and / or Swan, or equivalent documentation in the form of test results from agencies accredited under the standards of EN 45 000 series or equivalent international standards (to be used the same test methods as required in the eco-label criteria).

The purpose of the award criteria is to identify the most economically advantageous tender and tender evaluation must be based on objective criteria to ensure that the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment and that tenders are assessed in terms of competition. At the tender assessment, environmental considerations as a sub under the

criterion of "most economically advantageous tender".

The purpose of bid evaluation is to examine whether there are some of the submissions, which environmentally is significantly better than the other bids. For example, they can offer office supplies compete (with each) to meet the criteria for the Nordic Swan label.

In this example, the Swan ecolabel as award criteria and not as an imperative in requirement specification. This is because there is Swan-labeled products on the Danish market, why could that no bidders will be able to demonstrate that the offered products with Svanen requirements.

If you want assurance that products meet the criteria underlying labels, you need to demand evidence. License labels is one way to document, but according to EU public procurement directives must be some kind of evidence also permitted. Requirements for documentation of a positive answer to the questions of eco-labels can be formulated as indicated above.

Contract Clauses

The supplier shall comply with all applicable environmental and safety legislation
Contract terms should be mentioned in the contract notice or contract documents. Terms may not be important for selection of bidder, ie. to all bidders, in principle, be able to fulfill them. They should not be confused with technical specifications, selection or award criteria. While bidders must demonstrate that they meet the technical specifications, proof of contract terms is not required during the tendering process.

All proposals for environmental considerations are taken from the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental guidelines, which you can read more about the background to the proposed environment.

3) Green Tender Tool Example: Environmental considerations for the purchase of office supplies - Proposal has no absolute environmental requirements (but with environmental criteria)

NOTE: The following text was taken directly from Denmark's Green Tender Tool (<http://www.gronindkobsportal.dk/Default.asp?ID=422>) and was unofficially translated into English using Google's free web-based translation service.

Draft environmental concerns through the provision of office supplies - without the absolute requirement

Requirements specification

There is no absolute environmental requirements specification.

If you choose not to set environmental requirements specification, it means that there is no absolute requirement that bidders must certify that they can meet. Tenderers may instead compete in the environment for the bid submission, see the following proposal for award criteria

Award criteria

Can pens and fountain pens refilled?

Is the ink in the ink and mark free of chlorinated compounds?
Is the ink in the ink and mark free of aromatic compounds?
Are office supplies free of nickel?

The purpose of the award criteria is to identify the most economically advantageous tender and tender evaluation must be based on objective criteria to ensure that the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment and that tenders are assessed in terms of competition. At the tender assessment, environmental considerations as a sub under the criterion of "most economically advantageous tender".

The purpose of bid evaluation is to examine whether there are some of the submissions, which environmentally is significantly better than the other bids. For example, they can offer office supplies compete (with each) to be free of nickel.

Contract Clauses

The supplier shall comply with all applicable environmental and safety legislation
Contract terms should be mentioned in the contract notice or contract documents. Terms may not be important for selection of bidder, ie. to all bidders, in principle, be able to fulfill them. They should not be confused with technical specifications, selection or award criteria. While bidders must demonstrate that they meet the technical specifications, proof of contract terms is not required during the tendering process.

All proposals for environmental considerations are taken from the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental guidelines, which you can read more about the background to the proposed environment.

