

Act on Promoting Green Procurement

Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities

(Act No.100 of May 31, 2000, promulgated on May 31, 2000
and enforced on April 1, 2001)



March 2025

Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan

What is Act on Promoting Green Procurement ?

- This act aims to shift the market a demand-side efforts to Eco-friendly goods and services by procuring the national government and other public institutions such goods and services, thereby building a sustainable society.
- For “Designated Procurement Items,” which are types of Eco-friendly goods and services that the government, etc. are prioritizing in their procurement, environmental consideration requirements (Evaluation Criteria) are set out, and the government, etc. are obligated to procure goods that meet the Evaluation Criteria.

Background

Green procurement means taking the environment into consideration when procuring products and services, carefully considering their necessity, selecting products and services that have as little environmental impact as possible, and giving priority to purchasing from businesses that strive to reduce their environmental impact. By making Procurers consumption behavior more environmentally conscious, green purchasing has the power to encourage suppliers to develop products with less environmental impact and change the entire economic activity to be more environmentally conscious.

In Japan, **Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities or the Green Procurement Act**, was enacted in 2000 as a separate act linked to **Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society**, Act No.110 of 2000. With the enforcement of the act, the way of thinking and efforts of green procurement have spread among the government and other institutions, local governments, businesses, etc., and have achieved certain results.

The importance of the Green Procurement Act as one of the means to build a sustainable society has been re-recognized in related plans and legal systems in Japan, and there is a demand for further cooperation and utilization.

Eligible Institutions

The Act covers the following entities, including the government and other institutions, and requires them to consider reducing the environmental impact throughout the entire life cycle and rational use of goods and materials when procuring or purchasing goods and materials, in accordance with the basic policy.

Obligation

National government, etc. (Ministry and agency, independent administrative agencies, specified semigovernmental corporations, national university corporations, etc.)

The Obligation to make efforts

Local governments, etc. (local governments, local independent administrative agencies)

Basic responsibility

Businesses, Citizens

Definition

The definitions of terms used in this Act and the Basic Policy Based on the Act (Basic Policy on Promoting Green Procurement) are as follows.

The definitions of terms related to each Designated Procurement Items are provided in the notes to the Basic Policy.

Terms	Definition
Eco-friendly goods, etc.	Raw materials, parts, products and services that contribute to reducing environmental impact.
The government, etc.	The government, independent administrative agencies, semigovernmental corporation, national universities, etc.
Basic Policy	A policy that stipulates the basic matters for the government, etc. to comprehensively and systematically promote the procurement of eco-friendly goods, etc.
Procurement Policy	Annual procurement policy determined by each institution.
Designated Procurement Items	Types of Eco-friendly goods that the government etc. prioritizes in promoting procurement.
Specified Procured Goods	Goods or services that meet the criteria for Designated Procurement Items.
Evaluation Criteria	Criteria for determining whether an item is a specified procured goods, as stipulated in Article 6, Paragraph 2, Item 2 of the Act.
Reference Value 1	When two levels of criteria are set in the evaluation criteria, this is the higher environmental performance standard for the item in question, and is indicated as the standard for promoting procurement as long as there are no obstacles or supply constraints regarding procurement.
Reference Value 2	When two levels of criteria are set in the evaluation criteria, this is indicated as the minimum standard for procurement by each procurement institution.
Factors for Considerations	Items that are not requirements for a specified procured goods , but are desirable to be further considered when procuring a specified procured goods.

How the Green Procurement Act works

The Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities
(Act No.100 of May 31, 2000)

<Article 1> Objective: To establish a society which can enjoy sustainable development with a smaller environmental impact

1. To encourage the State, independent administrative institutions to procure eco-friendly goods, etc.
2. To provide information on eco-friendly goods, etc.

Ministries and Agencies, etc.

< Article 6 > Basic Policy for the Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods, etc.

- ◆The guidance for each institution to prepare the procurement policy for eco-friendly goods, etc.



< Article 7 and 8 > The Diet, courts, ministries and agencies, etc.

- ◆Each institution makes and publicizes the procurement policy based on the Basic Policy every year.
- ◆Procures goods, etc. based on the procurement policy. Announces the result of green procurement and
- ◆reports it to the Minister of the Environment at the end of every fiscal year.



< Article 9 > The Minister of the Environment requests each ministry, etc. to take necessary measures.

Local governments and local independent administrative institutions

< Article 10 > Endeavor to draw up a policy every year for the promotion of eco-friendly goods, etc.



