



# EU Green Public Procurement Policy

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# EU Green Public Procurement Policy

## What is GPP?

"...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."



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## GPP Benefits

Decreasing GHG and hazardous substances, increasing resource and energy efficiency...

Social

Improving health and well-being...

Environmental



**GPP**



Political

Increasing uptake of green technologies and products, supporting innovation...

Economic

Achieving environmental obligations, showing commitment to environment protection and sustainable consumption and production...



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## Strategic use of GPP for other policies

- By purchasing less polluting buses, you can buy public transport and clean air



- By purchasing renewables, you buy electricity and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions





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## GPP is voluntary...with some exceptions

### Public Procurement Directives (2004/reform in 2014):

Rules on how to buy, not what to buy

### Energy Star Regulation (2008):

Obligation to buy office equipment at least as efficient as Energy Star

### Clean Vehicles Directive (2009):

Obligation to buy environmental friendly vehicles (e.g. set requirements on CO<sub>2</sub>, PM10, NOx)





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**GPP is voluntary...with some exceptions**

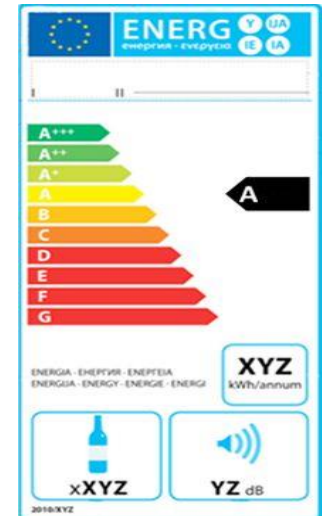
## Energy Efficiency Directive (2012):

Obligation to purchase energy efficient **buildings** and **equipment** of the highest energy labelling class.

**ONLY** - Central government

**FOR** - Purchases above the value thresholds

- “Insofar as this is consistent with cost- effectiveness, economic feasibility, wider sustainability, technical suitability, sufficient competition”





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## Obstacles to GPP

- Lack of political support
- Green products are perceived to cost more
- Lack of knowledge on how to verify green criteria (legal risk)
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of green products



**Commission support**

## Communication (2008)

### Public Procurement for a Better Environment

- Political **target**: **50%** of tendering procedures to be green by 2010
- Common **EU GPP criteria** for priority products and services with two ambition levels (core/comprehensive)
- Legal/operational **Guidance**
- GPP National Action Plans



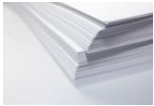




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## EU GPP criteria (19)



Copying and graphic paper



Cleaning products and services



Office IT equipment



Furniture



Transport



Food and catering services



Electricity



Gardening products and services



Textiles



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## EU GPP criteria (19)



Wall panels



Waste water infrastructures



Flushing Toilets & Urinals



Imaging Equipment



Water based heaters



Combined Heat & Power



Street lighting and traffic signals



Indoor lighting



Sanitary tapware



EEE Health care sector



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## Criteria under development

- Roads
- Street lighting
- Food and Catering
- Computers and laptops
- Cleaning Services
- Furniture
- Textiles
- Office buildings
- Paints and Varnishes



## GPP and the Circular Economy Package

Adopted 2 December 2015, acknowledging GPP's role for the transition to a circular Economy:

*"The Commission will take action on Green Public Procurement (GPP), by emphasising circular economy aspects in new or revised criteria, supporting higher uptake of GPP, and leading by example in Commission procurement and EU funds."*

## What is the Circular Economy?

- Maintaining the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible while minimising waste generation
- To boost our economy and competitiveness with new business opportunities and innovative products and services
- For economic, social and environmental gains  
**Up to +7% GDP, 170 000 direct jobs, Reduction of total annual GHG emissions by 2-4%**

## Actions along entire cycle of products

- Production: criteria on durability, reparability, recyclability in Ecodesign (e.g. TV screens), guidance on waste management and resource efficiency in industrial sectors
- Consumption: re-use encouraged, actions on false green claims and planned obsolescence, better labelling
- Market for secondary raw materials: quality standards, legislation on fertilisers and water re-use
- Specific actions on plastics, food waste, critical raw materials, construction, bio-based products

## Long-term framework and targets on waste

- Recycling of municipal waste: 65% in 2030
- Re-use and recycling of packaging waste: up to 85% in 2030, depending on materials
- Landfill of municipal waste: less than 10% in 2030
- Waste prevention (food waste, electronics, furniture), extended producer responsibility, simplification
- Financial support: 5.5 billion euros for waste management in cohesion fund 2014-2020



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## GPP in the EU

### 2008 EU most advanced Member States:

50% target more or less achieved for 10 product and service groups

### 2011 Netherlands

2010 GPP: National level **99.8%** (target:100%)

Provinces: **96%** (target: 50%),

Municipalities **86 to 90%** (target:75%)



### 2011 EU-27

50% target not met

26% - all core criteria

55% - at least one core criteria

*All numbers to be read with caution – lack of official statistics*



## The procurement reform

- Adopted by the Council and the European Parliament in March 2014
- To be transposed by Member States by April 2016
- Most Member States are now working on new legislation, the UK is already applying the new rules

## Main changes for sustainability

- Clear reference to the possibility to require certain production processes
- **New rules for the use of labels**
- Rules for Life-Cycle Costing (LCC)
- Stronger reference to the possibility to include social criteria (incl. Fair Trade)
- Move to e-procurement by 2019 at the latest (possible support to GPP monitoring)

## Procurement Reform – Labels

### Under the 2004 directive:

- Labels could be used as a means of proof, making it easier for suppliers to prove they have a green product and for procurers to verify this
- Possibility to provide equivalent means of proof (e.g. technical reports)
- Authorities needed to clearly set out the individual requirements underlying the Ecolabel

