



**Singapore
Environment
Council**

Green Public Purchase and Eco label in Singapore

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By: Kelvin Lai
Senior Administration Manager
Green Label Certification

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1. Green Public Purchasing (GPP)

- GPP is about sustainable public sector procurement,
- GPP have positive impacts (including CO2 emissions)
 - Lesser air pollutants,
 - Improve energy and water efficiency,
 - Reduce waste,
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Support reuse and recycling,
 - Support the use of renewable resource and the development and use of cleaner technologies.

2. Green Public Purchasing (GPP) in Singapore

- In Singapore, though the Government understands that the Green Public procurement can offers Environmental benefits which lead to greater efficiency and savings
- the Public sector does not have an explicit green procurement policy.
- Public agencies are free to procure environmentally-friendly goods and services based on their own needs and circumstances.
- The Government encourages the adoption of green procurement practices not just in the public sector but throughout Singapore.

3. Measures to Encourage Green Purchases in Singapore

- The Government has extended Green vehicle rebates to encourage more to choose such vehicles. Under Carbon Emissions-based Vehicle Scheme (CEVS) offers rebates for lower-emission cars.
- The Government has also established the E2PO (Energy Efficiency Program Office) to promote and facilitate the adoption of energy efficiency measures in Singapore.

Measures to encourage green purchases in Singapore

- The National Environment Agency (NEA) administers the mandatory energy labelling scheme of household appliances that are sold in Singapore.
- Under the scheme, air-conditioners, refrigerators, clothes dryers and televisions are energy- rated according to their energy efficiencies obtained from energy performance tests.

Note:

- From Sept 2014 onwards, appliances already registered under the scheme are re-rated from the existing 0 - 4 ticks to 1 - 5 ticks.
- The Energy Label is also be revised to reflect the new energy ratings and carry the estimated annual energy consumption & annual energy cost information.

(For details, please refer to: <http://app2.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/newsroom/news-releases/enhancements-to-improve-energy-efficiency-for-households-to-be-implemented>)

Measures to encourage green purchases in Singapore

- The Government encourages Energy audits among companies and building owners to improve their energy efficiency.
- An energy assessment (or energy audit) is carried out in an existing building or facility with the objective of improving its energy efficiency.

http://app.e2singapore.gov.sg/Incentives/Energy_Efficiency_Improvement_Assistance_Scheme.aspx)

4. Government Green Procurement Initiatives

- The Government has piloted a number of green procurement initiatives :
 - a) The Singapore Police Force has procured hybrid cars for trials as patrol vehicles.
 - b) Eight public sector agencies including MEWR, MOF, MOM and SGH have also participated in a pilot on performance contracts for energy audits.

Note : Under this scheme, the contractor designs and finances the installation of energy- saving equipment and gets paid according to the savings achieved. If successful, they will encourage more public agencies to implement such contracts.

Government Green Procurement Initiatives

- Other government initiatives include the program - ‘Public Sector Taking the Lead in Environmental Sustainability’ (PSTLES) ,which was created for the adoption of environmental sustainability measures that encompass energy efficiency, water efficiency and recycling.

Government Green Procurement Initiatives

Other initiatives involving environmental measures in support of public procurement in Singapore are:

- A) Procurement of Energy Efficient Equipment/Appliances: Public sector agencies are to procure the most cost-effective appliances, taking into account life cycle costs. New office information and communication technology equipment procured must meet the latest Energy Star standards.
- B) Water Efficiency: Public sector agencies and schools must achieve the Water Efficient Building label for their buildings that includes environmental standards for the purchasing of water related products.

Government Green Procurement Initiatives

- C) Eco-office label: Public sector offices must achieve the Eco-Office Green Office label. As in the case of the water efficiency label, the eco-office label also requires environmental criteria when purchasing some office products.

- D) Green Mark Certification: New public sector buildings with more than 5,000m² air-conditioned floor area, including buildings with development cost fully or partly funded by the public sector (e.g. new universities and hospitals) must attain the Green Mark Platinum rating.

5. Building Green Buildings

Under the third Green Building Master Plan, the Government has established 6 key strategic trusts:

- a. Public Sector taking the lead
- b. Spurring the Private Sector
- c. Furthering the development of Green Building Technology
- d. Building Industry Capacity through training
- e. Profiling Singapore and building awareness
- f. Incorporating minimum Standard

Note : These objectives are met through the award of grant and use of Green Mark Scheme established by Singapore Building and Construction Authority.

Building Green Buildings

Other Government's key intuitivism to encourage green lifestyle among consumers include:

- a) A S\$50 Million Green Mark Incentive Scheme for existing buildings and premises
- b) A Building retrofit energy efficiency financing scheme
- c) A Green Mark gross floor area incentive scheme
- d) Reaching out to the building owners/tenants on green lifestyle programme, and
- e) Greening schools and community for greater awareness

For more information on the above, please refer to:

http://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/others/3rd_Green_Building_Masterplan.pdf

6.Challenges for Implementation of GPP

The diagram below listed the challenges as well as the opportunities for implementation of GPP :

● SINGAPORE		CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Government and green growth strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Legal framework and environmental criteria *Political and institutional support *Environmental criteria *Monitoring *Training *Communication of benefits 	<p>Definition of a framework policy and legislation addressed to provide tools for green public purchasing. So far, GPP is formulated within the context of energy efficiency program.</p> <p>Integration of life cycle approach in environmental considerations.</p> <p>Training about the application of environmental criteria of green purchasing.</p> <p>Communication of GPP scheme and environmental standards.</p> <p>Development of monitoring system of GPP to estimate the impact of the policy on the market and the environment.</p>	<p>Extending the list of goods and services with environmental considerations. Singapore has the choice to contemplate current policies in GPP, above all regarding environmental criteria, of most common products purchased in other economies.</p> <p>Integration of social considerations in environmental requirements of new requirements of products with an international approach.</p> <p>To develop framework policy that support and promote the participation of SMEs, with the definition of transition stages.</p> <p>Collaborate with green purchasing network Singapore to support training in green public procurement, dissemination of the initiative and benefits for businesses and environment.</p>