Not to increase the total procurement amount for the reason of implementing this law.

Business and citizens

< Article 5 > Endeavor to choose eco-friendly goods, etc. as much as possible when purchasing goods or services.

Provision of appropriate information on eco-friendly goods, etc.

< Article 12 > Manufacturers, importers, etc. should provide environmental information on their products.

< Article 13 > Eco-labeling bodies, etc. should promote eco-labeling programs on scientific basis and in compliance with international standards.

< Article 14 > The State considers appropriate information providing systems on eco-friendly goods, etc. Continue to consider appropriate methods for providing information.

Basic Concept of Green Procurement

The basic policy of the Green Procurement Act sets out the following three points as fundamental ideas for promoting the procurement of Eco-friendly goods and services.

1. Select goods and services from always environmentally conscious suppliers

Procurers should consider the environmental loads of products besides the products' price and quality. Not only environmental loads of the products, but also environmental management and information disclosure by manufacturers, distributors, etc. should be kept in mind when procuring eco-friendly goods.

2. Consider the life-cycle of goods and services

When selecting goods etc., it is necessary to consider reducing the environmental loads of the entire life cycle, extending from resource extraction to disposal. Local governments may have different environmental issues. In such cases, they may need to procure goods and services to address the particular issues.

3. Reducing has NO.1 priority

Total procurement volume should not increase under the pretext of promoting procurement of eco-friendly goods, etc. In other words, reduction of the procurement volume should be firstly considered. It is essential to the environmental loads will steadily decrease by proper and long-term use of procured eco-friendly goods, etc. and the waste separation.

Target Categories and Items [Designated Procurement Items]

The Designated Procurement Items are 288 items in 22 categories. [Cabinet decision in January 2025]

Based on the Basic Policy decided by the Cabinet in January 2025, the following 22 categories are subject to Designated Procurement Items. For the latest information, please refer to the Ministry of the Environment website.

[Act on Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities \(Act on Promoting Green Procurement\) ; Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan](#)

Goods	Public-Works Projects	Services
1. Paper 2. Stationery 3. Office Furniture, etc. 4. Imaging Equipment, etc. 5. Computers, etc. 6. Office Equipment, etc. 7. Mobile Telephones, etc. 8. Home Electronic appliances 9. Air conditioners, etc. 10. Water Heaters, etc. 11. Lighting 12. Vehicles 13. Fire Extinguishers 14. Uniforms and Work Clothes, etc. 15. Interior Fixtures and Bedding 16. Work Gloves 17. Other Textile Products 18. Facilities 19. Stockpiles for Disaster 22. Trash bags, etc.	20. Public-Works projects (※Set criteria for each item in the classification of materials, construction machinery, construction methods, objects)	21.Services (※Set criteria for each individual service)

The Basic Policy of the Green Procurement Act stipulates that Designated Procurement Items are those that are procured to a certain extent by the government, etc. and that are expected to shift demand to eco-friendly goods and services as a result of the government's promotion of procurement of such goods and services. Designated Procurement Items and the criteria for determining such items are reviewed every year, and the number of items has been expanded from the initial 101 items in 14 categories to **288 items in 22 categories**.

In addition, in cases where eco-friendly goods and services have excellent environmental performance and the government, etc. need to take the lead in procuring such goods and services, even if procurement by the government and other entities is limited, consideration will be given to adding such goods and services to the list of Designated Procurement Items, with an eye toward the ripple effect on local governments and businesses.

Summary of Evaluation Criteria

The criteria for determining Designated Procurement Items are set taking into consideration the environmental impact of each category and item according to its characteristics. The criteria are reviewed every fiscal year, taking into account the progress of technological development of the products, the prevalence of specified procured goods, etc., and trends in both domestic and international environmental policies.

Overview of Target Categories of Designated Procurement Items and Evaluation Criteria