Annex 3 – Green Tender Tools: 2 Examples from the UK

1) Example: Printers

Inkjet Printers
<p>Purchase of inkjet printers with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle</p> <p><i>The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December 2007</i></p>
MINIMUM Mandatory Technical Specification(s)
<p>The product meets the energy performance requirements of ENERGY STAR <i>Products awarded the ENERGY STAR label will be deemed to comply</i></p> <p>Information about the energy save function is provided with the product</p> <p>Plastic materials in covers/housing have no surface coatings that are incompatible with recycling or reuse, including metal coatings.</p> <p>Plastic parts >100 g consist of one material or of easily separable materials.</p> <p>Plastic parts >25 g have material codes according to ISO 11469 referring to ISO 1043.</p> <p>Plastic parts are free from metal inlays or have inlays that can be removed with commonly available tools.</p> <p>Labels are easily separable. (This requirement does not apply to safety/regulatory labels).</p> <p>Product does not contain batteries defined as hazardous according to 91/157/EEC</p> <p>During printing operation the 'Declared A-weighted Sound Level' (LWAd) according to ISO 9296, measured in accordance with ISO 7779, shall not exceed the limits set by the following formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LWAd: $0.035 \times \text{ipm} + 5.9$ (B) <p>Where ipm = images per minute.</p> <p>The devices shall additionally not exceed 7.5 (B) LWAd except for devices with an ipm >71</p> <p><i>The 'Declared A-weighted Sound Power Level' (re 1 pW) of printers with print functionality, according to paragraph 3.2.5 of ISO 9296 and should be measured in accordance with ISO 7779</i></p> <p>A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is available for the ink/toner preparation, even if not legally required.</p> <p>Paper containing recycled fibres that meets the requirements of EN12281 can be used.</p> <p>Products with an imaging speed of ≥ 45ipm shall include automatic duplexing as a standard feature at the time of purchase. Automatic duplexing must be offered as a standard feature or optional accessory at the time of purchase for products with an imaging speed of 25 – 44 ipm.</p> <p><i>Appropriate means of proof include a declaration from the manufacturer</i></p> <p>Product plastic packaging does not contain chlorine</p> <p>User and product documentation do not contain chlorine bleached paper</p> <p>Suppliers must provide a free take back system for imaging product consumables</p>

*Appropriate means of proof include a declaration from the manufacturer/supplier
Appropriate means of proof for all specifications include a technical dossier of the manufacturer
or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met*

MINIMUM Mandatory Award Specification(s)

Upgrading of product components can be done (eg with processor, memory, cards or drives)

Upgrading can be done using commonly available tools

Spare parts are available after end of production for 5 years

Appropriate means of proof include a declaration from the manufacturer

Electrical cable insulation material of power cables are halogen free (including PVC)

Electrical cable insulation material of signal cables are halogen free (including PVC)

All cover/housing plastic parts >25 g are halogen free

All printed circuit boards (without components) >25 g are halogen free

Plastic parts >25 g are free from flame retardant substances/preparations above 0.1% classified as R45/46, R50/51/53 and R60/61 (67/548/EEC)

User and product documentation contain recycled paper

*Appropriate means of proof for all specifications include a technical dossier of the manufacturer
or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met*

Inkjet Printers

Purchase of inkjet printers with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle

The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December [2007](#)

BEST PRACTICE Technical Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

BEST PRACTICE Award Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

Inkjet Printers
<p>Purchase of inkjet printers with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle</p> <p><i>The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December 2007</i></p>
CLASS LEADER Technical Specification(s)
Same as the minimum specification
CLASS LEADER Award Specification(s)
Same as the minimum specification

2) Example: Scanners

Scanners
<p>Purchase of scanners with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle</p> <p><i>The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December 2007</i></p>
MINIMUM Mandatory Technical Specification(s)
<p>The product meets the energy performance requirements of ENERGY STAR <i>Products awarded the ENERGY STAR label will be deemed to comply</i> Information about the energy save function is provided with the product. Plastic materials in covers/housing have no surface coatings that are incompatible with recycling or reuse, including metal coatings. Plastic parts >25 g have material codes according to ISO 11469 referring to ISO 1043. Spare parts are available after end of production for 5 years <i>Appropriate means of proof include a declaration from the manufacturer</i> Light sources are free from mercury Product does not contain batteries defined as hazardous according to 91/157/EEC Product plastic packaging does not contain chlorine <i>Appropriate means of proof for all specifications include a technical dossier of the manufacturer</i></p>

or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met

MINIMUM Mandatory Award Specification(s)

Plastic parts >100 g consist of one material or of easily separable materials.
Plastic parts are free from metal inlays or have inlays that can be removed with commonly available tools.
Labels are easily separable. (This requirement does not apply to safety/ regulatory labels).
Electrical cable insulation material of power cables are halogen free (including PVC)
Electrical cable insulation material of signal cables are halogen free (including PVC)
All cover/housing plastic parts >25 g are halogen free
All printed circuit boards (without components) >25 g are halogen free
Plastic parts >25 g are free from flame retardant substances/preparations above 0.1% classified as R45/46, R50/51/53 and R60/61 (67/548/EEC)
User and product documentation do not contain chlorine bleached paper
Appropriate means of proof for all specifications include a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body demonstrating that the criteria are met