Challenges for Implementation of GPP

Trade barriers and promotion of trade	Singapore government has defined its own eco-labels to certify and validate green products, eco-buildings and offices. It is not clear how to establish procedures for mutual recognition of foreign eco-labels, type I.	Singapore has the advantage of having environmental criteria for energy efficiency products like printers, photocopiers in order to identify common criteria to promote trading in green products among APEC economies.
Market	Framework policies to extend the establishment of GPP initiative providing incentives to producers and suppliers to change to a cleaner production.	<p>The promotion of trade in green products would boost the investment in clean technology and, at the same time, would promote technology transfer and capacity market to accomplish with environmental standards.</p> <p>Increasing technological capacity of local market would benefit the establishment of new companies in the green sector and the creation of new and higher qualified jobs aligned to social requirements of GPP.</p>

(Adopted from Green Public Procurement in the Asia Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Green Growth and Trade, APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, April 2013)

7. Recommendations for GPP

- The Government has initiated different programs that imply the integration of environmental criteria in procurement, most of them are related to the acquisition of energy efficiency technologies for offices and public buildings...”
- However the Ministry of Finance of Singapore has no reported trainings addressed to public officers neither industry nor manufacturing industry.
- Public officers could gain knowledge and skills needed to improve the performance of those environmental policies that require the purchasing of environmentally preferable products.
- Capacity building sessions and workshops would stimulate procurers to integrate environmental concerns in all procurement activities. Topics of training would cover general concepts of GPP policy in Singapore, international policies on GPP.

Recommendations for GPP

- In relation to trainings addressed to public officers, they should compile and deliver the information on environmental programs and requirements in purchasing designated products.
- It should emphasize the integration of monitoring system to analyze the impact of the policy in Singapore, in terms of energy savings, environmental and economic benefits.
- Finally, trainings and guidance on technical information and capacity should be provided to local industry in order to ensure the availability of green products demanded by public sector in the market”.

(The above were extracted from : Green Public Procurement in the Asia Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Green Growth and Trade, APEC Committee on Trade and Investment, April 2013, p. 120)

8. Eco-label System - Singapore Green Labelling Scheme

- The Development of Eco-label started some 20 years ago and the Scheme is administered by the Singapore Environment Council from 1999.
- The Eco labelling is known as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS) and it is Singapore's foremost environmental standard and certification mark.
- With the exception of food, beverages and pharmaceuticals, this label is applied to products which have passed stringent standards of environmental processes and procedures.
- Products bearing the Green Label gain a competitive advantage as it increases consumer and industrial demand and awareness for green products and services.
- Customers buy Green Label products with the knowledge and confidence that the purchase is not at the expense of our environment.

Eco-label System - Singapore Green Labelling Scheme

- As a recognised member of the Global Ecolabelling Network, SGLS has been successfully audited in October 2011 and found to comply with ISO 14024 and ISO Guide 65 standards for the Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System (GENICES) accreditation.
- Application for the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme is open to both local and foreign companies.

Note: The Green Label certified products are awarded points under Building Construction Authority's Green Mark Scheme, recognizing these Green Label products for the environmental aspect .

Eco-label System - Singapore Green Labelling Scheme

- To date, The SGLS has about 65 categories, out of which 45 categories are actively subscribed by clients.
- Over 65 Categories
 - Broadly Classified into:
 - Building Materials Interior Products
 - Personal Care Products Cleaning Products
 - General Products Household Products
 - Solar Powered Products Electrical Products
 - Office Supplies, Equipment & Furniture

(To find out more about the institution which certifies green label products the types of green product categories, please refers to Annex 1)

Eco-label System – SGLS and SGBC

Complementing the SGLS is the Singapore Green Building Product Certification Scheme, a certification scheme which was launched by the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) in September 2010.

The Scheme supports the BCA Green Mark Scheme and helps the building industry move towards sustainability.

Eco-label System - Singapore Green Building Product Certification Scheme

- This Certification scheme provides consumers, building industry stakeholders, and government procurement system with a listing of assessed and certified green building products in the following categories: Mechanical, Electrical, Facade and Roof System, Concrete and Structural, Interior System, Finishes, Recycled Material, and Renewable Energy.
- The products are assessed on Energy efficiency, Water efficiency, Resource efficiency, Health and Pollution Control, and other requirements such as, environment quality management system, technical performance and innovation.

(To find out more about the institution which certifies green building products, related eco labelling programme under SGBC, please refers to Annex 2).

9. Moving Ahead – Green Public Procurement

It was mentioned that Singapore do not have a Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy but it is moving into this focus. To ensuring success for a GPP policy, it was recommended that :

- a. Commitment and support from top-level management and purchasing department are necessary. They must also demonstrate leadership by sharing best practices and encouraging others.
- b. Policy through procurements must also be in place to help procurers to make good procurement decisions.
- c. To enable delivery, early engagement of the market in the process is important to maximize the opportunity for more sustainable innovative solutions.

Moving Ahead – Green Public Procurement

- d. Implementation where organizational management systems include environmental management to help in making it a part of the routine procurement practices.
- e. Green products availability for purchasing personnel to choose from is necessary. The government must encourage green labelling to ensure that this is possible.
- f. Efforts must also to be made to ensure that specific objectives, targets and programme are in place for green purchasing implementation.



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+65 6337 6062



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