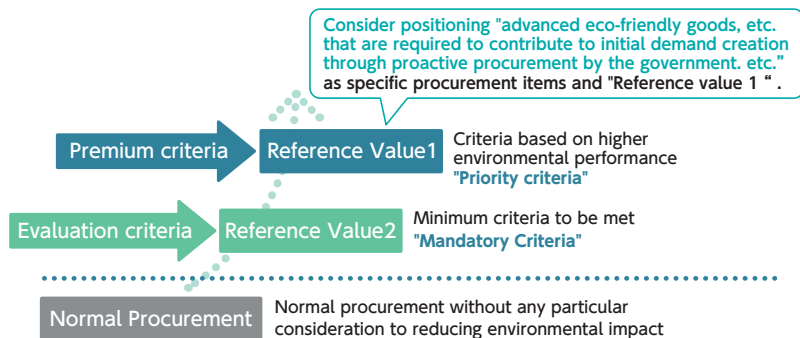
Categories/Items	Summary of the evaluation criteria (environmental considerations that are of focus)
Common criteria for goods (items that use steel as a raw material)	Granting of actual greenhouse gas reduction figures for steel, calculation and disclosure of quantitative environmental information (CFP)
Paper (information/printing paper, sanitary paper)	Use of recycled materials (recycled paper pulp), sustainable forest management (forest certified materials, thinned wood, etc.), etc.
Stationery, Office Furniture, etc.	Use of recycled materials (recycled paper pulp, recycled plastic), sustainable forest management for paper and wood (forest certified materials, thinned wood, etc.), use of biomass plastic, environmentally conscious design (metal), etc.
Imaging Equipment, Computers, Office Equipment, etc.	Power consumption, energy consumption efficiency, restrictions on the use of specific chemical substances, recycled machines and parts reuse machines (multifunction machines), use of recycled plastic, etc.
Mobile Telephones, Home Electronic Appliances, Air Conditioners, Water Heaters, etc.	Environmentally conscious design (Mobile telephones, etc.), energy consumption efficiency, non-fluorocarbon, restrictions on the use of specific chemical substances, etc.
LED Lighting Equipment, LED Bulb Lamps	Specific energy consumption efficiency, energy-saving functions, lamp efficiency, color rendering, etc.
Vehicles, etc. (Electric Vehicles, Hybrid Vehicles, Tires for Passenger Cars, etc.)	Electric vehicles (electric vehicles meet criteria), Fuel efficiency (hybrid, gasoline vehicles), rolling resistance (tires), etc.
Fire Extinguishers	Use of recycled chemicals
Textile Products (Uniforms/Work Clothes, Curtains, Carpets, Blankets, etc.)	Recycled materials (recycled PET), unused fibers, bio-based synthetic polymer content, recovery system, etc.
Facilities (Solar power generation systems (for public and industrial use)	Cell effective conversion efficiency, energy payback time, environmentally conscious design, etc.
Facilities (Solar heating systems (for public and industrial use)	Daily heat collection efficiency, information disclosure related to heat collectors and peripheral equipment
Facilities (Water saving apparatus, Faucets)	Water-saving performance
Facilities (Sunlight adjustment film, Low-emissivity film)	Shielding coefficient, visible light transmittance, heat transmission rate, etc.
Stockpiles for Disaster (food, daily necessities/materials)	Expiration date (long-term storage), narrowing of storage space, display of contents, etc.
Public-Works Projects	Set criteria for each item, such as Materials, Construction machinery, Construction methods, Objects
Services (Printing)	Environmental consideration of paper, recyclability and display, reduction of environmental impact of printing process, etc.
Services (Management of Government Office Buildings, etc., Cleaning)	Energy-saving measures, analysis of factors causing energy increase and improvement proposals, appropriate management of fluorocarbons (office building management), separate collection of resource or trash, volatile organic compounds (cleaning), etc.
Services (Transportation and Delivery, Passenger Transportation, Moving Transportation)	Transportation efficiency, rationalization of energy use, etc.
Services (Cafeteria, Retail Businesses, Meeting Operation)	Food waste reduction, reduction of use of one-way plastics, etc.
Services (Installation of Vending Machines)	Energy consumption efficiency, non-fluorocarbons, environmentally conscious design, collection and recycling of containers, etc.
Trash bags (Plastic Trash Bags)	Use of recycled plastics and biomass plastics, etc.

* The above is an overview. For details, please refer to the latest basic policy.

Two-Level Evaluation Criteria

The criteria for determining Designated Procurement Items must take into account supply volume and other factors and be at a level that is procurable nationwide, so they may not be the most cutting-edge standards. For this reason, the Basic Policy for 2019 sets two levels of standards: "Reference Value 1," which indicates higher environmental performance, and "Reference Value 2," which is the minimum level that must be achieved, and gradually expands the range of the target items. Each institution is required to promote the procurement of items with high environmental performance, as long as there are no procurement obstacles or supply constraints. These two-level criteria are based on the concept of premium standards and are positioned in the Basic Policy. Taking into account the ripple effect on the market and progress in technological development, etc., the criteria are to be considered so that products with higher environmental performance can always lead the market.