Scanners

Purchase of scanners with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle

The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December [2007](#)

BEST PRACTICE Technical Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

BEST PRACTICE Award Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

Scanners

Purchase of scanners with low energy consumption to reduce the amount of energy consumed throughout the life cycle

The European Commission have required that Energy Star criteria be used in Central Government Procurement, as of December [2007](#)

CLASS LEADER Technical Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

CLASS LEADER Award Specification(s)

Same as the minimum specification

Annex 4 – Useful resources & contacts

EU

- European Commission, DG Environment Green Public Procurement website:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm
- Buying Green! A handbook on environmental public procurement:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/int.pdf>
- European Commission Communication on Green Public Procurement, July 2008:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/com_2008_400.pdf
- PwC, Significant and Ecofys, "Collection of statistical information on Green Public Procurement in the EU", 2009:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/statistical_information.pdf
- Contact person Green Public Procurement: Jill Michielssen - Policy Officer, G2 – Environment and Industry, DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels (BE)
Jill.Michielsen@ec.europa.eu

Denmark

- Danish Agency for Governmental Management (Statens Indkøb) – Procurement Division
Name: Nadia Angelica Lambaa (nal@oes.dk)
- National Procurement Ltd. - Denmark (SKI)
Name: Rikke Dreyer (rd@ski.dk)
- The Environmental Protection Agency (who are involved in environmentally responsible procurement and the project www.groenneindkoeb.dk)
Name: Mette Lise Jensen (melje@mst.dk)
Name: Line Bech (libec@mst.dk)
- Center for Samfundsansvar / Danish Centre for CSR
Name: Mads Bielefeldt Stjernø (mbs@eogs.dk)



Green Public Procurement Policies

Annex 5 - An initial ranking of top Member States for Epson's 2009 Help Desk Request

March 27th, 2009

www.csreurope.org

Executive Summary

Epson has requested as part of its 2009 two-day helpdesk service, that CSR Europe provide an overview of the following elements as it relates to Public Procurement:

1. Minimum set of CSR criteria which companies must meet to be considered for an EU and national tender (two Member States).
2. If Epson has not reached the minimum level of CSR conditions, what CSR activities need to be established by Epson.
3. What support/tools can CSR Europe provide for Epson to reach this minimum level?

In order to determine the two European Union Member States that will be researched by CSR Europe, Epson has requested a ranking of those whom are most advanced in the area of Green Public Procurement (GPP). Although statistical evidence can suggest a certain ranking in regards to specific topics, there is a disparity between how countries are ranked in statistical terms in comparison to that of their innovation in, and integration of, Green Public Procurement guidelines or legislation. It is clearly the case that although some countries are leading the way in statistical terms, others are certainly at the forefront of the Green Public Procurement movement due to their efforts to truly embed the principles into their procurement policies at national, regional and local government levels.

To this end CSR Europe has identified three leading Member States where GPP is intertwined in all public procurement policies and where government, at all levels, actively promote green procurement promoted not only for public enterprises but in all business activities. The countries have therefore been ranked as follows:

1. **United Kingdom**
2. **Denmark**
3. **Netherlands**

An explanation and evidence based justification for such a choice is outline in further detail in this initial research report. Based on this conclusion, CSR Europe is proposing to fulfill research on the top two ranked Member States of the United Kingdom and Denmark.

Case Studies

United Kingdom

The UK is undoubtedly one of the most prominent innovators in GPP policy in Europe. Although the UK's history in GPP is not as easily traceable as with the preceding countries, the UK government has set ambitious targets for itself and is on its way to achieving these. In the 2007 'UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan', they set a goal that the UK should be the EU leader on GPP by 2009. There have been a number of initiatives undertaken to ensure that this target is met and from recent figures published in 2009 (PWC et al) it appears that this may have been achieved to some extent. In 2008 GPP accounted for 74% of all public procurement in the UK. This figure is well above the 50% target set by the European Commission for 2010.