## Procurement Reform – Labels

### Under the 2014 directive:

- Authorities can require a specific label as means of proof provided the label's requirements (criteria) are
  - linked to the subject matter
  - objectively verifiable and non-discriminatory
  - adopted in an open and transparent procedure
  - set by a third party (independent of the company) and
  - the label must be accessible to all interested parties.
- Equivalent labels must be accepted
- Possibility to provide equivalent means of proof under certain conditions, more difficult than in the past

# The EU Ecolabel

## - the environmental label from the EU that makes green choices easy

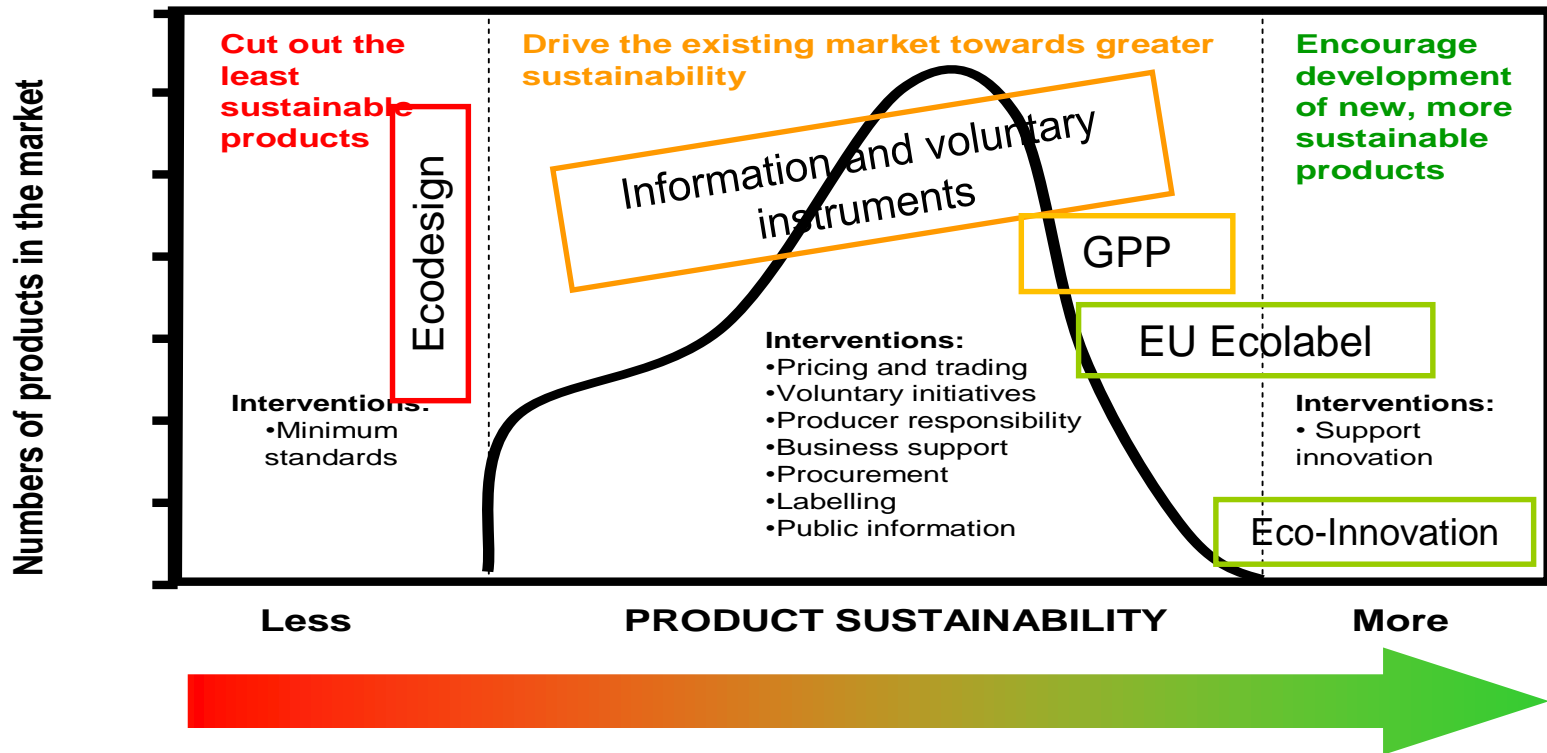
- ✓ Established in 1992
- ✓ Voluntary scheme aiming at promoting products and services with a lower environmental impact
- ✓ Multi-criteria (pass/fail) and Third party verified
- ✓ Criteria addressing main environmental impacts over the products' Life Cycle
- ✓ Criteria established for 35 Product Groups
- ✓ Awarded to more than **44 700 products** and **services** (as of September 2015)



## EU GPP and the EU Ecolabel

- **Close cooperation in DG Environment**
- **Criteria for both tools are developed in parallel whenever relevant (e.g. IT Equipment, Furniture, Textiles)**
- **EU GPP criteria usually a simplified version of Ecolabel criteria**
- **Ecolabel products are meeting technical specifications of EU GPP criteria**

## PRODUCT INTERVENTIONS – Overall approach





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## **GPP information sources**

### ***HELP DESK:***

*In EN, FR, DE [gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org](mailto:gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org)*

### ***Newsletter (please sign up!)***

### ***GPP website of the European Commission:***

- Buying Green Handbook
- Full sets of EU GPP criteria and background reports in 20+ languages
- GPP Examples
- Information on National Action Plans for GPP
- News and upcoming events







***GPP webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp>***

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