Promoting procurement based on "Reference Value 1," which indicates higher environmental performance

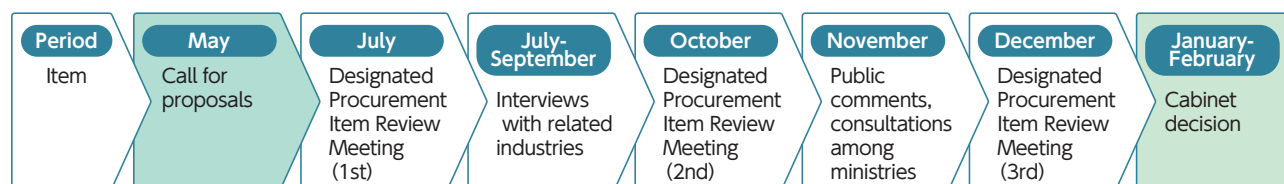


Review Process

Designated Procurement Items and their evaluation criteria are to be reviewed as appropriate depending on the state of development and dissemination of specified procured goods, the advancement of scientific knowledge, etc. Based on a five-year review schedule, certain specified procurement items are inspected and reviewed every fiscal year, and evaluation criteria are revised as necessary. When reviewing, proposals from businesses that manufacture and sell the products and each government ministry and agency take into consideration, and items are proposed to the Designated Procurement Items Review Committee after consideration of points where procurement should be promoted as a policy. Once approved, a Cabinet decision to change the basic policy has made after going through the prescribed procedures such as public comment.

*For items that are given priority, a specialist committee is set up to review them.

Process for adding and reviewing Designated Procurement Items (Annually)



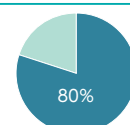
Operation

The government and other institution promote the procurement of eco-friendly goods, etc. in accordance with the following schedule.

Legal Operation Schedule (Annually)

Period	Around January – February	Until the end of March	April to March (Fiscal year)	End of June of the following year
Implementing body	The Government	Each institution	Each institution	Each institution
Implementation items	Preparation of basic policy (Cabinet decision)	Procurement targets of eco-friendly goods, etc. each fiscal year	Promoting Procurement	Summarize and publish procurement Track Record Report to the Minister of the Environment
Basis	Article 6	Article 7	Article 7,11	Article 8

Procurement record of Specified Procured Goods (Green Procurement Act compliant items) by the government, etc.
⇒ Approximately 80% of all items are 95% or more compliant



How to Check for Conformity

The Green Procurement Act does not have a certification system, but is operated by a system of self-declaration of conformity by businesses themselves. Procurers must refer to the indication of conformity to the Green Procurement Act by businesses and use existing eco-labels to select products that conform to the Green Procurement Act. The Ministry of the Environment explains how to check compliance with the criteria using existing eco-labels in the ***“Green Procurement Guidelines for Procurers.”***

The Eco Mark certification criteria cover a wider range of items than the Green Procurement Act, and the numerical standards are also set high-level, so products that have obtained Eco Mark certification meet the criteria (with some exceptions. The Eco Mark Office provides a table of correspondence with the Green Procurement Act on its website). In some cases, product industry associations provide information on products that conform to the Green Procurement Act, and in some cases, you can narrow down and search for conforming products on the websites of retailers.

Businesses must refer to the ***“Guidelines for Ensuring the Reliability of Indications of Specified Procured Goods, etc.”*** (March 2014 edition) and declare or display that they conform to the Green Procurement Act.



Business Operator

Confirmation and declaration of conformity
(Self-declaration of conformity)

Procurement Party

Checks conformity with existing eco-labels and
information provided by manufacturers and
retailers

Procurement Procedures for Local Governments, etc.

In order for an institution to continuously practice green

procurement, it is important to go through the stages of **“Formulation of procurement policy,” “Implementation of green procurement,”** and **“Understanding, publicizing, and evaluating the results of procurement performance”**.

The steps for promoting green procurement in local governments and other institutions are described below.