The importance of GPP policies in the UK is emphasised through a number of initiatives and notably the onus on all public authorities to have integrated GPP policies. One significant example of the impact of this is that of the NHS (National Health Service). The NHS expenditure accounted for approximately 18% of the total UK budget in 2008 and it alone has GPP policies superior to the policies of many Member States today. The NHS accounts for billions of euro of expenditure on goods and services in the UK economy annually. The service requires a colossal amount of goods and services including everything from medical supplies to advanced ICT. They have a dedicated procurement network nationwide with a clear focus on GPP. Their Sustainable Procurement Roadmap was launched in 2008 and Ethical Procurement Workshops were held in various NHS hubs throughout 2008.

Recently collated statistics show that the UK is currently saving almost 6% on the goods and services it requires by employing GPP policies, this will serve only to reinforce the government's drive to achieve higher and higher GPP targets in the coming years.

Denmark

Green procurement has been on the Danish agenda since 1992 when a new environmental protection act suggested that public authorities examine their procurement procedures to incorporate the provisions of the act. Throughout the 1990's and early 2000's different updated circulars continued to increase the emphasis on

GPP up until 2005 when a further circular finally made it obligatory for central government institutions to buy energy efficient products. Denmark's original National Action Plan on GPP was published in 1994, but has been continuously reinforced through various subsequent reports, including the most recent Danish Action Plan for Corporate Social Responsibility in which the State as a purchaser is covered in detail. In this document the Danish government commit to even further embedding GPP principles in their policies.

As part of its Action Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility adopted in May 2008 (<http://www.samfundsansvar.dk/sw42800.asp>), the Danish government have a vast, yet clear catalogue of information available on its GPP policies to aid and enable public procurers to ensure all the principles and guidelines are being closely adhered to and to create an effective understanding of their necessity. Handbooks, seminars and networks have been established for purchasers while a series of products specific guidelines have been developed for over 50 various products most commonly purchased by public agencies. This effort has been acknowledged by the European Commission and in a 2007 report of the EU High-Level Group on CSR it was recognised that Denmark has one of the most elaborate informational tools in the European Union.

Statistically speaking Denmark is not a European leader in terms of achieving high GPP figures but its insistence on the highest possible standards in GPP policy and its integration of such into legislative terms since the early 1990's makes it a prominent driver within the European Union.

Netherlands

The Dutch government have been actively encouraging GPP since 1999 when it first introduced its National programme for GPP. These principles have been fostered throughout the Netherlands and in 2003 a National Action Plan on sustainable development was launched which included very specific targets for GPP. In line with, and even beyond EU targets, the Netherlands is striving to achieve 100% GPP by government by 2010 making it pertinent for all organisations operating in the state to be familiar with the specific guidelines required under their policies on GPP.

The Dutch government have been innovative in their methods of ensuring targets are on course to be met. They are active both from a policy and practical perspective. Practical information is available to public procurers on how they best implement GPP strategies and achieve the goals set. A network for Public Procurers (PIANOo) was

established in 2005 and an annual networking day further fosters this exchange of best practices.

The latest statistics on Dutch GPP shows stark anomalies in where they are succeeding and with the vigour with which the Dutch government have addressed the issue of GPP to date these anomalies will surely only serve to fuel the desire to achieve their set targets even more. Overall it is estimated that in 2008 50% of all public procurement was green however when taking into account the monetary value of such public procurement contracts then this figure sinks to just 26%. However the most promising and probably interesting figure is that the present levels of GPP in the Netherlands has lead to a reduction of CO₂ emissions of 47%. This type of statistic, in a time where numerous Member States are facing large fines for not meeting their Kyoto targets, will undoubtedly reinforce the Dutch Government's desire to achieve their presently ambitious targets for 2010.

Conclusion

Green Procurement is undoubtedly high on the agenda throughout the European Union and particular focus has been given to Green Public Procurement by the Institutions in recent years. It is clear that all Member States are driving GPP whether it be as a recognition of the stated business case for such policies or because they are been driven by the Institutions. Regardless of what percentage or either is the driving force, it is clear that some individual Member States are far more advanced in the area. This is shown in the cases above. As stated it is not clear and certainly unquantifiable which countries are leading in the area but it is acknowledged that those selected as case studies above are at the forefront of innovation and enforcement of GPP principles and thus have been chosen as the focus of this study.