1. Formulation of procurement policy

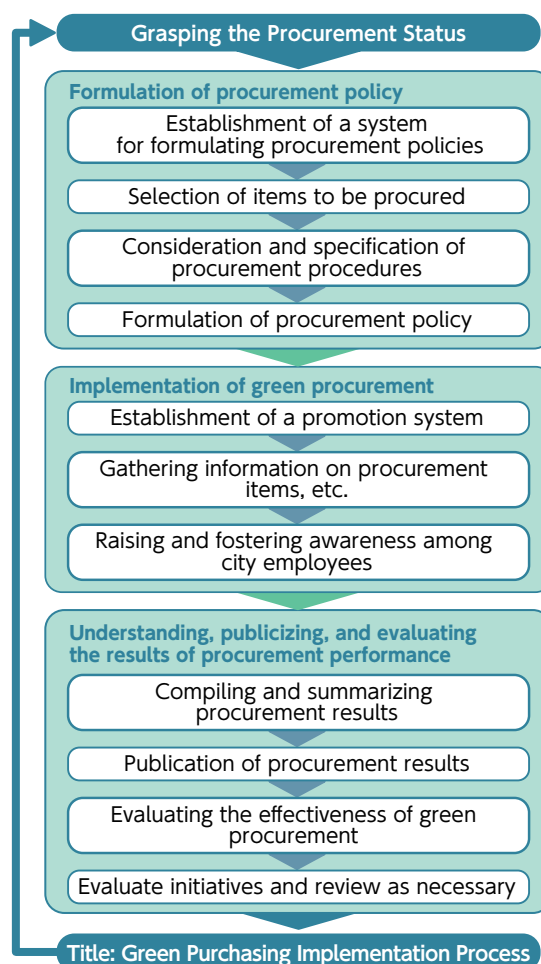
In order to continuously practice green procurement, it is necessary to understand the current state procurement and establish a system. A procurement policy is formulated with reference to the basic policy of the government and the procurement policies of other local governments, etc., and the target items, procurement standards, and procurement goals are set. When selecting items, it is important to select items according to the actual situation in the region. (Article 10 of the Act)

2. Implementation of green procurement

Information on the conformity of the target goods and other items to the procurement standards can be confirmed from eco-labels such as Eco Mark, or catalogs and websites provided by product manufacturers and distributors. It is important to share and disseminate knowledge about the significance and benefits of green procurement among city employees.

3. Understanding, publicizing, and evaluating the results of procurement performance

A system will be established to efficiently manage and compile procurement performance. In addition to grasping the total procurement volume, procurement volume of compliant products, the procurement rate of compliant products, target achievement rate, etc., information on non-compliant cases are also grasped. The reduction effect of green procurement is not only compared with the CO2 reduction effect when purchasing normal products, but it is also important to grasp the secondary effects such as the cost reduction effect due to the suppression of the total procurement volume and long-term use, and the efficiency of operations.



Ministry of the Environment Web Portal
“Act on Promoting Green Procurement.net”
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/>

☐ Find evaluation criteria of Designated Procurement Items in the

- Basic policy of the Act on Promoting Green Procurement (at the Ministry of the Environment website)
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/net/kihonhoushin.html>
- Green Procurement Guidelines for Procurers (in Japanese, published by the Ministry of the Environment) at
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/net/shiryō.html>
- Stationery Guidelines of the Green Procurement Act, 22th edition (in Japanese, published by the All Japan Stationery Association) at
https://www.zenbunkyo.jp/docs/green_2025.pdf
Association Website : <https://www.zenbunkyo.jp/>
- Office Furniture Guidelines of the Green Procurement Act, 12th edition (in Japanese, published by the Japan Office Institutional Furniture Association) at
https://www.joifa.or.jp/pdf/green_2023.pdf
Association Website : <https://www.joifa.or.jp/>

☐ Find specific product information in the

- Search engine for Eco Mark products (in Japanese, maintained by the Eco Mark Office)
<https://www.ecomark.jp/search/search.php>
- Eco-Products Database (in Japanese, maintained by the Green Purchasing Network (GPN)) at
<https://www.gpn.jp/econet/>
- Eco-Labels Database (in Japanese, maintained by the Ministry of the Environment website) at
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/ecolabel/>
- Energy efficient products information database (in Japanese, maintained by a subcontractor of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy)
<https://seihinjyoho.go.jp/>

☐ Find practices by local governments in the

- Green procurement practices database (in Japanese, accessible from the web portal of the Ministry of the Environment) at
https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/net/jirei_db_00527.html
- Questionnaire survey on green procurement by local governments (in Japanese, accessible from the web portal of the Ministry of the Environment) at
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/net/shiryō.html>

☐ Apply for training and/or information sessions in the

- Information session for the Basic Policy of Green Procurement Act and Green Contract Act (in Japanese, accessible from the web portal of the Ministry of the Environment) at
<https://www.env.go.jp/policy/hozen/green/g-law/setsumeikai.html>

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